

Guides Lines for 4-H Group Projects

What is a "Group Project"?

A group project exists when all members of a club work on a project together. A group project should encompass all the same elements as other projects: namely a planned series of educational activities designed around a topic of interest. A club may choose to use an existing 4-H project as a group project, or, design a group project utilizing the Self Determined Project Book (#365). Utilizing either type of project manual; a group project must include exploration of the required number of Interest Areas, Learning Experiences and Leadership/Citizenship Activities.

Purpose of Group Projects:

The purpose of a group project may be to allow a club to study a topic of common interest together, and/or to provide a common experience that allows members to become better acquainted with their fellow members while learning.

What is *NOT* a "Group Project"?

A one time event or activity does not constitute a group project. For example: planting flowers, assembling first aid kits, or painting a community center is not a group project. These efforts may be service activities, but unless they are accompanied by a planned series of educational activities to support learning about a topic, they are not a project.

Organizing Project Work

Option 1: All project work can be done, as a group, at club meetings, under the direction of the advisor or other resource person.

Option 2: Project activities can be divided among members. Members can do some project activities independently and then teach other members what they have learned at meetings.

As with individual projects, all group members are expected to participate in all project activities in some way, and become knowledgeable about all aspects of the project topic under study.

Project Books and Records:

If all "Group Project" activities are done together as a group, under the direction of an advisor/resource person, it is acceptable to use one project manual. If members are engaging in individual activities and coming together to teach their fellow club members about various aspects of the project, separate books may be needed.

A group must use either a current 4-H Project Manual or the Self Determined Project Guide to select or plan the series of educational activities that will constitute their project.

Records of project activities and accomplishments can be compiled as a group.

Judging

1. It is not required that a group project be judged. The primary purpose of a group project is education (not evaluation).
2. If a club wants to have a group project judged, they will assemble some type of display to show what they have learned and what members' contributions were, following the guidelines on the Yellow Project Guide Sheet. All members would need to be present for judging and be knowledgeable about the total scope of the project.
3. If a project is presented for judging that has not utilized a project manual and completed project requirements (exploration of the required number of Interest Areas, Learning Experiences and Leadership/Citizenship Activities) the project will not be evaluated and no grade or premiums will be awarded.