



All About Discovery![™]
College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences
Cooperative Extension Service
Extension 4-H Youth Development

Project Idea Starters

100.SD-2 (R-2022)

New Mexico 4-H Idea Starter

Arts & Crafts Self-Determined Projects

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This project allows youth to show their creativity and artistic skills through art and/or craft exhibits not otherwise showcased in another 4-H Project. New Mexico 4-H offers the following art and craft related projects: Leathercraft, Braiding, Fibercrafts, Ceramics, Jewelry Making, Photography, Origami and Scrapbooking. Have other ideas? Then the Self Determined Arts & Crafts project is for you! Use this idea starter AND publication 400.SD-1 Self Determined Project Greentop as the starting place for your 4-H self-determined project.

- Remember:** completing a 4-H project is not just making one item. While you get to decide what you want to learn and how you want to learn it, you will still need to complete the elements of a project, which are:
- ✓ Plan your project with 4-H leaders, parents and/or agents.
 - ✓ Develop a written plan for your project, including goals for what you want to learn and what you will teach others about your new skills.
 - ✓ Identify resources to use in learning new things, enhancing skills and creating items.
 - ✓ Complete items – learn by doing is the best way! Try out new techniques, methods and skills, then select your best item to exhibit at a 4-H event.
 - ✓ Complete your project record form (300.SD-1) to evaluate what you have learned this year. (This form must accompany your item to the Achievement Day, county, regional or state fair in order for your item to be considered part of a 4-H project and eligible for judging.)

Areas of Interest

Every self-determined 4-H project can be broken down into areas of interest. These are the specific things members want to address during their project adventures. Try to identify at least three areas of interest with at least three activities per area to explore. Take your ideas from the list below or make up your own. Use the next page to record the areas you want to focus on.

- Arts
 - Drawing
 - Painting
 - Sculpting
 - Mixed Media
 - Stained Glass
 - Calligraphy
- Crafts
 - Home Décor
 - Holiday Décor
 - Paper crafting
 - Beading (non-jewelry)
 - Miniature Models (cars, airplanes, etc)
 - Constructed Models (building sets – Lego, K’Nex, etc)



Self-Determined Project Activity Planning

Area of Interest:

Activity 1:

Activity 2:

Activity 3:

Area of Interest:

Activity 1:

Activity 2:

Activity 3:

Area of Interest:

Activity 1:

Activity 2:

Activity 3:

Related Resources

Resources can include personal research, group meetings, tours and/or classes. Your interest area will determine the type of resource that would work best for you. Below is a sampling of possible resources to get you started.

- Local art shows and museums
- Local art teachers
- Area craft and hobby stores
- Craft and hobby websites
- Craft and art magazines
- Social media sources and pin boards
- YouTube or other sites with instructional videos

Exhibit Options

The following options are for exhibit in the 4-H Department of your county Achievement Day or Fair and may be eligible to qualify for competition at the regional or state level. You must be enrolled in the Art & Crafts Self-Determined Project through your county 4-H program in order to exhibit and your item(s) must be accompanied by a completed 4-H Self Determined Project Record Sheet 300.SD.1 revised 2018.

ARTS		
1800	07659	Self-determined Arts exhibit including Self-Determined Record Sheet #300.SD.1 *items such as paintings, sketches, sculpture, etc.
CRAFTS		
1801	07659	Self-determined Crafts exhibit including Self-Determined Record Sheet #300.SD.1 *other handmade craft items not appropriate in any other category

**Check your county and regional guidelines for additional county only classes or opportunities to exhibit in the open division.

