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SELF-DETERMINED PROJECT —SOME FACTS

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DOCUMENTS

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4-H M 251
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What is a self-determined project?

It allows a 4-H'er the freedom to determine his own project.

A self-determined project might be:

a new or different project

OR

an expansion of a traditional project.

Who enrolls?

Any 4-H'er may enroll by indicating his or her intent in enrolling. Experience has shown that most self-determined enrollees are 12 years old or older.

May I enroll in the same project for more than 1 year?

Yes, providing you set some additional goals and build upon the project you have already completed.

How do I exhibit a self-determined project?

- If your project is in a traditional 4-H area, you may exhibit in that area.
- You might give a youth-in-action demonstration.
- You could report on your self-determined project through a newspaper feature.
- You could report on your project at a local civic or service club.
- You could make an exhibit for a local store or shopping center.

Some counties have tried a special self-determined recognition night, including the awarding of recognition ribbons.

Who is my leader?

Anyone who knows enough about the topic you have chosen or has special skills in the area—a teacher, friend, businessman, teen leader, parent, extension agent, or librarian—can be your leader.

Your leader can help you by using the "Do Your Own Thing" Leader Guide. Your leader should ask you about your goals, when and how you will do your project, and how you plan to evaluate your project. Your leader may suggest some resource material for your use.

What additional helps are available?

"Do Your Own Thing," 4-H B 79 member guide and planning form)

"Creating an Exciting Self-Determined Project," 4-H M 181

"Self-Determined Project Planning Guide," 4-H M 219

"Do Your Own Thing Slide Set" (Your extension agent can request this set for you.)

Self-Determined Project Ideas

Agriculture and Related Areas

- *Comparison of hay-making methods
- *Genetic experimentation in plants
- *Training mice
- *New uses for paper products
- *Small animal behavior
- *Taxidermy
- *Buying a used car
- *Skiing



Home Economics

- *Completing your family tree
- *Early childhood and learning
- *Changing life roles of men and women today
- *Space foods
- *Which wig for me
- *Dating and marriage customs
- *Changes in food cooking and eating habits
- *Consumer laws
- *Family holiday celebrations in other countries
- *Microwave ovens
- *Foreign food study
- *Food facts and fallacies
- *Mobile home living
- *Fashion designs

Community Resource Development

- *Community survey
- *Careers interviewing
- *Power structure in my community
- *Careers that do not require a college degree
- *Organizing to make our community a better place to live
- *The 4-day work week

Other

- *Radio and TV advertising
- *Adoption of children
- *Changing attitudes on mental health
- *Leisure in today's society
- *Working with handicapped children
- *Making reeds for your own musical instrument
- *Writing and producing a play

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