

Overview of the 4-H Housing and Home Environment Project



Participation in the 4-H Housing and Home Environment Project allows members to learn and apply the principles of design and function to make a home more attractive, safe, and comfortable for all family members. The project also teaches the importance of efficient energy usage as it relates to housing, home equipment, and waste management.

Housing and home environment projects are usually conducted throughout the 4-H year, based on the availability of leaders. 4-H members should be willing to commit the appropriate amount of time to the project, depending on the level of involvement.

Because competition is limited to 4-H educational presentation and recordbook competitions, the members can focus more on the learning process and the many opportunities for community service. This project may overlap with other projects such as clothing and textiles, consumer education, health, and safety.

Questions to ask

- What are your goals?
- Do you want to compete in any housing and home environment contests?
- If so, would you like to compete with a team or as an individual?
- What other projects are you involved in that you can incorporate into your housing and home environment project?

Learning experiences

Workshops

- ADA compatibility
- Chemical-free cleaning
- Controlling allergy triggers
- Controlling asthma triggers
- Design elements
- Do-it-yourself home repairs
- Energy conservation
- Going green
- Home furnishings
- Home furnishings restoration
- Home storage
- Indoor air quality
- Recycling
- Safety in the home
- Water conservation

Tours

- Antique store
- Construction site or company
- Flooring store
- Furniture restoration shop
- Furniture store
- Garden store/landscape design company
- Home and garden show
- Home improvement store
- Hotel
- Interior design studio
- Paint store

Community service

- Refinish furniture for community centers
- Collect fabric to be recycled into curtains/drapes
- Sponsor a home painting/fix-up week
- Help with a community cleanup day
- Host a “Go Green” campaign
- Help the elderly with household repairs
- Coordinate collection of household goods for Habitat for Humanity
- Write news articles about historical homes in the area

Contests

Contests are summarized on individual Essentials pages.

- Educational presentations: Open Family and Consumer Sciences
- Recordbook: Housing and home environment

Careers

- Architect
- Draftsperson
- Facility designer
- Furnishings buyer
- Furniture designer
- Interior designer
- Lighting designer
- Photo stylist
- Set designer
- Window designer

Resources

- AgriLife Extension resources: fcs.tamu.edu
 - Efficiency
 - Home maintenance
 - Home furnishings
- Housing resources, North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension: www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/housing.html
- Housing resources, Mississippi State University Extension Service: msucares.com
- Nationwide housing and home environment resources: www.extension.org

Specialists

- **Project resources and support:** Angela McCorkle, Extension Program Specialist, armccorkle@ag.tamu.edu, 979-845-1150
- **Open Family and Consumer Sciences Educational Presentation**
 - Dianne Gertson, CEA-FCS, dlgertson@ag.tamu.edu, 281-342-3034
 - Courney Latour, CEA-FCS, clatour@ag.tamu.edu, 979-864-1558
- **Recordbooks**
 - **First point of contact:** Your district 4-H specialist
 - **Coordinator of the state judging process:** Darlene Locke, Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist, dlocke@ag.tamu.edu, 979-845-6533