

How can I incorporate activities not included in the project guide?

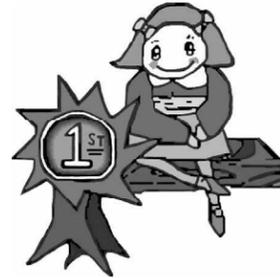
We encourage you to use the ideas in the project literature as they have been successfully used with youth. If you have some additional activities you would like to incorporate, consider the following criteria:

- Of interest to kids
- Developmentally appropriate
- Incorporate the experiential learning model
- Youth and adults are involved in determining what will be done
- Enhances the development of member life and project skills
- Research based source of content utilized



What is the relationship between project work and the county fair?

The County Fair is an opportunity for an independent evaluation of life and project skills a member learned through completing a project. County fair entries typically match the activities included in the project literature and may include other activities that are being emphasized in your county. One of your roles is to help maintain the focus of members and parents on the goal of 4-H, which is to develop blue ribbon kids. Talk with members about what they learned about each of their fair entries from the judging process. Help members celebrate their accomplishments regardless of the color of ribbon each project member received at the fair. This may be done through individual encouragement or at a meeting following the fair. While entering and displaying a project at the County Fair is the traditional method of public affirmation, there may be other means of exhibition such as a club tour, open house, community celebrations or others.



Who can I go to if I need someone to help me during the project meetings?

If you are leading beginning level project meetings, ask older members in the project to help you. This is a great leadership experience for them! Parents are another excellent source of help. Don't hesitate to ask them to stay for the meeting and be actively involved in their child's project work.

This publication was created by the Strengthening 4-H Project Leader Support Work Team, January, 2001. Authors: Barbara Barker, Waushara County 4-H Youth Development Agent, and Annette Bjorklund, Washburn County 4-H Youth Development. Layout and design: Melanie Miller, State Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA.

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4-H500 I'm a 4-H Project Leader: Now What Do I Do?

E-3-02-1M-RP



*I'm a 4-H Project Leader:
 Now What Do I Do?*



How do I know who is in my project?

- Your club organizational leader will provide you with the names, addresses and phone numbers of the members enrolled in the project for which you are the leader.
- If you are working on the county level, contact the UW-Extension Office for the list of project members.
- The organizational leader may indicate to you if any of the youth have special needs. At your first project meeting, note any other youth that may have special needs. You may wish to consult with the parent or your 4-H Youth Development Agent as to how to work with a special needs child.

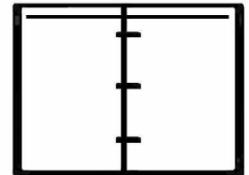


How often should I hold project meetings?

It is recommended you hold 4-6 meetings that each last 1½ to 2 hours in length. Some projects require more meetings or a longer meeting time to accomplish your goals. Some projects, such as leathercraft, may lend themselves to individual project work as members progress on their projects. In this case, you should hold several introductory meetings for all members and then set up a schedule of time for them to sign up for individual help.

When do I start?

Get started as soon as possible! Members' interest in a project is most keen when they are signing up for a project and when they get their project books.



How do I cover the cost of project meetings?

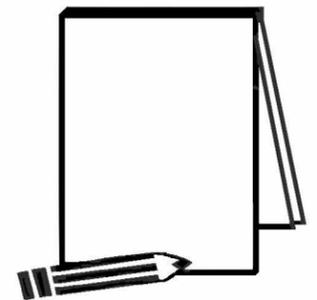
- There is a wide variety of means for covering the cost of project meetings. Some methods used include:
- Each member pays for their share of the expenses or provides a portion of the supplies.
 - The club agrees to cover expenses using funds from their treasury. Approval in advance is needed for this.
 - Members and leaders can solicit donations/supplies from area businesses.
 - Sometimes funds from sources outside your club may be available to cover your project meeting costs.

How do I establish a project meeting schedule?

First, determine when you are available to work with project members. Then determine an initial project meeting date by consulting with your project members. Publicize the date using one of the following means:

- County and/or club newsletter
- Club meeting or leader association meetings
- Postcards or phone calls to project members

You may not be able to schedule an initial meeting that everyone can attend. Establish a time to meet with those unable to attend before you hold your second project meeting.



Now I'm a Project Leader...

Where do I hold project meetings?

Typically project meetings are held at project leader homes, schools, or community buildings. For more information on facility adaptability and liability concerns contact your 4-H Youth Development Agent.

What safety precautions do we need to consider?

Consider the type of safety issues your particular project involves. Request and secure necessary safety items such as ear protection, eye protection and head protection.

How do I let others in my club or other clubs know I am a project leader?

Prior to enrollment ask for time on your club's meeting agenda to let families in your club know you're a project leader and to share some things the kids could do in the project if they enrolled in it. When the project materials are handed out, take the opportunity to inform or remind members that you are their project leader and set an initial meeting date with the group. If no one in your club is in your project, you may wish to offer your services to a neighboring club. Talk to your club organizational leader or county 4-H Youth Development agent about this opportunity.

How do I prepare for the first meeting?

You may want to establish a 4-H resource box where you keep your project materials and any additional resources you will be using. Take time to become familiar with your project literature and talk to others who were project leaders for this project to find out what activities the members enjoyed.



What should I do at the initial project meeting?

- At the initial project meeting, here are some ideas of what you might want to cover:
- Find out what the members want to learn and accomplish in the project. The project literature is an excellent source of ideas.
- Review the safety practices that members will need to follow.
- Do an introductory activity related to the project so the members get to know one another
- Have a small project the members can complete and take home
- Talk about how the project meeting supplies will be paid for. Experienced leaders have found it easiest to charge a small fee to cover the cost of the expenses.
- Assess when members are available for additional meetings. You may wish to ask the parents or members to bring along their calendars of family activities.
- Encourage parents to participate in project meetings, especially the initial meeting.

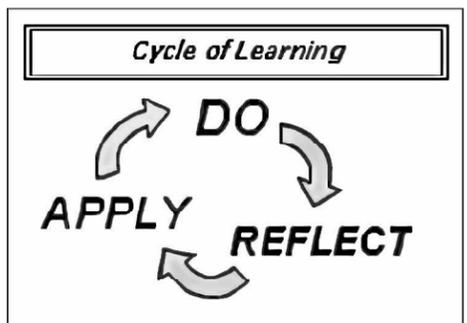
What does a typical project meeting look like after the initial orientation?

Use the experiential learning model (found in the introductory pages of your Helper's Guide) to plan your project meeting. The project helper's guide will provide suggestions for designing a project meeting. Here are some suggestions for each section of the model:

Do
Plan an activity to focus the project members on what they'll be doing today. Work on the project for that meeting.

Reflect
Review the process completed
Discuss what worked and didn't work.
Talk about how any problems that arose were solved.
Assist members in documenting their project work for inclusion in their record books/portfolios.

Apply
Ask the project member the following questions:
What else have you seen that is similar to this?
How can you apply what you learned today to other situations?



What resources are available to help me?

- 4-H Project Literature – You will receive project literature through your 4-H club or the UW-Extension office. Typically there is a helper's guide and member literature for three to four levels.
- Other People in my Club & County – There are a number of people in your county who would be willing to share project ideas and tips with you.

These include:
Project leaders in other clubs
County UW-Extension Staff
Key Leader
Older youth who have been involved in the project

- Media Collection & Public Libraries – Additional resources can be obtained from the Cooperative Extension Media Collection. They have videos, skillathons, displays and resource packages available to support a variety of projects. There is a user fee per item you or your club will be responsible for. You can view their catalog at their website <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/media/>. Check with your local public library to find out what resources they may have or that you can obtain through inter-library loan.
- 4-H Website – Wisconsin 4-H is continually adding more information and activities to their website. Visit this site at www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/onlinepro/. You may wish to check out websites from other state 4-H programs also.
- Volunteer Leaders Conferences – Review each issue of your county's newsletter to learn about training sessions for project leaders offered by your county, district or at statewide events. Sessions focusing on new project literature are typically offered at the State 4-H Volunteer Leader Conference held every other year. Periodically statewide conferences focusing on specific project areas are offered in addition to sessions at the volunteer conferences. You can also exchange ideas with other leaders at statewide events such as Area Animal Science Days and Youth Plant Science Day.
- Field Trips – Youth always enjoy the opportunity to see first hand how things are done and how they work. Consider taking your project group on a field trip or tour of a local business or company to enhance their project experience. An example would be taking your dairy members to a cheese factory or your foods group to a local bakery.
- Local Experts – Bring in a local "expert" to share their ideas and experiences with your group. One example would be asking a Master Gardener to share information on choosing perennial or trimming shrubs at one of your project meetings.
- Missouri 4-H Web Site – Many project leaders volunteer because of a special interest in a project area and are looking for more guidance on working with youth. Missouri 4-H has developed a web site to help volunteers working with youth learn more about their role. The "lessons" on the website include How Kids Develop, Learning Through Experience, Kids as Resources, Managing Groups of Kids and Working with Parents and Other Adults. Visit their web site at <http://dldc-courses.ext.missouri.edu/umc/4h-volunteers/>.
- Magazines – Many leaders have found creative ideas to supplement those in the project literature in magazines they have or those at the public library.

Now I'm a Project Leader...