



April 10, 2025

To 4-H Members Enrolled in 4-H Self-Determined Project

For those enrolled in the Self-Determined 4-H Project, we felt that a description of the project might be of help in completing your project.

Although there are over 200 4-H project opportunities, it would be impossible to include everything of any interest to everyone. This is one of the reasons for the Self-Determined Project. It is an opportunity for you to explore an area of interest that attracts your attention but is not covered by any other project.

With a Self-Determined project, you can choose your own course so to speak. **You determine** what you want to learn about, **you determine** how much you want to learn about your area of interest, and **you determine** how to put what you have learned into practice. The main objective of this project is to plan, develop and accomplish your goals.

Using the Self-Determined Project Guide, you will: identify a topic; select at least three areas of interest, each with at least three activities; complete at least two learning experiences; complete at least two leadership/citizenship experiences; and write a project summary.

If you are enrolled in an Idea Starter, you will need the Idea Starter print outs plus the Self-Determined Guide.

For judging at the county level, you will need to bring a tri-fold display about your project, a sample of your project work and be able to talk about what you have accomplished and learned. You will also need to bring the completed, *Self-Determined Project Guide* (it has 4-H 365 in the upper right corner on the cover page) which is considered the project book and the Idea Starter print out, if applicable. You can find the Self-Determined Project Guides to print at ohio4h.org/home, Books and Resources, then Self-Determined Projects Ideas.

All 4-H members are required to participate in project judging or the livestock skill-a-thons with one project – although they are encouraged to participate in all their projects. If you are unable to attend in-person judging on July 12, please call the OSU Extension Office to make an appointment for make-up judging. Make up Judging is July 21-23. Note the make-up judging is not eligible for project judging awards.

Please feel free to call 385-3222 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kayla Nihiser, Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development