



# PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT



Have you ever asked a parent why they do or do not come to 4-H club meetings? Some parents like to come so they know what is going on while others enjoy watching the youth work together to make decisions. Still others are absent because they feel like they don't have the time to just sit and watch. However, we know parent involvement is key to continuing 4-H membership.

What is the role of a 4-H parent at a meeting? Here are some tips and tricks for organizational and project leaders to involve parents and help them find their role.

**Role Cards** Hand out cards to parents with roles, which need to be filled at the meeting. Divide the items you were going to take on as the organizational leader such as "hand in your enrollment form to me, sign up to work a shift at the county fair foodstand with me." Any of these times you say me, insert the parent's name who received the card. Many items will repeat each year so you can paperclip the notecards together for each month, and use them again when that item comes up on the agenda.

**Brainstorming** During the decision making process, have questions the youth ask the adult in attendance with them. If you are deciding on a community service project, have each child sit with and brainstorm up to 3 ideas with their parent. Many parents will feel ownership if their family's idea is chosen and volunteer to see the project through. The youth can present the family's idea to the club.

**Time to Teach** During project time, have time set aside for the youth to explain what they learned and teaches their parent. If the youth learn to measure brown sugar by packing, then have the youth teach the parent to measure. At archery/shooting sports practices, the evening can end by having the 4-H member can bring the parent to the line, and "coach" on what they learned that evening whether it is how to score a target or proper stance.

The success of the 4-H program experience depends greatly upon **parent** support and **involvement**.



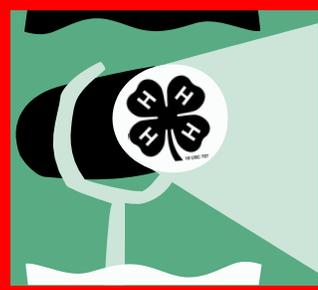
Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

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## Special points of interest:

- Learn some easy tips on how to teach woodworking to your 4-H'ers!
- Showing a cat can be a "purr-fect" purple ribbon with practice and patience.
- What is a UNL Learning Community and how can 4-H'ers benefit from them?



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN EXTENSION

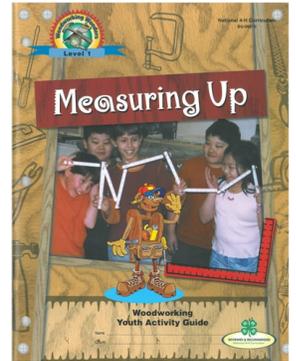
SPOTLIGHT  
ON 4-H!





## WHAT ABOUT WOODWORKING?

Do you need a new project idea your 4-H'ers will enjoy? How about woodworking? Woodworking is a valuable skill. It teaches youth problem solving skills and eye-hand coordination. Woodworking can be a career or a great hobby. The skills learned can be applied to household repairs. Check out the first 4-H project book titled, "Measuring Up." This project book will teach 4-H'ers about safety, identification of woods, hand tools and how to use them, how to measure, how to build a project, and how to properly finish it.



Try these simple woodworking projects. More project ideas can be found in the 4-H project book, "Measuring Up."

### Make a Sandpaper Block

A sanding block makes it easy to hold sandpaper. It also helps make the sanding process more even. Once the sandpaper block is made, simply wrap a piece of sand paper around the block of wood.

#### Materials

1 piece of wood 1" x 3" at least 6" long.  
Crosscut hand saw  
Clamp to hold the wood when sawing

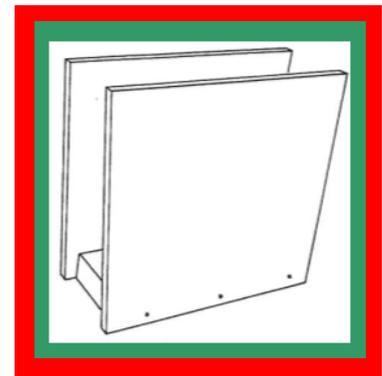
#### Procedure

Cut wood to 5" in length.  
Sand block of wood.  
This sandpaper block will hold a ¼ sheet of sandpaper.

### Napkin Holder

#### Materials

1 piece of wood 1" x 2" at least 6" long  
1 piece ¼" plywood at least 6" x 12"  
6–3/4" brads (small nails that sink easily beneath the wood surface)  
Wood glue  
Latex paint  
Crosscut hand saw  
Clamp to hold the wood when sawing



#### Procedure

1. Cut two 5" x 5" squares from plywood.
2. Cut base piece 4 ½" long from the 1" x 2" piece of wood. Be sure ends are square.
3. Sand all parts until smooth with sandpaper block.
4. To assemble, use wood glue and three brads to secure each side to the base. Wipe up excess glue so paint will adhere properly.
5. Apply latex paint.

# LIFE'S CHOICES: PREPARING TOMORROW'S PROFESSIONALS

The 4-H Interview Contest had its debut in the spring of 2013.

A partnership between Nebraska 4-H and the Trusted Choice Insurance Company made this interview contest possible. The Life Choices program is offering older youth a chance to develop and practice their interview, application and communication skills. The program achieves this by emphasizing life skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, serving others, as well as managing change. The program facilitates connections between Trusted Choice representatives from the local community, highlighting opportunities available through the business.

What is an Interview Contest? The Interview Contest is an opportunity for members (10-18 years of age) to practice the real-life skill of applying for a job. The contest involves a set of fictitious job descriptions that the members use to prepare for the process of applying and interviewing for a position. To enter the Interview Contest the member must:

- pick one of the three job descriptions for a job the member has a potential interest in pursuing
- develop a résumé of their education and experiences that they believe make them a good candidate for the job selected
- write an accompanying cover letter for their résumé
- prepare for the interview
- fill out job application the day of the contest for chosen position
- participate in an actual interview where they are judged on all of the key elements in the process.

Winners from each Regional Interview Judging Contest will advance to the State Interview Judging contest where they will compete with other 4-Hers from across the state for a chance to win the state competition. Each contestant that participates at the state level will also receive \$50. To find out more, ask your local extension representative about it, and check out the local and Nebraska State Fairbook.

## Interview Question Tips!

### You Questions

- Tell me about yourself.
- Who are your role models? Why?
- What do you consider to be your greatest strengths? Greatest weaknesses?
- Where do you see yourself in 1, 3, or 5 years?

### Skill Questions

- How do you rate your written communication skills?
- What is your typical role in a group?
- How do you teach others something new?
- What skill do you want to improve? How do you plan to do this?

### Experience Questions

Tell us about a time when you worked well on a team.

Describe a time when you wished you had done more planning.

Have you ever had to take charge of a project to get it done on time?

### Position/Company/Organization Questions

- What aspect of this position interests you most?
- What contributions can you make to our company?
- Why should we hire you?





## PREPARING YOUR 4-H CAT FOR THE SHOW



Getting a feline friend ready for the show can be quite the undertaking, but with these tips and tricks 4-H'ers will have their furry friend ready in no time!

An important item to cross off the to do list is having a showmanship speech prepared. The following is a list of things that could be included: the cat's name, gender and if the cat has been spayed or neutered, the breed and/or standards if applicable, characteristics or traits of the feline, know the cat's vaccination records and have it with them, what type of feed the cat is given and its nutrition information, know common internal and external parasites and feline diseases.

Youth will want to practice their showmanship routine with their cat; this will include handling the cat and giving their showmanship speech. Be sure to have them practice in front of an audience so that both the youth and cat get used to presenting with distractions. Make sure their cat is used to its collar and potentially a leash if that is required by your county.

Cats will need to have their vaccinations up to date. A completed vaccination form is required for exhibition at fair. Vaccination forms are available online at

<http://4h.unl.edu/web/4h/nebraskastatefair4hscoresheets#smallanimals>

No more than three days before the show youth will want to work on their cat's physical appearance. All of the cat's nails need to be trimmed and their ears will need to be cleaned. This can be done using cotton ball, which works the best. Be careful that excess water doesn't get in the cat's ears.

The cat's fur will also need to be cleaned. One way to do this is by giving their furry friend a bath or by using baby wipes. If the cat has never been given a bath, using baby wipes is recommended; as it will be less traumatic to both the 4-H'er and the cat. The 4-H'er will also need to prepare their cat's cage or porter. Make sure to pack their food, water, and litter box. Inside of the cage, you will want an area where the cat can lay down to rest.

Using these tips and tricks 4-H'ers and their furry friends will be "purrfectly" ready for the show.



# CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHING DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND ELEMENTS FOR HOME ENVIRONMENT EXHIBITS

Do you want to express yourself, be creative, or make an impression? The Arts is for you! It may be messy, fun, strange, or unique. You will get to work with paint, chalk, metal, wood, origami, computers and much, much more. Be yourself, explore the field of Art!

- Explore and experiment with endless materials to make new art
- Develop your creative skills and talents
- Be confident expressing yourself through various art forms
- Gain understanding of art history, cultures, and various techniques

A design is a visual plan you can use to create your 4-H project. Everything you can see has a design. When you describe something you see, you use words that tell about the lines, shapes, colors, textures, and spaces. Line, shape, color, texture, and space are the basic elements of design.

The elements of design are important to everyone who works in textiles and clothing, home interiors, woodworking, photography, landscaping, architecture, foods and the visual arts. If you understand the design elements, you will be more successful with your 4-H projects.

To learn more about Design Principles and Elements.....

## Start Out Basic:

- Interview a local artist
- Create a portfolio and design idea book – for storing your great works and ideas
- Explore ways to cut and assemble paper

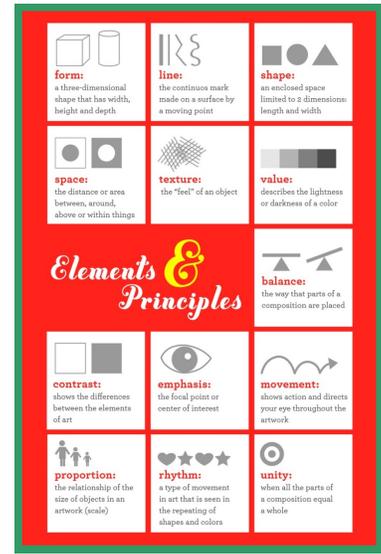
- Exchange art materials with friends
- Create an art or craft with a friend
- Find places to share your art with family, friends and your community
- Experiment with line and color

## Learn More:

- Identify a town or country and its local art
- Seek out a creative person you would like to learn more about
- Arrange an art tip to local art fair or farmer's market
- Experiment with various brushes and paint
- Compare different types of media
- Experiment with line, shape, color, texture and space

## Expand Your Horizons:

- Experiment with rhythm, proportion, emphasis, balance, and unity
- Understand and apply media techniques and processes
- Understand visual art in relationship to history and culture



## Helpful Resources:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/4H634.pdf>

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/projects/hotsheets/DesignElementsArtPrinciplesTipSheet.pdf>

<http://scbartclass.weebly.com/elements-principles-of-art.html>

<http://new.4-hcurriculum.org/projects/visualarts/teaching/ElementsPrinciplesDesign.htm>

<http://www.artprojectsforkids.org/2011/08/free-download-elements-of-art-chart.html>



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## LIVE, LEARN, CONNECT IN UNL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Insure your success at UNL by becoming an active participant in a learning community. First year learning communities are groups of students who live, learn, and connect with other students who share academic interests. They *live* together on the same residence hall floor(s). Students *learn* together in shared classes. Have opportunities to *connect* with faculty/staff, student mentors and professionals in student's field of study. Students *experience* special events and exclusive opportunities only available to learning community students.

Students that participate in a learning community during their first year at UNL are more successful. On average, Learning Community students have higher first-semester GPAs and are more likely to graduate on time. There are 29 different learning community opportunities. Learn more about the options available at: [learningcommunities@unl.edu](mailto:learningcommunities@unl.edu) .

Applications for learning communities are part of the UNL Housing Contract that will become available in late January 2014. Learning community assignments are taken on a first come, first serve basis and fill up quickly. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance into the learning community within three weeks of application. Learning community students will be billed an additional \$95 through University Housing in September. Student satisfaction with the learning community experience is extremely high. One UNL learning community student shared

*"Joining a learning community was the single best decision I made as a freshman in college. I felt more at ease in my classes, I loved the residence hall life, and if I needed help with anything, I knew I had a floor full of people who had my back."*

**4-H! YOUR FIRST CLASS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA!**