



# On Your Own: A 4-H Project That You Design

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 4-H club, after-school program, or group  
\_\_\_\_\_

Years enrolled in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_

Date project started \_\_\_\_\_ Date project completed \_\_\_\_\_

## What Can I Do in My 4-H “Self-Started” Project?

Have you ever thought “I wonder why?” or “How can I do THAT?” or maybe “That looks neat! I would like to try it!” If you have, then you have begun a self-started project. You can investigate hurricanes, study the history of football, raise and study goldfish or gerbils, or explore a thousand other ideas. And you can share what you discover with others. With a self-started project you do not follow someone else’s idea of what is good learning: you decide for yourself!

You will have to be your own researcher, your own scientist, your own artist, your own communicator, and your own evaluator. Are you curious about why snowflakes have six sides? Do you ever WONDER? **Then go for it!**

### *Planning*

The self-started project begins with things you really care about. Make a list of all the things you would like to know, to do, and to understand.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Review your list of interests and choose the one that is the most exciting to you. Turn that interest into a question. For instance, you may have written: "One day, I want to climb the highest mountain in the world." This interest could become the question: "What do you need to do to get ready to climb the highest mountain in the world?" This question then becomes the goal of your 4- H project. Take this question to the library, to your computer, to a teacher, and to other places where answers might be found. Write the question that will lead your project.

My Question:
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*Identifying Resources*

Make a list of the people and places you could visit to find answers to your question. For example:

1. Public or school library
2. Local historical society
3. The Internet (try **http://www.yahooligans.com** by entering your term, such as mountain climbing, in the search box).
4. County Extension office
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

### *Keeping a Record*

As you visit your resources to find answers to your project question, keep a record of what you have done.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Work Done</b>	<b>Number of Hours Spent (Estimate)</b>
February 3, __	Interviewed John Smith, who has hiked the Appalachian Trail	2 hours

### **My Personal Touch**

To share the story of your 4-H project, choose one of the activities below:

- Create a mini-scrapbook about your project. Be creative. Include pictures, newspaper clippings, drawings, poems, or anything else you have collected or written while completing your project.
- Create a collage of pictures that demonstrate what you learned while completing your project.
- Prepare and present an informational speech for your school, church, club, or county public speaking contest.
- Write a rap about your project and perform it for your class, club, or friends.
- Write a poem about your project then read it to your class, club, or friends.
- Write a play about your project and get some fellow 4-H'ers to help perform it.
- Produce an informational video about what you learned.
- Use any other creative method you choose.

