



SELF-DETERMINED

Welcome

Welcome to the 4-H Self-Determined Project! Please read through this guide carefully, as it contains information and suggestions that are important for your project. **4-H leaders can obtain a Leader Project Guide and other resources from the PEI 4-H Office.** Hopefully you, as a member, will “Learn to do by Doing” through hands-on activities that will encourage learning and enjoyment. If you have any questions, contact your District 4-H Officer or your 4-H project leader.

4-H YEAR COMPLETION

You complete a project by:

- completing the project Achievement Day requirements
- completing a communication project
- completing a community project
- completing an agriculture awareness project
- taking part in Achievement Day

You must complete all of the listed aspects in order to show at Fairs and Exhibitions.



ACHIEVEMENT DAY REQUIREMENTS

Completed Project Plan <i>(In a three-ring binder or duotang, include your Project Topic, Project Goals, a Game Plan, a Progress Chart, a Costs Chart, an Evaluation, and any other materials that support your Self-Determined Project.)</i>	25
Completed Project Item	75 100 Marks

EXHIBITION REQUIREMENT

Completed Project Item

You Want to do a Self-Determined Project?
You must be able to answer YES to ALL the statements below...

- I am 12 years old (as of January 1st of the current club year) or older.
- I have already completed two 4-H projects.
- I have been a 4-H member for at least two years.
- The project idea I have is not covered under another 4-H project.
- The project I have chosen will take a t least 12 hours to complete.

Ages for 4-H members as of January 1st of the 4-H year:
 Junior: 9-11 years
 Intermediate: 12-14 years
 Senior: 15-21 years

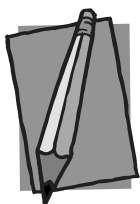
Check out the PEI 4-H Web Site
www.pei4h.pe.ca

Self-Determined Exhibition Classes

For exhibitions, there are two classes for Self-Determined projects—one for Junior members aged 12—14 and one for senior members aged 15—21. Each class has 7 sections which are:

- Woodworking (furniture)
- Woodworking (all other woodworking items)
- Needlework (includes any item made with a needle, i.e. quilting, knitting, crocheting, sewing, embroidery, crewel work and so on)
- Photography
- Painting and Drawing (includes tote painting, water colors, charcoal drawing, and so on)
- Computer
- Scrapbooking
- Other (this would include refinishing a piece of furniture, paper tole and so on). This is also the class that includes “Organizing an Event”.

Project Plan



This symbol indicates information or charts that should be included in your Project Plan for Achievement Day.

Project Approval

A Self-Determined Project needs to receive project approval from your Overall Leader.

This is an important step because:

- It gives you an opportunity to receive feedback on your plan
- It gives the Overall Leader an opportunity to know what type of projects 4-H members are doing.

So once you have selected your self-determined project topic, meet with your Overall Leader about your project plan and request their approval.

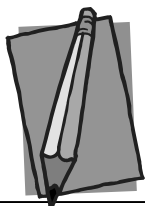
You should also have identified a leader that will guide you through your self-determined project. Remember, if this is a new leader, they must complete the 4-H Volunteer Leader Screening Process.

Step 1: Choosing A Topic

Ask yourself the following questions before choosing your topic area:

- What do I enjoy?
- What have I done?
- What do I need?

Consider your topic area. Get specific. Be realistic. What exactly do you want to learn about? How much time do you have and how much time will it take to learn your topic? How much will it cost? Do you have or can you acquire skills, equipment, resources, etc. to learn about the topic area? Do you know someone who is willing to help and who knows something about what you want to learn? Narrow down your topic. What specific topic do you want to explore in your project?



In your **Project Plan**, clearly state what you have selected as your Self-Determined Project. My Self-Determined Project is _____

Step 2: Setting Goals

Goals are...

- Targets you aim for
- Things you want to achieve or have to do

Planning allows us to reach our goals in our everyday life. Planning your Self-Determined Project for the year involves the same steps as planning your personal activities, except that you will be required to formally think about your plans and write them down.

Planning involves looking at where you are now, where you would like to be in a certain period of time, and then creating some logical steps to get there.

Good planning before you actually start your project will help you in a number of ways. It will

- Give direction to your year's work
- Help you spread the work out over the club year
- Allow you to make arrangements well in advance
- Assist you in determining your financial needs well in advance and prepare a suitable budget
- Allow you to talk over your plans with your leader so that there are no big surprises for you or your leader

Decide exactly what your project will be for the year. Be very clear about what you will try to accomplish. Decide what your goals for your project will be. Your goals should be very clear in your mind. They should specify what you would like to achieve.

You want to be able to SMAC a goal...SMAC stands for

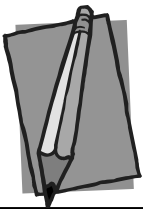
Specific—does the goal tell where, what, why, who and how?

Measurable—How will you know when you have reached your goal? When does it have to be done by?

Achievable—Can you do it? You want to set yourself up for success.

Compatible—Does it fit with the rest of your life? Does it make sense?

When you can SMAC a goal, you know it is a winner!

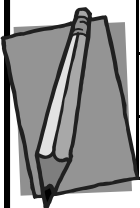


In your **Project Plan**, write your 4-H project goal(s). Can you SMAC them?

Step 3: Developing Your Game

Your goals have clearly set your targets. Now, you need to figure out what you need to do to reach your goal(s). To achieve your goals you will need a Game Plan. Your project's game plan should look like this...

PROJECT GAME PLAN			
Steps to be done	Equipment Needed	People to help	Date*



*The date can be a deadline or the exact date you plan to do the activity on. Include your Game Plan in your **Project Plan**. Add as many rows to the chart as you need.

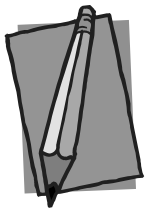
Step 4: Doing the Project

Now it is time to actually complete the steps that you outlined in your 4-H Project Game Plan. As you work through your project, remember a plan is a guide for accomplishing your goal(s). You may have to make changes to your original plan as you go along.

Step 5: Keeping Track

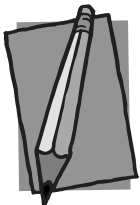
Keeping track of your progress helps you to see what you learned, keep a record of equipment you used and people who helped (in case you want to use them again or thank them), and how many hours you spent on your project.

Take a minute to fill out your progress chart each time you work on your project. Keeping up to date on records is the trick to making record keeping a “no-hassle” activity. Include your Progress Chart in your **Project Plan**. Again, add as many rows to the chart as you need.



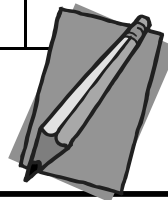
PROGRESS CHART			
Date	Step(s) Done	Equipment & People	Hours Spent

An important part of the Self-Determined Project is keeping track of your costs. When you are planning the project and setting goals, you should also plan how much the project will cost. Then as you go along, write the actual costs of the material as you purchase them. Include your Cost Chart in your **Project Plan**. Add as many rows to the chart as you need.



COST CHART	
Item (material used and/or purchased)	Cost

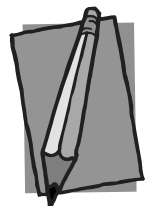
Number of hours spent on my project _____



Step 6: Celebrate your Success

Evaluation is an important step to learning AND to celebrating your successes. Answer the following questions and include them in your **Project Plan**.

- Did you achieve your goal(s) (go back to your original project goals to check). If not or somewhat, what goal(s) were you unable to meet and why?
- What did you learn by doing the project?
- What was the most successful part of your project?
- What was the most difficult part of your project?
- What changes would you make if you were doing this project again?
- Include any other comments you may have.



PROJECT MEETINGS DIARY

Most projects will require at least six to eight project meetings to complete the project.



Meeting Date	Location	Time	At this meeting, we...

Community and Agriculture Awareness Projects

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Each year you are encouraged to provide a service to your community as a 4-H member. This introduces you to the responsibilities of citizenship. You must participate in your club's plan for a community project and you should have a role to play. Describe your involvement with your club's community project this year.



Our Community Project was _____

I helped by _____

It was beneficial because _____

I learned _____

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS PROJECT

Agriculture is one of PEI's main industries. You are expected to participate with your club to complete a project (or provide a service) which helps your club or others become aware of the importance of agriculture in our lives. As in the community project, you should actively participate.



Our Agricultural Awareness Project was _____

I helped by _____

It was beneficial because _____

I learned _____