



# Reading Project



Do you enjoy a good book? Do you like to read or study other project areas in 4-H? Check into the phases of the 4-H reading project. The reading project encourages you to harness your love of reading to learn more about your 4-H projects, research new topics, or entertain yourself. As Dr Seuss wrote “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn the more places you’ll go.” Get a library card for your local public library, share a book review with others, and read with younger kids at an elementary school, or with seniors at a long-term care facility.

## Starting Out Beginner

- Share the book you enjoy best with someone — parents, family, leader, or 4-H member.
- Learn about your library.
- Write your own story and illustrate it.
- Share a book report at school

## Learning More Intermediate

- Read for information about projects from other sources.
- Read at least one book for pleasure that is related to a project.
- Learn about different genres.
- Read a series of books.
- Do an author study.
- Take time to read to the residents of a long-term care facility.

## Expanding Horizons Advanced

- Identify a discussion group (face-to-face, email, or website).
- Keep a record of books read and discussions attended.
- Keep a journal of reading reflections.
- Serve as a junior leader for younger members.
- Share books with groups outside of 4-H .
- Create a book bag for a church or daycare.

## Inspire Kids to Do

### Explore

#### “I might like to do this.”

Youth who explore a variety of interests before high school, through experiences like 4-H camps and educational events, can develop early interest in a career path and improve their academic performance.

### Learn

#### “I can do this.”

4-H project-based learning, guided by adult volunteers, improves youth understanding of skills and concepts, as well as their ability to problem-solve and collaborate.

### Practice

#### “I’m interested in this.”

Youth who have participated in sustained hands-on learning and engaged with professional mentors and volunteers before entering high school are more likely to explore studies and potential career paths.

### Experience

#### “I will be this.”

Real-world application is key — 91% of Kansas 4-H members have a plan for reaching their goals. Youth that have been active participants in hands-on learning, combined with strong decision-making skills, are more able to effectively navigate life.

## Reading Project

### Expand Your Experiences!

#### Healthy Living

- Read books about healthy living, or how to plant your own vegetables.
- Read for enjoyment, to relax and be mentally balanced
- Learn to read recipes, and nutritional labels of foods.
- Participate in a story book walk.

#### Science and Agriculture

- Read books about science experiments, animal lives and space adventures.
- Visit a librarian and learn about library science.
- Subscribe to “Zoobooks” or other science and agriculture publications and magazines.

#### Community Vitality

- Volunteer at the local public library or help your school librarian with a project.
- Host a book fair or book drive and donate books to a library.
- Read the local newspaper to keep up with community events and activities.

#### Communication and the Arts

- Create a bookmark that shares the benefits of reading.
- Celebrate Dr. Seuss Day in your community and prepare activities for younger readers.
- Create a window display in a local business to share the importance of literacy.

## Career Development

- Explore majors in the fields of literature, creative writing, and literature with a teaching certificate:  
[K-State's Department of English](#)  
[K-State's College of Education](#)
- Explore career options in cultural studies.
- Learn about library science.
- Tour your local library and visit with a librarian about their career.

## Local Contact Information

### Resources and Events

Participating in educational events and learning opportunities will expand your knowledge and skills in the project area. Contact your local K-State Research and Extension office for local opportunities. Take part in:

- [4H988, 4-H Reading Project](#)
- [Kansas 4-H Reading Project page](#)

### Curriculum and Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your local extension office or you can order directly from the [4-H Mall](#).

National 4-H Curriculum:

- [Reading Makes Cents](#)
- [Food, Culture, and Reading](#)

### 4-H Record Keeping

Learning to keep accurate records is a life skill. The following forms can help you:

- [Setting 4-H Project Goals \(4H1100\)](#)
- [Kansas 4-H Record Keeping](#)
- Keep a list of all the books you read during the 4-H year.
- Track the hours you spend reading to someone else.
- Track the number of books you donate.
- Track the hours you volunteer for the school or local library.

### Project Exhibit Ideas

- A reading notebook that shares your reading list, your favorite book or author.
- A display on your favorite author
- A reading during 4-H club days.
- A character board about a character from a book series.

