

# **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.
	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
1	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 6: Develop a Plan

A plan is what you make ahead of time - a blueprint - of what you'll be doing in the future.

The project plan is made up of goals and an action plan to accomplish those goals.

Planning allows us to reach our goals in everyday life. Planning your **Do Your Own Thing Project** for the year involves the same steps as planning your personal activities, except that you will be required to formally think about your plans and write them down.

Planning involves considering where you are now, looking at your goals, and then creating some logical steps to get there.

#### Good planning before you actually start your project will help you in a number of ways. It will:

- Give direction
- Allow you to make arrangements well in advance
- · Assist you in determining your financial needs and prepare a suitable budget
- Allow you to discuss plans with your leader so there are no big surprises to halt or hinder progress.

#### Some considerations when making a plan:

- What equipment and/or resources will you need and how will you obtain them?
- Who will help you along the way, if assistance is needed?

#### The chart below will help you develop an outline/plan for your DYOT project!

Project Plan			
Steps to be done	Equipment Needed	People to help	Date

## Step 7: Working on The Project

Now it is time to actually complete the steps that you outlined in your 4-H Project Game Plan. As you work through your project, remember a plan is a guide for accomplishing your goal(s). You may have to make changes to your original plan as you go along. Some other things to consider include:

- Review your project plans with your leader on a regular basis
- Ask for help (if necessary)
- Explore books, magazines, and websites that will be of help to you
- Take tours, go to meetings, participate in events when appropriate to the project
- Experiment! If at first you don't succeed try, try again.

Make sure to keep track of your activities and note when you got away from the 4-H Project Plan.

#### Remember when documenting to:

- Include all setbacks as well as achievements.
- Make note of times you had to deviate from your original plans.

Keeping track of your progress helps you to see what you learned, keep a record of equipment you used and people who helped (in case you want to use them again or thank them), and how many hours you spent on your project.

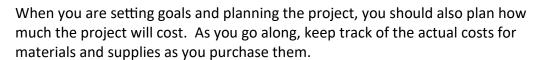
Take a minute to develop and fill out your progress chart each time you work on your project. Keeping up to date with records is the trick to making record keeping a "no-hassle" activity.

Number of hours spent on my project \_\_\_\_\_

	Progress Chart		
Date	Steps Completed	Equipment & People	Hours

# **Step 8: Keep Track of Costs**

An important part of the **Do Your Own Thing** project is keeping track of your costs.





Planned cost of project			
Actual cost of project	(record this after completing the chart below)		

Expenses		
Item (material used and/or purchased)	Expenses	

## 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

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



<b>LEADER COMMENTS (optional):</b> 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			