



New Mexico 4-H Greentop Project Guide



New Mexico 4-H Is A Program of New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service

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New Mexico 4-H Sport Fishing Project

Approximately 60 million Americans participate in fishing each year which makes fishing one of the oldest and most popular outdoor activities. Fishing can be relaxing and very enjoyable but without some basic knowledge it can become frustrating! This project will give you the skills you need to become a successful angler as well as make your fishing experiences rewarding and enjoyable.

Materials Included With This Project

- Sport Fishing and Aquatic Resources Handbook
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Fishing Proclamation
- Fishing Project Record Sheet

What You Will Learn

- **History:** You will be introduced to the history of fishing and the evolution of tackle and fishing strategies.
- **Safety:** You will be taught how to be safe when fishing and when being around water including boats.
- **Fish Care:** You will learn how to handle the fish that you have caught whether you are going to keep them or release them. You will also be introduced to preparing and cooking fish.
- **Biology and Ecology:** You will study fish biology to make you a more successful angler as well as studying water quality and ecology. Not only will you learn how to use it to your advantage for catching fish, but you will also have the knowledge to help preserve our natural resources and insure that fish will be around for a long time to come.
- **Ethics:** You will learn to respect the rights of others and appreciate our natural resources, as well as how to follow the laws governing angling while fishing.
- **Tackle Crafting:** You will be introduced to the art of making your own fishing tackle and feel the enjoyment of catching a fish on something that you created.

New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

To complete the project you should:

1. Turn in a completed project record sheet.
2. Have given at least one demonstration on any fishing topic.
3. Have completed at least one community service project that relates to fishing (i.e. picking up trash from around lake).
4. Exhibit at the county fair at least one of the following:
 - a) Poster demonstrating common sport fish species found in your county and the water they can be found in.
 - b) Exhibit on fishing safety.
 - c) Exhibit using rope to demonstrate tying the common knots used in fishing.
 - d) One artificial fly or lure crafted by the member with a poster describing information on what fish and conditions it is designed for and how to use the tackle properly.

Advanced Sport Fishing Exhibits:

- a) Exhibit on boat safety.
- b) Poster demonstrating fish senses and how to use that to your advantage when fishing.
- c) One artificial fly or lure crafted by the member with a poster describing information on what fish and conditions it is designed for and how to use the tackle properly.
- d) One rod built by the member with a poster containing pictures showing the various steps in the rod building process.

What Additional Projects Can I Do Next Year That Would Still Relate To The 4-H Sport Fishing Project?

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| 1. Wood Science | Make your own equipment for rod building |
| 2. Small Engines | Work on boat motors |
| 3. Leathercraft | Make a fly storage container |
| 4. Food and Nutrition | Experiment with cooking different fish in different ways |
| 5. Photography | Experiment with taking photographs of fish and people fishing |
| 6. Small Pets | Keep a fish as a pet |
| 7. Veterinary Science | Study the anatomy and physiology of fish and common fish diseases |
| 8. Wildlife | Study other animals that live in lakes and streams |
| 9. Entomology | Learn insects and which ones would be good bait for different fish species |
| 10. Plant and Soil Science | Learn to identify plants that reside in and around water. |