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
- Personal grooming
- Fabric science
- Sewing workshop
- Accessories
- Quilting
- Color consultant
- Story boards

**Fiber vs. Fabric**
- Clothing care
- Modeling techniques
- Alterations
- Skill-a-thon

**Sewing machine basics**
- The culture of clothing
- Crafts
- Knitting and crocheting

Tours

**Clothing store**
- Fabric store
- Resale shop
- Clothing museum
- Mass production

**Professional seamstress**
- Quilt shop or guild
- Custom clothing design shop

**Dry cleaner**
- Merchandiser
- 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seamsstress</th>
<th>Buyer/Purchaser</th>
<th>Textile Designer</th>
<th>Retail Sales</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creative Designer</td>
<td>Dry Cleaner</td>
<td>Fashion Designer</td>
<td>Product Developer</td>
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<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Production and Operations</td>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>Design CAD Specialist</td>
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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
- “Clothing Capers” 4-H Clothing Curriculum – http://texas4-h.tamu.edu
- “Clothes that Click”: http://texas4-h.tamu.edu
- Diystyle: http://diystyle.net/projects/fashion/panty-party/
• 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:
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• Recordbooks: Kyle Merten, Extension Associate, KJMerten@ag.tamu.edu, 979-845-6533