



# Do Your Own Thing

## North Dakota 4-H Project Sheet

### The do your own thing project allows YOU to decide:

- What you want to learn
- What you want to do
- How you want to share what you learn

You can zoom in on your interests and create projects that are not included in the 4-H project list. You can get help from others and be creative!

This project is for 4-H members in grades eight to 12.



**Pass it on!**  
Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

### Communication

- Present a speech or demonstration at your local [Communication Arts Contest](#).
- Create a display for the [Project Expo Contest](#).

### Citizenship

- Find a way to help other youth, senior citizens or others with what you have learned in your project.
- Offer to teach a class about your project.

### Leadership

- Teach younger 4-H members in your club about your project.
- Plan a trip for your club in your project area.

### Entrepreneurship

- Start a business in your project area.
- Job shadow a business in your project area.

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## Here's what you can do all year!

### Create Your Project

A 4-H project includes all the learning and activities you do in one subject area during the entire year. It includes citizenship, leadership and communication activities along with learning about your interests.

#### Follow these nine easy steps to create your project!

- Step 1:** Define the topic. "I would like to learn about ..." or "I would like to learn how to ... ."
- Step 2:** Gather and evaluate information. "I can get information on this topic from ... ." Remember to keep a record of useful websites.
- Step 3:** Determine your action. What will you do? What do you want to do with the information?
- Step 4:** Design an action plan. "To reach my goal by the deadline I set, I need to ... ."
- Step 5:** Anticipate roadblocks. What might you need to do differently?
- Step 6:** List all the things you do for your project.
- Step 7:** Evaluate. Did you reach your goal in the timeline you set? Why? Why not? What was easy? What was hard? What did you learn?
- Step 8:** Share what you've learned with someone else. "I will share what I learned by ..." or "I shared what I learned by ... ."
- Step 9:** Exhibit your work.

Learn more at [www.ndsu.edu/4h](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h) or contact your county NDSU Extension office.



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### Here are other opportunities to do your own thing:

#### Selecting Your Project

You already may have a topic in mind to study. Before you make the final decision, you may want to think about all the possibilities. Make an inventory of your interests, needs, dreams and concerns. Include everything that “could be” a “do your own thing” project. From this list, you can identify which topic to choose for your self-study. Your choice of project work probably is based upon an interest, need, dream or concern. These definitions will help clarify what each term means.

**INTEREST** An interest is something that excites your feelings and gains your attention or curiosity. It causes you to say, “Oh, I’d like to do that!”

**NEED** A need is something you, your family or community seem to want or require. You say, “Yes, I can see doing that is necessary.”

**DREAM** A dream causes you to think, “I really want to try to accomplish that.”

**CONCERN** A concern is something that could affect the welfare or happiness of your family, club, community or world. A concern means, “I really care about that, and I could do something about it.”

#### Project Ideas

- Start a coin or stamp collection.
- Find out how to become an exchange student.
- Explore the history of a building in your community.
- Learn about colleges.
- Learn about astronomy.
- Learn about glass art.
- Restore an old car.
- Explore music or dance.
- Develop tourist attractions in your community.

#### Exhibit Ideas

- Create a labeled chart, graph, poster or 3-D display.
- Write a report.
- Create a scrapbook.
- Put together a folder.
- Display the item created.
- Create a picture story showing project progress.
- Include your Do Your Own Thing Project Book with the exhibit.

#### N.D. 4-H Resources

- [Do Your Own Thing Project Book](#)

#### Other Resources

- [4-H Projects and Idea Starters \(Ohio\)](#)
- [Designing Your Own Project \(Wisconsin\)](#)
- [How to Prepare and Show Your Project/Build a Display Board](#)
- [Online Research Skills](#)

#### Recordkeeping

- [4-H Project Plan](#)
- [Planning for My Project Adventure \(Ages 8-10\)](#)
- [4-H Plan of Action \(Ages 11-18\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Participation Summary for 11- to 19-year-olds](#)

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