

4-H HOME ENVIRONMENT GUIDELINES

One of the goals of 4-H is to help young people learn life skills. The following are guidelines and ideas for providing learning experiences in the home environment (home design) project.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL MEMBERS

Learn and experiment with the design elements: color, line, texture, shape, space.

Learn the differences in color qualities (hue, value, intensity).

Learn basic principles of creating color harmony and mood.

Learn to keep a record of decorating expenses.

Learn to plan home living spaces in keeping with the needs of family members.

Learn how to use the tools of design in making and arranging accessories for a room or home.

Develop an appreciation of and skills in selection, care and preservation of old as well as new housing, furnishings and accessories.

Become acquainted with design characteristics of historical furniture or art styles.

Apply techniques of efficient use of energy as it relates to housing, furnishings and equipment in the home environment.

Develop an awareness of and explore the variety of job and career opportunities in housing, furnishings and equipment.

PROJECT LEARNING IDEAS

1. Collect pictures from magazines or other sources which show the design elements.
2. Experiment with color, using any media. Make a color wheel, etc.
3. Start a collection of color swatches from the 12 basic hues from various materials (paper, fabric, etc.).
4. Collect samples of man-made and natural objects and evaluate the design of each: Printed fabrics, glasses, pictures, etc.
5. Plan a study area for yourself or some member of your family.
6. Organize the storage space in your closet and drawers.
7. Collect pictures of well-designed furniture of any or all style periods, and evaluate them.
8. Collect pictures of well-designed rooms, and evaluate them.
9. Learn to repair and refinish used furniture.
10. Finish an unfinished piece of furniture.
11. Make new or remake accessories to improve the overall decor of a room.
12. Make a workable plan for improving the design of a room and put it into effect.
13. Using objects available, plan and arrange center pieces or make other accessories for a specified period of time.
14. Experiment with arranging objects of various colors, textures, lines, etc., which are impressive of a mood, theme or style.
15. Keep a record of decorating expenses.
16. Design a room or house.
17. Diagram the traffic pattern in your home and design a furniture arrangement to suit your needs.
18. Write a checklist of common house repairs and learn how to do them.

19. Learn the energy consumption of your home and some equipment and how it could be improved; caulk windows, etc.
20. Explore career opportunities in housing, furnishings and equipment.

FAIR INFORMATION

A member may enter the home environment class or furniture finishing class, any number of years, but the content and complexity of the exhibit must reflect the age of the member and the amount of experience in the project. The member should show an increase in skills each year.

In the home environment class, the member may exhibit articles made, models of articles made or studied if they cannot be exhibited, or notebook and poster containing pictures, materials or a report of activities performed relating to color and design, color schemes in particular rooms, furniture arrangements, floor plans, home activity centers, upholstery projects, or any other home environment project. There is a separate division at the fair for wood finishing projects.

Suggestions

There are many things that you can make for and do to your room or another room in your home as a part of your 4-H project. There are many choices for items that may be entered in this project area at the fair. Look around your home. What do you need or what needs to be done? What would you enjoy doing? Whatever you choose, keep in mind what you have learned about designs. Here are some suggestions to help you get started. What you make is your decision - it doesn't have to be on this list.

*Cloth articles such as pillow, tablecloth, runner, mug mats, placemats & napkins, wall hanging, curtains, laundry bag, etc.

*Finishing wooden articles such as bowl, tray, cutting board, picture frame, small box, children's building blocks, small stool, game board, book ends, child's chair, plant stand, etc. (These would be entered in the Wood Finishing division).

*Improving your study area by making handy items such as wastebasket, pin-up board, blotter pad, pencil and letter holder, etc.

*Any other accessories to improve the overall decor of a room.

*Notebook and poster or model of a room showing some phase of project or a home improvement that the member worked on.