

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, fashion storyboard, clothing educational presentations, Duds to Dazzle, Trashion Show, natural fiber contest, and recordbook judging. A wide variety of community service activities is available to 4-H members interested in clothing and textiles.

Participant time commitments will vary based on the individuals' interests and level of involvement. This includes attending project meetings, seeking individual learning experiences, and preparing for 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 clothing and textiles contests?
- Are you interested in working alone or with a group?

Learning experiences

Workshops

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

Tours

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

Community service ideas

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

For more community service ideas and instructions, visit fcs.tamu.edu/clothing/4h/community-service/index.php

Contests

For contest summaries, see the individual Essentials pages. State and county fairs also have clothing and textile contests that are open to 4-H members but not coordinated by the 4-H program.

- Duds to Dazzle
- Educational presentations
- Fashion Show
- Fashion Storyboard
- Natural Fiber
- Quilt Challenge
- Recordbook
- Trashion Show

Careers

- Buyer/purchaser
- Creative designer
- Design CAD specialist
- Distribution
- Dry cleaner
- Fashion designer
- Marketing
- Product developer
- Production and operations
- Retail sales
- Seamstress
- Textile designer

Leadership

Senior 4-H members and adults can apply to serve on the 4-H Clothing and Textiles Advisory Board. This state-wide group promotes 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.

The board is instrumental in the development of project curricula, takes leadership roles in the state 4-H clothing and textile contests, and helps find financial support for the program.

Members of the advisory board serve 2-year terms. Application deadlines are in June and December each year.

Resources

- AgriLife Extension resources (fcs.tamu.edu):
 - Clothing care
 - Safety: Flammability and pesticides
 - Stain removal
 - Water quality and laundry
- American Sewing Guild: www.asg.org
- *Clothes that Click*: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>
- *Clothing Capers 4-H Clothing Curriculum*: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>
- *Clothing Construction Standards*, New Mexico State University: http://cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/_c/c-214.html
- Coats & Clark: <http://www.coatsandclark.com/>
- Diystyle: <http://diystyle.net/projects/fashion>
- Dressing Well: <http://www.dressingwell.com/>
- Fabric Link: <http://www.fabriclink.com/>
- FCS website: <http://fcs.tamu.edu/clothing/4h/index.php>
- Fiberworld: <http://www.fiberworld.com/>
- Home Sewing Association: www.sewing.org
- National 4-H Curriculum: www.4-hcurriculum.org
- Sewing patterns: www.sewingpatterns.com
- Sewing with Nancy: www.wpt.org/sewingwithnancy
- Singer resources: www.singerco.com/resources/
- Texas Fashion Collection: <http://www.tfc.unt.edu/>
- Textile Web: <http://www.textileweb.com/>
- The Costume Page: <http://www.costumepage.org/>
- *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>
- Yea! 4-H Afterschool Learning Adventure Curriculum

Specialists

- Angela McCorkle, Extension Program Specialist–Family and Youth, armccorkle@ag.tamu.edu, 979-845-1150
- **Clothing and Textile Educational Presentation**
 - ☐ Jill Martz, jill.martz@ag.tamu.edu, 979-862-8819
 - ☐ Greg Myles, gmyles@ag.tamu.edu, 979-952-9263
- **Recordbooks**
 - ☐ **First point of contact:** Your district 4-H specialist
 - ☐ **Coordinator of the state judging process:** Darlene Locke, Extension 4-H and Youth Development Specialist, dlocke@ag.tamu.edu, 979-845-6533

