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4-H Clothing Project Leader Guide

Skill Level I

Congratulations on assuming the role of 4-H Clothing project leader! Teaching young people is one of the most satisfying activities in which you can participate. Like most teachers you'll probably find you will learn as much as, or more than, the young people in your project group.

Teaching about clothing can bring a special satisfaction. You do not just teach how to use a sewing machine or a needle and thread. You help young people develop interests and skills that will be useful and bring them pleasure throughout a lifetime. The clothing project offers 4-H members opportunities to develop decision-making ability; express themselves creatively; gain knowledge and skills in the area of clothing and personal appearance; and learn to work and share with others. Your role as a 4-H leader is to help set the stage for these opportunities.

The 4-H Clothing Project

The 4-H clothing project consists of a series of nine progressive skill levels. Each skill level is the same for both boys and girls, although the application of skills and selection of learning activities may differ according to individual interests.

The leader guide is designed to help leaders with boys and girls enrolled in Skill Level I. It tells something about how to work with kids in the clothing

project and how to plan a project meeting. It also includes a series of suggested meeting outlines.

A companion piece to the leader guide is *4-H Clothing Program Guidelines for Leaders* (4-H 9210L). Be sure you have a copy. The guidelines provide an overall picture of the nine progressive skill levels and suggest specific activities to incorporate each of five learning areas: planning and evaluation; individual development and outreach; management, consumer-ship, and wardrobe building; textiles; and construction.

The five learning areas allow for variety to help maintain the interest of members, some of whom may not have a great deal of skill in construction, but need to develop skills in the integrated areas of clothing and personal appearance.

Although there are no specific project requirements, all members should be exposed to some activity in each of the five learning areas. In the construction area, members, leaders, and parents are encouraged to plan together for articles or garments the member will be making. To provide guidance in making these decisions, the "Construction" section of the *Guidelines* for each skill level contains a listing of skills to be learned in each level, and suggestions for possible articles or garments which utilize each skill. Decisions should be made by

considering individual skills, knowledge, and preferences, as well as available resources. If members choose to enter a fair, check with your county Extension office for a description of Skill Level I exhibits.

In addition to the *Leader Guide* and the *Guidelines*, a series of member handouts is available in Skill Level I for distribution at meetings when particular learning activities are included. They are intended as take-home materials to reinforce meeting content. Extension publications on selected topics are available to leaders and older members. Resources to provide background information relating to specific areas are listed as part of each suggested meeting outline (pages 5-11).

You might also want to use the *4-H Clothing Advancement Program* which consists of a series of advancement records for each skill level. Members, along with their leader and parent(s), select activities to be completed in each skill level. As identified activities are accomplished, leaders or parents initial the member's worksheet. After all the activities have been accomplished for a skill level, members receive an "Advancement Certificate" and are eligible to advance to the next skill level. Copies of the advancement program are available at your local OSU Extension office.



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Extension's 4-H/youth program assists young people, their families, and adult volunteers to become productive and self-directing by developing their practical skills and knowledge. Professionals and volunteers together provide educational projects and activities in animal science, plant science, home economics, mechanical science, natural science, and expressive arts.

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