

Special Interest Project Guide

Helpful information for your Special Interest project (Richwood version)

Special Interest is the name that Union County 4-H uses to describe a wide array of projects that are not livestock or horse projects. Clothing projects, Food and Nutrition projects, and Shooting Sports projects are categories within the overall Special Interest Project collection.

There are many Special Interest projects that you can enroll in as a 4-H member.

4-H Family Guide

The 4-H Family Guide provides a listing of all the Special Interest projects offered each year. A new Family Guide is printed each year. Every year a few projects are retired, and a few new projects join the collection. The Family Guide is available in a printed format, and is also available online.

<https://union.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/project-resources>

The 4-H Family Guide gives a brief description of the each project, and the level of the project. For example; if you are a third grader; you can focus on the beginner level projects in the Family Guide.

Project Central

Project Central is an online resource where you can see a more in depth of each Special Interest Project.

At Project Central you can search for projects and resources, preview sample pages of a project book, and see reviews from others who have taken the project.

Union County 4-H Project Book library (for selecting projects)

Union County 4-H offers a lending library of project books which you can use to preview a book prior to deciding what project(s) you want to enroll in. Project books can be checked out from the OSU Extension office for about 1 week or you can come to the OSUE office and peruse the library.

Project Literature

- Most Special Interest projects have a project book that outlines the entire project. Most SI project books are offered in a print format and cost \$8. A few advanced level project books are available in a downloadable format only.
- Your OSU Extension 4-H Office stocks all project books. Your Advisor will likely make arrangements to get your book for you. You will likely pay your club treasurer for you books. Listen at your Club meetings for the process your club uses to get Project books for you.
- It's also possible to come directly to the OSUE Office and purchase a project book.
- It is required to have the Project book for all Special Interest Project.

Project Books

- Each Special Interest Project book serves a guide and outline for what you will do to learn about the topic you have chosen and
- Each project book begins with a Member Project Guide in the beginning of the book which lists what a member must do to complete the project.

In addition, Union County 4-H creates a Project Guideline Sheet for each project. This Project Guideline sheet gives the same member project guide as the project book AND... then gives the additional information of what the 4-H member must do if they wish to take the next step and take their project to the fair. All Project Guide sheets can be downloaded from the 4-H web site.

Completing Your Project Successfully

3-6 months prior to Fair:

- Open your project book and review the member project guide. Note how many and which activities must be completed. Then read the description of each activity you will do. Take note of activities which will involve detailed planning, supplies that will be needed, or resources you need to obtain in order to do the activities.
- Review the Project Guide sheet and pay special attention to the exhibit guidelines; noting what you will present or create if you want to exhibit this project at the Fair. By thinking ahead to what type of exhibit you will create to show what you've done in this project you can collect things along the way or take pictures to document the phases of your project work.

1-3 months prior to Fair:

- Make a plan for completing each of the learning activities in your project book and begin completing them. Use the member project guide and your book to record activity completion and other notes.
- Fill in ALL of the project book. Nearly every project book has spaces for recording your activity completion, describing what you are learning, or recording what you are working on.
- It's also a great idea to take pictures. Even if you don't utilize photos in your final project exhibit; they will help refresh your memory of the activities you did and what you learned.

1 month prior to the Fair:

- Decide what type of project exhibit you will bring to the Fair if you plan to participate in Fair Judging.
- Review the Project Guide sheet to be sure what your plan fits the requirements of your project.
- Finalize your exhibit and complete your project book.

Participation in Richwood Junior Fair

If you are interested in exhibiting a Special Interest project at the Richwood Fair,

You need to know and meet the exhibition requirements. Basic exhibition requirements include:

- Be enrolled in the project by March 1st. (or April 1 for new 4-H members).
- You must be a member in good standing of your 4-H Club: meaning attending a minimum of 5 meetings, doing a demonstration, pay your Club dues, etc.

- In coordination with your 4-H Advisor you must submit a Fair entry card by the Fair entry deadline of August 1st.

Fair Entries and Fair Rules

- 4-H Advisor coordinate the submission of Fair entry cards. Discussion of and completion of Fair entry cards will likely take place at one of your club meetings (another reason it is very important to attend meetings). It is your responsibility to communicate with your 4-H Advisor about what you want to enter in the Fair.
- Richwood Junior Fair entries are due to the Fair Board on August 1st. Therefore, completing entry cards will take place in July. Your Advisor will be able to answer questions about the Fair entry process.
- When you choose to become a Jr Fair Exhibitor; you are responsible for knowing the general Fair rules and the Department rules for the project you are exhibiting. These can be found on the Richwood Fair website or in the fair paper under Jr Fair Rules.

Judging and Display of your Project

- Special Interest Project Judging will take place on Sunday, August 27th. Special judging times will be announced about 3 weeks prior to the fair in the Fair newsletter.
- Plan to arrive in plenty of time for your assigned judging time; with your project display and completed project book.
- released at the end of Fair week; meaning this is the time you can re-load and take your animal home.

Special Interest Projects....It's Fair Time!

Judging Day Procedures:

Special Interest Projects are judged in the Show Arena on the fairgrounds. Once you arrive and park, bring your project and all needed materials for judging directly to the Show ring.

Plan to arrive about 15 minutes prior to your scheduled judging time. There is no need to arrive hours early, you'll generally just have longer to wait.

How to Register for Judging:

- Go to the registration table and look for the number of your judge and your project name on the signs above the check-in sheets.
- Find your name on the check-in sheet. Sign in beside your name. This means you are in the bleachers and ready to see the judge. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE the area after you sign in.
- Get a score sheet. Fill in your name, age and club.
- REPEAT STEPS 1-3 for each project you have brought to judging that day.
- Sit down and wait for your name to be called. A Junior Fair Board Member will show you where to go and help carry your things.

After you have interviewed with the judge:

- Go to the check-out table. Show the Junior Fair Board Member your grade. He/she will give you a ribbon and a premium voucher for your project.
- He/she will attach a card with your name to your project. You will then carry your project to the Jr Fair Building and leave it on display.
- You can cash in your premium voucher according to times posted in the Fair Paper

Posting of Awards and Awards Program:

- Awards will also be posted in the Jr Fair Building (Outstanding, Honorable Mention).
- Awards will be presented at the Jr. Fair Awards program on Saturday; check the Fair Paper for time.

Picking Up your project at the end of Fair week:

Projects are released on Monday of the Fair at 3:00 pm. Plan to return and pick up your project as soon after 3:00pm on Monday (Labor Day) as possible.

Jr Fair Special Interest (Non-Livestock) Auction:

The Richwood Fair Jr Fair offers an opportunity for exhibitors who have successfully exhibited a Special Interest project to participate in the Special Interest Auction. It is held on Saturday, September 2, in the Bokes Creek Pavilion. You are eligible to participate in this Auction if:

- You received an A grade on your project
- You turn in a Sale entry form on time
- You do not plan to participate in the Livestock Sale.
- You create an item made at least 60% by you for the auction.

Exhibitors are eligible to sell ONE unit through a sale; either an animal through the Jr Fair Sale, or an item through the SI Auction, but cannot participate in both.

- During Special Interest Judging: Sale Entry Forms will be made available to all Exhibitors. If you want to sell an item through the Jr Fair Sale, you must complete the Sale Designation Form, indicating which item you want to place in the Jr Fair Sale, and turn in the Form by the deadline on Friday, Sept 1.
- You MUST be present during the Jr Fair Sale on Saturday in order to sell your item. Plan to arrive no later than the start of the Auction time; check the Fair Schedule for the start time.
- A Sale Catalog (list of items will be created and posted. It is generally posted in the Jr Fair Office late in the day on Friday of the Fair.