



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

Project Idea Starters

100.SD-3 (N-2018)

New Mexico 4-H Idea Starter Computer Self-Determined Project

Mindy Turner, 4-H Youth Development Specialist, New Mexico State University
Peter Skelton, 4-H Youth Development STEM Specialist, New Mexico State University



This project allows youth to explore any and all types of computers. Computers are highly sophisticated devices that performs tasks. Computers are an important part of our lives, allowing many complicated tasks to be done very quickly. From just a few instructions, computers are able to carry out a whole range of tasks, from sending out a letter to flying an aircraft. 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 programs, write your own computer program, create a game or make a poster showcasing what you have learned.
- ✓ 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.

- How we use computers
 - How do computers effect what you do at home, school or work?
- Computer Hardware
 - How does a computer work – clean and identify parts of your computer and what they do.
- Computer Software
 - Use and evaluate different types of software – word processing, graphic design, databases, etc
- Using the Internet
 - Consider online safety and etiquette, conduct searches, evaluate websites, etc
- Organize, Analyze and Create
 - Create stories, presenations, posters, 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.

- Computer/Office Supply Stores
- Computer Repair Shops
- Computer Engineers
- University/College professors and information technology personnel
- Software in the following areas:
 - Computer programming
 - Graphic design
 - Web design
- Practice entering data, processing data and producing output
- Access local library online
- 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 Computer 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.

COMPUTER		
600	08109	Self-determined Computer exhibit including Self-Determined Project Record Form #100.SD.1

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

