

SELF-DETERMINED PROJECT TIP SHEET

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Self-Determined projects can be tricky, especially if you are in your first couple years of taking a 4-H project. While we greatly discourage members under the age of 12 from taking a self-determined project, this project is open to all project age members. The style of this project can lead to uncertainty, so we want to make sure you are prepared for success!

About the Self-Determined Project

- ✿ You are required to utilize #365 Self-Determined project guide found at: <https://ohio4h.org/selfdetermined>
- ✿ Every 4-H project book requires a set number of activities to meet the goals of the project, at least two learning experiences, at least two leadership experiences, and a project summary. That is still true for the Self-Determined project, but you must come up with all of these items yourself.
- ✿ Some Self-Determined projects areas are popular and may have an Idea Starter sheet to assist you in setting your Interest Areas and the Activities for each area. Idea Starters do not include everything you need to complete your project but will give you a great basis to begin your planning.

What should a Self-Determined Project look like?

- ✿ Self-Determined projects that are about making one particular craft or item are typically not successful. This is because they may be a wonderful activity, but they are not a complete 4-H project.
- ✿ A successful Self-Determined project includes many if not all of the following: selecting a topic, research, determining the parts to learn, setting up tours or interviews, attending clinics, purchasing the components, and finally making the project item. To complete your project, write a project summary, construct a tri-fold board, and bring everything to 4-H project judging.

What should I bring to judging?

- ✿ 4-H Interview Judging is the opportunity for a member to show the judge what they learned through their project experience.
- ✿ Bring your completed Self Determined Project Guide, an item that demonstrates/shows your completed project, and a tri-fold display board that emphasizes highlights of your project experience, accomplishments, and what you learned.
- ✿ Be prepared to discuss why you selected your project area, what you did, and what you learned. Judging times are typically 10-15 minutes, so practice what you will say before you arrive.

Ohio State Fair Self Determined Day

- ✿ Most non-livestock 4-H projects have one junior and one senior who advance to the Ohio State Fair with their project. Self-Determined is different in that youth advance in categories such as General, Companion Animal, Creative Arts, Family Life, Natural Resources, Quilt, and Workforce Prep.
- ✿ The decision to send a member on to State competition is always at the discretion of the judge.
- ✿ Youth advancing to the State Fair will be announced during county 4-H project awards.

