



Do-Your-Own-Thing Project

Project Information Page



Do-Your-Own-Thing is an independent 4-H project that encourages members to explore skills beyond what may be offered as part of the 4-H PEI program. This is a great opportunity for members to move past basic project skills and entertain interests, working to develop the skills relevant to them

A Project Proposal is due to be submitted to your 4-H Specialist before the project begins

Member Eligibility

- I am an intermediate/senior member (12-21 years old as of January 1st of the current club year)
- I have been a member with 4-H PEI for two consecutive years.
- I have discussed my plan for the Do Your Own Thing Project with my 4-H Project Leader.
- I have submitted the DYOT proposal (signed by myself and my 4-H Project Leader) indicating my intentions and the main objectives for my project.

Project Requirements

- Project Proposal (*See back of this resource*) - *completed and submitted prior to beginning DYOT project*
- Project Item (s) **and/or** Activities **OR** Presentation on your completed project (*see suggestions within*)
- Completed DYOT Record Book (see attached)

4-H Year Completion

The following must be completed/documented by the Club's Achievement Day in order to complete the 4-H year

- Project Requirements** as outlined above
- Communications** (public speaking or demonstration)
- Community Service** Activity
- Agriculture Awareness** Activity
- Member Documentation** (4) pages found in the member's binder **OR** on the 4-H PEI website

Exhibition Requirements

DYOT project items created in the current 4-H year are eligible for entry in 4-H Classes at Island Fairs & Exhibitions. There will be no 4-H classes for DYOT documentation, however, members are encouraged to submit completed member books for display in the 4-H area. Please check with your project leader, 4-H Specialist or on the 4-H website for information on 4-H Classes at Island Fairs and Exhibitions.

NEED TO KNOW...

- Project Resources (if available) can be found on the 4-H PEI Website or by contacting your 4-H Specialist.
- The Provincial Newsletter is published & emailed mid-month and is updated regularly with project/program info
- Achievement Day serves as the completion event for the 4-H year. Members are expected to have all project documentation and any tangible items present at this event and only members in good standing (in receipt of 4-H Year completion) will be able to participate in classes at Exhibitions and/or be nominated /apply for Annual Awards.

Do Your Own Thing

This is an independent 4-H project that is meant to encourage you, as a member, to explore and design what **YOU** want to learn in 4-H.



Independent study means that it is possible that members may not have a leader leading/teaching specific skills, **BUT** you must still have a leader with whom you are able to check in with and who can sign off on your progress. Speak with your overall leader about who this could be.

Step 1: Choose a Project

Consider the following before choosing your topic area:

- ⇒ Be realistic...but get specific.
- ⇒ What exactly do you want to learn about?
- ⇒ How much time do you have and how much time will it take to learn your topic?
- ⇒ How much will it cost?
- ⇒ Do you have or can you acquire skills, equipment, resources, etc. to learn about the topic area?
- ⇒ Do you know someone who is willing to help and who knows something about what you want to learn?
- ⇒ Narrow down your topic. What specific topic do you want to explore in your project?



My DYOT project will be: _____

Step 2: Choose a 4-H Leader

4-H leaders teach and guide members to learn a number of different skills. While you will set-up your own learning steps for this project, it is still important for you to identify a 4-H leader to check in with from time to time just to ensure that you are following the plan you have established for yourself.

A leader can also help you brainstorm solutions if you hit a road block, help you find supplies or information, or even lend an extra set of hands as you build something. Your leader can be any trained/ screened 4-H volunteer leader and he/she will be asked to sign off on both your **Project Proposal** and your **Final Report**.

My 4-H Leader/Advisor will be: _____

Step 3: Submit a Project Proposal

Once you have chosen your topic and secured a leader, it is time to complete and submit your **Project Proposal** to your 4-H Specialist for approval. **DEADLINE for this will be December 15.**

The goal of an approval process is not to decline projects, rather to make sure members have a plan, and so the 4-H Specialist is aware of what you intend to accomplish. The Project Proposal Worksheet can be found on the last page of this booklet.

**You should keep a copy of your Proposal for your records
AND send a copy to your Regional 4-H Specialist**



Step 4: Record all steps in your final report!

The **Final Report** is a major component of the DYOT project. The space has been provided for you in this Member Booklet, but you are free to use more pages if necessary!

The final report (this Member Booklet) is also available as a fillable PDF (ask your 4-H Specialist for a copy). You may also choose to complete your report with a Power Point presentation.

Your records should detail your plans, steps, set backs, and accomplishments throughout this project.

You should include:

- Your project idea and how you chose it
- Description of the goals you set
- Explanation of your project plan
- Detail of methods/procedures you plan to use
- Record of accomplishments and set backs as they happen
- Detail of costs, scheduling, and other plans
- A self evaluation of your project (i.e. did everything go as planned, what might you have done differently, what did you learn, did you accomplish your goals, etc.)



REMEMBER... Presentation Matters!! Make sure that your report is neat and tidy. Where appropriate, spice up your report with pictures, charts, and images. (Feel free to add extra pages)

Description of Do Your Own Thing Project: (Include your project idea and why you chose it)

Step 5: Establish Goals

Practice **SMART** Goal Setting:

- **Specific** - is the goal clearly defined? What specifically do you want to accomplish?
- **Measurable** - How will you know when you meet your goal?
- **Achievable** - Can you do it? Do you have key elements in place to help you succeed?
- **Realistic**- Does it make sense to learn this skill or about this topic? Why is this important to you? Make sure the project provides the right amount of challenge for you (not too hard - not too easy!)



Briefly discuss what you expect to learn and the skills you will develop.

Step 9: Evaluate

Some may view self-evaluations as just another tedious step that adds more work and paper to the project report. However, self-evaluations are in fact a vital activity that can help make your DYOT learning more effective.

Evaluation doesn't need to happen at the END of your project. You should be evaluating learning *throughout*. Some skills developed as you go can be used to help with other steps in the project.



Some questions to ask yourself (add your responses to the boxes below)

- What am I learning - What am I accomplishing?
- How do I feel about what I am doing?
- Am I meeting my goals?
- What was the most difficult part of this project?
- What changes would I make if doing this project again?
- Who should I thank for helping me?
- How did this project help me personally?
- How far did I come towards meeting my goals?
- Could / would I do it again?

In the Beginning...	At the end of the journey...
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Progress (or growth) can be measured by moving toward accomplishing the goals you set for yourself. Evaluation is as an important step in learning AND celebrating your successes as is documenting the start and end points.

Please rate yourself on the following characteristics using a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = low, 5 = high)

	Beginning of Project	End of Project
Self Confidence		
Ability to plan Activities/Events		
Organizational Skills		
Communication Skills		
Ability to work effectively with younger members/peers/4-H Leaders		
Knowledge of the meaning of Leadership		
Overall Leadership Skills		

Step 10: Sharing

Further satisfaction and opportunities for growth come from sharing what you have learned (or a part of what you've learned) with others. **Sharing** can also help you to **summarize, analyze,** and further **understand** what you have set out to accomplish. Sharing is required for achievement day.

If your project is a tangible item that you made, built, refinished, designed, etc, it will be put on display at Achievement Day. Your project may also be eligible to travel on the Exhibition circuit and will be judged as a Do Your Own Thing project in the category where it best fits.

If your project was more about learning a skill, planning an event, and generally working towards something less tangible, you are still to share what you learned with others. Some ways of sharing include:

- Presentation / demonstration at Achievement Day
- Display at Achievement Day
- Give a workshop teaching the skill to others in your club or community
- Booth, display at a local fair, at school, etc.

If you are unsure of a good way to share your project, talk to your leader.

REMEMBER: this Member Book, complete with your project documentation, must be on display at Achievement Day. You are always welcome to use more pages where necessary.

The report should include the following information:

- Your project idea and why you chose it
- Your goals
- Your project plan & implementation
- Your costs
- Your evaluation



Set Goal.
Smash!
Repeat.

LEADER COMMENTS (optional): Leader observations can be helpful to you in future years with this and other 4-H projects. Be sure to ask your project leader if they would like to reflect on your 4-H year.

I am most impressed by...

I believe that you have learned...

In the future I encourage you to...