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The 4-H Clothing Project

Skill Level 2

A note to members

Now that you have begun to learn about clothing and how it's made, you are ready to try some new things. In skill level 2 of the 4-H clothing project, you will have a chance to learn about:

- Choosing fabric by considering how it looks and feels
- Getting fabric ready for sewing
- Selecting a commercial pattern
- Cutting and marking a pattern and fabric
- Pressing and ironing different kinds of fabrics
- Making garments or articles for yourself or someone else
- Caring for your clothing
- Grooming and personal appearance

With your parents and leader you can plan what you'll do in the project. You'll also have a chance to share with others what you have learned. This might be at a club meeting or in some other way. You might want to make a gift for someone. Or, you might want to show your family what you've learned by sometimes helping with the laundry, ironing, or mending.

Plan to attend all the meetings of your club. At some meetings, your leader will give you handouts about clothing (like this one) for you to take home. Keep them together in a notebook so you can find them when you need them.

Please show this handout to your parents. There is a note for them on the back.

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4-H 9212

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OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

A note to parents

Skill level 2 of the 4-H clothing project is designed for boys and girls who have had some experience in clothing, including using a sewing machine and making simple garments or articles. Some of the specific knowledge and skills to be learned in skill level 2 are outlined in the note to members on the other side of this page.

Your child will need special help from you or another family member or friend in learning some of the skills, particularly those relating to clothing construction. We hope you will be an active participant in the child-parent-leader team to plan for the project so it will not be too difficult.

Simple patterns (no zippers or set-in sleeves) work best for skill level 2. Firmly woven fabrics (such as cotton or cotton blend) or stable knitted fabrics are recommended. Napped fabric (such as corduroy or velveteen) and plaid fabric are not recommended until later skill levels. Construction skills to be learned include plain seams and their finishes, collars, facings, and hems. The club leader will share with members ideas about the garments or articles they might wish to make.

Members in skill level 2 are just beginning to apply certain skills. Many of their sewing efforts will not be perfect. We hope you won't worry about this—we'd rather that 4-H members learn to enjoy sewing by completing a number of items, rather than concentrating on making one "perfect" item.

Clothing construction is only part of the 4-H clothing project. We hope that members will have a variety of opportunities for

- Planning and evaluating their work
- Learning to work and share with others
- Developing decision-making abilities
- Expressing themselves creatively

You can help by showing your interest and enthusiasm in your child's work, by guiding and encouraging when he or she succeeds (and even more when things are not going well). Help focus on the progress made, not just the end result.

The 4-H clothing project has many opportunities for your child. We hope he or she finds the project interesting and enjoyable.

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