Overview of the 4-H Housing and Home Environment Project

Participation in the Housing and Home Environment Project allows 4-H members to learn and apply principles of design and function to make the home more attractive, safe and comfortable for all family members. The project also teaches the importance of efficient energy usage as it relates to housing, home equipment and waste management.

Housing and Home Environment Projects are usually conducted throughout the 4-H year, based on the availability of leaders. 4-H members should be willing to commit the appropriate amount of time to the project, depending on the level of involvement. While competition is limited to 4-H Educational Presentation and Recordbook competitions, 4-H members can focus more on the learning process and the many opportunities for community service. This project may overlap with other projects such as clothing and textiles, consumer education, health and safety.

Questions to ask:

- What are your goals?
- Do you want to compete in the contests associated with the housing and home environment project?
- If you are interested in the housing and home environment contests, would you like to compete with a team or as an individual?
- What other projects are you involved in that can be incorporated into your Housing and Home Environment Project?

Opportunities

Learning experiences:

**Workshops**
- Going green
- Home storage
- Home furnishings
- Indoor air quality
- Water conservation
- Chemical-free cleaning
- Home furnishing restoration
- ADA compatibility
- Controlling allergy triggers
- Energy conservation
- Design elements
- Do-it-yourself home repairs
- Recycling
- Controlling asthma triggers
- Safety in the home

**Tours**
- Flooring store
- Hotel
- Furniture restoration shop
- Construction site/company
- Garden store/landscape design company
- Home and Garden Show
- Furniture store
- Home improvement store
- Antique store
- Paint store
- Interior design studio

**Community Service**
- Refinish furniture for community centers
- Sponsor a home paint-up/fix-up week
- Host a “Go Green” campaign
- Coordinate collection of household goods for Habitat for Humanity
- Collect fabric to be recycled into curtains/drapes
- Assist with a community clean-up day
- Assist the elderly with household repairs
- Write news articles about historical homes in the area
Contests are summarized on individual Essentials pages.

- Educational Presentations – Open-Family & Consumer Sciences
- Recordbook – Housing and Home Environment

Careers 4-H members can explore through the Housing and Home Environment Project are:

- Interior Designer
- Photo Stylist
- Furniture Designer
- Draftsperson
- Set Designer
- Furnishings Buyer
- Lighting Designer
- Facility Designer
- Architect
- Window Designer

Resources

Printed/Web Resources:

- Numerous Extension resources – (fcs.tamu.edu)
  - Efficiency
  - Home Maintenance
  - Home Furnishings
- University of Nebraska 4-H Home Environment Project – 4h.unl.edu/web/4hcurriculum/homeenvironment
- Housing resources (Mississippi State University Extension Service) – msucares.com/4h_Youth/interior_design/
- www.extension.org – Search for housing and home environment resources nationwide

Specialists:

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- Open-Family & Consumer Sciences Educational Presentation: Dianne Gertson, CEA-FCS, dlgertson@ag.tamu.edu, 281-342-3034
- Recordbooks: Kyle Merten, Extension 4-H & Youth Development Specialist, KJMerten@ag.tamu.edu, 979-845-6533 and Derrick Bruton, Extension Program Specialist, DBruton@ag.tamu.edu, 972-952-9264