

Independent Study/Self Determined Projects

Definitions:

Self-Determined projects offer an opportunity to develop and carry out a project of individual design. This means selecting a topic, deciding upon goals, obtaining resources, and designing records. The project can cover any subject and may or may not be related to any current 4-H project. These projects are typically designed around an individual interest in which there is not currently a formalized project offered within the County.

Independent Study projects allow 4-H members to take their project beyond the curriculum offered by 4-H project books. This can provide new opportunities and challenges within a specific project in which the member has been enrolled. The member determines specific experiences needed to accomplish project goals, and resources required for carrying out their plans. Feel free to discuss ideas with parents, extension staff, and club leaders before establishing your plan.

Deadlines:

Self-Determined: Project plans must be turned into the County Extension Office by May 1. These plans will be reviewed and approved as a project before moving forward.

Independent Study: 4-H project enrollment deadlines apply. Members must also turn in the Independent Study Form with their 4-H Fair Entry. All Entry deadlines apply. If the form is not turned in, members are required to utilize a 4-H Project Book and complete the designated activities to complete their project and be eligible for sale at the fair.

Materials:

Self-Determined: All project records are required as well as the You Decide, 5314 as designated in the 4-H Clover.

Independent Study: All project records for the specified project (i.e. market beef, cooking, leather, etc.) are required. The Independent Study Form and Narrative Reflection (available from the Extension Office) are necessary to complete the project.

Independent Study Project Form

Due May 1st

Name: _____

Project: _____

Age: _____

Years in Project: _____

Project Goals – What do you plan to learn with your Independent Study?

1.

2.

3.

List 5 specific activities you plan to complete to accomplish your goals:

	Activity	Date Completed
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

How do you plan to showcase what you have learned in this project?

Parent/Helper Signature_____

Narrative Reflection of Independent Study

Must be completed at the end of your project year to receive a Gold Star

Name_____

5

Check if done in video format

Directions: Answer all four questions thoroughly. Answers may be provided in writing or by recording verbal responses.

Written answers must be a minimum of 150 words per question. **Verbal responses** must be a minimum of 2 minutes long per question. Written and verbal responses will be graded the same way, so verbal responses should be prepared and practiced before recording, and written responses should be edited for grammar and clarity. Email videos to stillwaterextension@gmail.com.

- 1) Introduce yourself: Who are you? What did you do for your project? What experience do you have with this type of project? Why did you choose an independent study?

- 2) What was the most memorable moment from your 4-H project? Tell us a story about a specific day or event, and why that memory is important to you.

- 3) Who did you learn the most from during this project? Why were they so helpful and why do you trust this person?
- 4) What was a mistake you made during this project? What consequences or results came from making this mistake?
What did you learn from this mistake?
- 5) How has completing this project and 4-H year changed you? Do you have new likes or dislikes, goals, skills?
How will this affect you going forward?