

# 4-H Expressive Arts Leader Guide

A. Kovash and L.E. Houglum

Welcome to the 4-H Expressive Arts Projects! These projects are designed to help 4-H members develop:

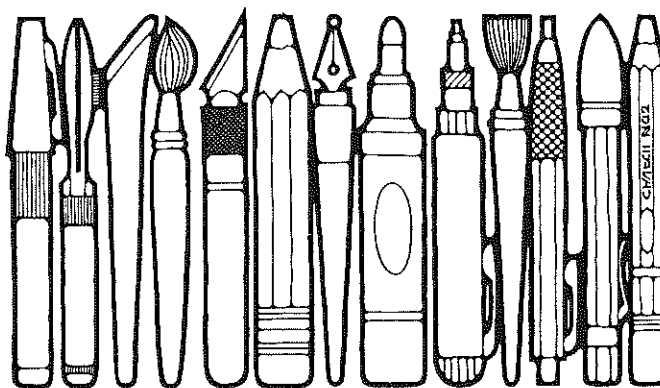
- artistic awareness and appreciation,
- sensitivity to color and design,
- creative potential and hidden talents, and
- interest in various art forms and media.

In addition to fostering creative thinking, this project will help the 4-H member develop imagination, patience, self-control, perseverance, self esteem, and the ability to cooperate with others. It helps members make better use of their time through developing skills in using hands and mind to create something meaningful.

## How do I get a club started?

You may start a club with your own children and/or other children in your neighborhood. Check with your county Extension office. There may be young people in your area waiting for an adult to volunteer to be a club or project leader.

Your county Extension office has information available that will help you get your 4-H club organized. If you are a new 4-H leader, ask to be put on the mailing list for the "Letters to New Leaders," a series of seven letters containing basic information about 4-H, and how to organize a club and work with members, etc. Also, be sure to get the member and/or leader guides for the projects which interest you.



Contact your county Extension office and/or the local 4-H community coordinator anytime you have a question or need additional materials.

Check with your county agent and read county leaders' newsletters for leader training meeting dates.

## What are the Expressive Arts Projects?

The 4-H Expressive Arts curriculum is divided into the categories of Communication Arts, Cultural Arts, and Performing Arts. Statewide projects are in two of these categories as follows:

Communication Arts -- Photography.

Cultural Arts -- Art, Decorative Painting, Fiber Arts, Leathercraft.

Arlene Kovash, 4-H leader, Benton County,  
Lyla E. Houglum, Extension specialist, 4-H  
and youth development, and the State 4-H  
Expressive Arts Development Committee.



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You and your members are encouraged to use your imaginations for additional projects in the arts areas. Request a copy of the 4-H publication, "We Decide, A Leader Guide for Group-Determined Projects" (4-H 0227L), from your county Extension office to help you develop project plans. The Extension office may have additional materials to assist you.

Examples of alternative or "group-determined" projects include:

Communication Arts -- Journalism, Cartooning, Mass Media, Public Speaking.

Cultural Arts -- Ceramics, Music Appreciation, Cake Decorating, Silk Screening, Linoleum Printing.

Performing Arts -- Clowning, Drama, Mime, Music Performance, Puppetry, Dancing.

Check with your county agent and read leaders' newsletters for leader training meeting dates.

## How can I be an inspiring 4-H Expressive Arts leader?

As an expressive arts leader, you should suggest possibilities, encourage creativity, and help members explore a variety of techniques. Each young person has unique individual abilities, interests, needs, and background. Make an effort to help members find projects that are meaningful to them. Meaningless practice turns members off.

Your role may be to encourage exploration and help members make their own project decisions. Young people are more deeply interested in their work and are more likely to complete it if they choose their own experiences. Decision-making is one of many learning opportunities in 4-H. Members need and want the ideas, suggestions and friendly guidance of adults. This is your role as a 4-H leader.

## Where do I get information and ideas for specific projects?

Check with your county Extension office for leader guides and/or project materials in individual project areas such as art, fiber arts, photography, leathercraft, or decorative painting. Also, watch for workshops sponsored by Extension, your school district, local art centers, libraries, or recreation departments.

Visit stores, art associations, art teachers, libraries, and check magazines for up-to-date information. Many free or low cost booklets are available through these sources.

Involve knowledgeable friends and neighbors as resource persons.

Audio visual aids are often available from schools, libraries and universities for little or no cost. Many audio visual materials and teaching kits can be borrowed through your county Extension office. For a listing of available titles, ask to review the "4-H Audio-Visual Materials Catalog" and the "OSU Extension Service Videotape Catalog." Materials from these sources need to be reserved well in advance of your use date.

A statewide Expressive Arts Leader Letter is published each Fall and Spring. This leader letter will include information about upcoming statewide expressive arts activities, club project ideas, and information about projects that have been successful in other clubs around the state. Check with your county Extension agent about ordering copies.

## What about materials?

Art materials need not be expensive. Consider having beginning 4-H members start with smaller projects and use alternate materials. Better quality materials can be provided as the children progress.

Plan members' responsibilities in purchasing, use, and care of materials. For instance, will the group share materials? Will members have their own? Can they share cost of certain materials?

Storage of materials and equipment is also an issue you will want to discuss with your members. The leader's home or meeting place may be convenient for everyone.

A notebook for each member is useful in taking down directions, storing work or patterns, writing notes for materials needed for a later meeting, and keeping project records.

## What can members in Expressive Arts do?

All projects can be done by most age groups. The degree of technical skill in designing and handling materials varies, but often even a complicated technique can be stripped down to a much simpler form for a younger member.

Provide an opportunity for members to:

- \* Use various media to express and communicate feelings, ideas and concepts.
- \* Realize increasing pleasure and satisfaction in both creative and appreciative experiences.
- \* Find an emotional release through art experiences.
- \* Appreciate and respect the creative expressions of others.
- \* Increase their sensitivity toward beauty in the environment.

## How can members be recognized for work well done?

Recognize the members' progress as they work with their projects. This is as important as the quality of the end product. A "pat on the back" or a kind word along the way does wonders!

Provide an opportunity for others to see what members have done, such as setting up attractive displays at school, club, community achievement nights, stores, or Extension programs and offices.

Suggest members make articles for home and gifts. Arrange for an outlet for marketing the member's products at places such as flea markets or community sales.

Check with your Extension office about yearly member recognition pins and special award medals.

Display or exhibit at county and 4-H fairs. See the county fair premium book for specific information.

Another recognition opportunity is the "4-H Art Acquisition Program." This program was developed in 1985 to recognize Oregon 4-H members, promote 4-H Expressive Arts projects, and develop a permanent 4-H art collection. All officially entered State Fair 4-H Expressive Arts exhibits are eligible for consideration. Pieces must be original work (not kits), be wall-hangable, and be suitable for permanent display. Selected artwork will be displayed in the Department of 4-H & Youth Development on the Oregon State University Campus in Corvallis and in other designated locations. A maximum \$25.00 honorarium per item will be awarded to the 4-H member artist.

## Can I get started right away?

Yes! The sooner you and your club get started, the sooner you will be experiencing the excitement and satisfaction of seeing your members express themselves through the arts. Help 4-H'ers experience the Expressive Arts projects by:

- \* Helping members feel accepted in the group,
- \* Promoting activities in their interest,
- \* Praising their best attempts,
- \* Giving them responsibility, and
- \* Mixing recreation, education, and inspiration in equal portions.



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**The Oregon State University Extension Service** educates Oregonians by delivering research-based, objective information to help them solve problems, develop leadership, and manage resources wisely.

**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, home economics, engineering, natural resources, and expressive arts.

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