

Overview of the 4-H Clothing and Textiles Project



In the 4-H Clothing and Textiles Project, participants focus on clothing construction, the consumer aspect of purchasing clothing, and/or the art of designing clothing and accessories. A clothing and textiles project helps 4-H members develop a variety of skills and learn about careers in the clothing and textiles industry.

Clothing and Textiles Projects are conducted throughout the 4-H year, based on the availability of project leaders. Competitive events related to these projects are held in the spring and include Fashion Show, Fabric and Fashion Design, clothing educational presentations, natural fiber contest, stage design, narrator contest and recordbook judging. A wide variety of community service activities are available to 4-H members interested in clothing and textiles.

Participant time commitments will vary based on individual interests and level of involvement. This includes attending project meetings, seeking individual learning experiences, preparing for contests, and participating in contests. If a 4-H member wishes to participate in more than one contest, more time would be needed.

Questions to ask:

- Are you interested in clothing buying, construction or design?
- What are your goals?
- Do you want to compete in any of the contests associated with the Clothing and Textiles Project?
- Are you interested in working alone or with a group?

Opportunities

Learning experiences:

Workshops

Wardrobing	Elements and principles of design	Fiber vs. Fabric	Sewing machine basics
Personal grooming	Fabric science	Clothing care	The culture of clothing
Sewing workshop	Accessories	Modeling techniques	Crafts
Quilting	Color consultant	Alterations	Knitting and crocheting
Story boards		Skill-a-thon	

Tours

Clothing store	Fabric store	Professional seamstress	Dry cleaner
Resale shop	Clothing museum	Quilt shop or guild	Merchandiser
Mass production	Clothing factory	Custom clothing design shop	Sewing machine dealership

Community Service

Teach younger members a specific construction or buying skill at a 4-H meeting	Participate in the statewide community service project(changes yearly)
Have a clothing drive for a local charity	Create costumes for a local theatre
Make adaptive clothing for the handicapped or older adults	Create an educational presentation that can be given at local schools and after-school programs
Do mending for a shut-in or a nursing home resident	Plan and conduct a fashion show for younger 4-H'ers

Contests are summarized on individual Essentials pages.*

- Fashion Show
- Fabric and Fashion Design
- Natural Fiber Contest
- Stage Design Contest
- Narrator Contest
- Educational Presentations
- Recordbook
- *State and county fairs also have clothing and textile contests open to 4-H members (but not coordinated by the 4-H program).

Careers 4-H members can explore through the Clothing and Textiles Project are:

Seamstress	Buyer/Purchaser	Textile Designer	Retail Sales
Creative Designer	Dry Cleaner	Fashion Designer	Product Developer
Marketing	Production and Operations	Distribution	Design CAD Specialist

Leadership Opportunity

Senior 4-H members and adults can apply to serve on the 4-H Clothing and Textiles Advisory Board. This is a statewide group that works together to promote the purpose and goals of the Texas 4-H Clothing and Textiles program. Board members review the 4-H Clothing and Textiles program and recommend program direction and special activities to the Extension specialists. Members of the board travel to meetings and activities, prepare materials and provide leadership at activities at their own expense. These adult and youth volunteers also recommend changes in the existing program and help set priorities for project materials and program development. They are instrumental in the development of project curricula, have leadership roles in the state 4-H Fashion Show, and help locate financial support for the program. Members of the advisory board serve 2-year terms. Application deadlines are in June and December each year.

Resources

Printed/Web resources:

- National 4-H Curriculum - www.4-hcurriculum.org
- Yea! 4-H Afterschool Learning Adventure Curriculum
- Numerous Extension resources (fcs.tamu.edu) -
 - Care of clothing
 - Water quality and laundry
 - Safety - Flammability and pesticides
 - Stain removal
- FCS Web site – <http://fcs.tamu.edu/clothing/4h/index.php>
- “Clothing Capers” 4-H Clothing Curriculum – <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>
- “Clothes that Click”: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>
- Unraveling the Mystery of Design Elements and Principles in Clothing – <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/4H313.pdf>
- Writing 4-H Fashion Revue Commentary – <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/em4224e/EM4224E.pdf>
- Diystyle: <http://diystyle.net/projects/fashion/panty-party/>

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- American Sewing Guild – www.asg.org
 - America Sews with Sue Hausman – <http://usaapp.husqvarnaviking.com/education/americasews/americasews.html>
 - Clothing Construction Standards, New Mexico State University – http://cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/_c/c-214.html
 - Home Sewing Association – www.sewing.org
 - Sewing patterns – www.sewingpatterns.com
 - Sewing with Nancy – www.wpt.org/sewingwithnancy
 - Singer® Resources – www.singerco.com/resources/
 - Coats & Clark – <http://www.coatsandclark.com/>
 - Pennsylvania 4-H – <http://pa4h.cas.psu.edu/161.htm>
 - Dressing Well – <http://www.dressingwell.com/>
 - Fabric Link – <http://www.fabriclink.com/>
 - Textile Web – <http://www.textileweb.com/>
 - Fiberworld – <http://www.fiberworld.com/>
 - The Costume Page – <http://www.costumepage.org/>
 - Texas Fashion Collection – <http://www.tfc.unt.edu/>

Specialists:

- Angela McCorkle, Extension Assistant – Family and Youth, armccorkle@ag.tamu.edu, 979-845-1150
- Recordbooks: Kyle Merten, Extension Associate, KJMerten@ag.tamu.edu, 979-845-6533

