LEADER'S GUIDE

4-H CLUB
"OUTDOORSMAN" PROJECT

University of Missouri Extension Division
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Arthur C. Ausherman
Extension Youth Specialist
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This is prepared to give you, the 4-H "Outdoorsman" Project Leader, specific help and suggestions to make your work easy and enjoyable. When the boys and girls learn, participate, enjoy the meetings, and complete the project, you will have succeeded. This Leaders Guide can help you be successful.

1. Archery 11. Outdoor Photography
2. Camping 12. Responsibilities of the
3. First Aid Outdoorsman
5. Fishing Skills 14. Snakeology
7. Getting Acquainted with Fish 16. Water Safety
8. Getting Acquainted with Mammals 17. Wildflowers
20. Woodland Wisdom
The "OUTDOORSMAN" Project

Outdoorsman is a project of all that the name implies. It is designed to provide an opportunity for boys and girls to explore and learn much about the great outdoors and man’s responsibilities as he uses and enjoys the natural resources available to him. In one sense this project is an active study of natural science involving participation of the members in many activities using the outdoors as a laboratory.

The project differs from most 4-H projects in that the members have more freedom in selected areas of subject matter for their study and activity. The group enrolled selects the subjects of greatest interest to them. Each subject requires from three to six meetings to cover the material included. Plans or suggestions for these meetings are included in the literature. Some project groups hold additional meetings.

Another difference is in the leader responsibilities. The project leader may use trained resource people to a much greater extent than in most projects to present the various subjects at project meetings.

Although an understanding of the subjects that make up this project is important from the standpoint of conservation of natural resources, the well rounded development of the boy or girl is even more important. So while this project promotes conservation of natural resources and understanding of nature, it also should contribute to the personal development of boys and girls and their responsibilities as citizens.

Why Have

An Outdoorsmans Project?

There are many reasons for having the outdoorsman project which provides lots of flexibility in the plan of organization and operation. Perhaps most of the reasons could be included in the following three categories:

1. To provide a project which is adaptable to the needs and interests of boys and girls wherever they may live. This project with its wide variety of subjects of interest to both rural and urban boys and girls.
2. As our population increases and more people live in urban areas, the pressure on our natural resources increases. This project will help young people to appreciate the great outdoors and to use the natural resources without destroying them. This gives an opportunity for boys and girls to learn of their responsibilities in conserving all forms of these resources.
3. This project may open new approaches to profitable use of leisure time. Some boys and girls are likely to develop desirable hobbies as a result of their experiences in the outdoorsman project. It can also provide opportunities for career exploration, particularly for the older members.

Requirements:

A group of members, preferably five or more, are required to enroll in this project.

First Year

The group selects any two of the subjects offered and then carries them out to completion. Additional subjects may be carried if desired by the group. To complete the project, each member is required to:

1. Attend at least six club meetings.
2. Attend at least a majority of the project meetings held for this project if there are other project groups in the club.
3. Turn in the Outdoorsman 4-H Record to the project leader at the end of the year.

If this project is the only one in the club, then the meetings held are actually both club and project meetings. Separate club and project meetings are necessary only in those cases where the club is composed of two or more project groups.

Second and Successive Years

The group selects any two subjects of those offered, one of which might include one of those carried the previous year. Additional subjects may be carried if desired by the group. Attendance requirements are the same as for the first year. Members turn in Outdoorsman 4-H Record to the project leader.

Project Organization:

The organizational setup for this project is flexible, having two types organization, permitting it to fit the needs of the group and the community:

1. Project Group: The group enrolled in this project may be the only project group in the club; therefore, they would have a complete set of officers and be enrolled as the only members of their club. This means they would belong to a club carrying only the Outdoorsman Project under the leadership of a project leader who has the responsibility for the entire
clergy program.

2. **4-H Club**: The group enrolled in this project may be only one of several project groups as a part of a 4-H Club. In this situation the group would have their Outdoorsman project meetings and in addition take part in the monthly meetings with all other project groups of the entire club for the health, recreation, and other activities of the entire club. A club leader in this type of club works with all the project leaders and is responsible for the planned program of the entire club.

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**THE PROJECT LEADER'S JOB**

### Four Specific Areas of Responsibilities:

You, as project leader of the Outdoorsman Project, have a very important job. The success of the group depends upon you. It is an interesting job and can be very enjoyable. Your responsibilities fall into four categories. These are organizer, manager, coordinator, and teacher. Let's explore these four:

1. **Organizer**: Once the group is interested and you have become their project leader, your first job is to see that the group is formally organized either as (1) a project group of a 4-H club that has other project groups, or as (2) a complete club carrying only the Outdoorsman Project. In the latter case, your project group will elect a complete set of officers and you will serve in a dual capacity as 4-H club leader and as project leader. In the former case, the 4-H club leader will give guidance and counsel to you as the Outdoorsman project leader on what to do and how to proceed.

   Your County Extension Staff located at your County University Extension Center will provide assistance, organizational forms and materials to help you with your duties as an organizer.

2. **Manager**: As project leader of the Outdoorsman project, you are really a manager of the group. This is especially true because resource people will be involved in the meetings held for each of the two subjects selected by the group. It is your responsibility to secure these people and to arrange all the details for them to meet with the group.

   This calls for you to know the content of each subject, the number of meetings needed, and the time of the year that these meetings may be held. After this is determined and the resource people are secured, then it is necessary to set the meeting dates and plan the year's program. Regular meeting dates are desirable, but must be held when the resource person is available.

   After meeting dates are set, part of your manager duties include checking closely with the resource person and being sure that assignments, plans, etc., are complete so that the group may be ready for the next meeting. This includes being sure that the members know what they are to do, what materials they are to secure, if any, or what supplies or equipment they are to bring to the meeting.

   At the close of the year's work, you assist the members with their 4-H record and then turn them in to the community club leader or county university extension center.

3. **Coordinator**: In a club with two or more project groups, the Outdoorsman project members will be a part of the entire club and will have responsibilities and privileges to take part in monthly meetings, tours, recreation events, etc. This requires your assistance as a coordinator working with the club leader. You should attend the monthly club meetings as well as the meetings of your Outdoorsman project group.

   In some counties you will have the opportunity to attend meetings of the County 4-H Council. This then becomes one of your responsibilities and will give your project group a voice in the county 4-H program including leader training to make your job easier.

4. **Teacher or Instructor**: Even though you may have someone else as a resource person responsible for presenting the subject matter material and for instructing the members in the subjects selected, there is still a need for you to assume the role of a teacher or instructor. In some cases you, as the project leader, may actually be the resource person to teach the subject matter outlined in the subject guide provided for the subjects selected by your group. In such cases you are the teacher of your group and would make all necessary plans in advance of the meetings to teach the subject matter and to have all equipment and materials needed, ready for the meeting.

   It is also your responsibility as a teacher to teach your members how to "demonstrate" and how to "exhibit". Demonstrating skills and techniques as well as exhibiting articles made is a part of the "doing" that 4-H club members experience.
Let's Demonstrate:

The Outdoorsman project lends itself especially well to demonstrations by individual members. The subject guides for most of the subjects in this project contain suggestions or requirements for many things that the members may do. Most of these things can be demonstrated; in fact, many of them will be taught by demonstrations given by the resource person or you as project leader.

Demonstrations by members may be used in many ways. They may be a part of project meetings or be given at meetings of the entire 4-H club. Sportsman Clubs, Service Clubs, Women Extension Clubs, Federated Conservation Clubs and other groups provide opportunity for members to demonstrate. Demonstrations are a part of the County Achievement Day in every county and give opportunity for members to earn ribbons and to compete for trips to District Achievement Day.

4-H Circular 100, “Let’s Demonstrate” is available from your University Extension Center. Use it to help in the planning, development and presentation of demonstrations.

Once members learn to demonstrate, they enjoy this part of club work that affords them a chance to “learn by doing”.

Let’s Exhibit:

You will want to encourage and assist your group with all kinds of exhibits that lend themselves to the subjects being carried by the members.

Boys and girls have lots of fun exhibiting. They may exhibit the individual things they make, collect, grow, etc. They may also construct or prepare window exhibits, booth exhibits, floats, posters, etc. Here is worthwhile busy work for members that they enjoy.

Exhibits are a part of County Achievement Days, 4-H Fairs, County Fairs, and are used to highlight special events such as National 4-H Club Week.

Most of the Outdoorsman project subject guides give suggestions for exhibits. Use these as a start and then develop other ideas for individual or group exhibits. The 4-H members might be involved in selecting things that would make good exhibits.

LITERATURE, REFERENCES, AND MATERIALS

Subject Guides

Each of the subjects included in this project has a “Subject Guide”. Copies of these are provided for the subjects selected by your group for you as project leader, for the resource people assisting you and for each member enrolled in the project. These are available at your County University Extension Center.

Most of the subject guides contain a list of reference material available from various sources. Among the reference material listed are books, bulletins, circulars, and other publications. In some subjects films are available.

You, as project leader, should plan to secure the necessary reference material. In some cases, the resource person may prefer to secure it as teaching aids or for the members use. This needs to be cleared with the resource people that may assist you with any given subject.

Leader’s Manual

In addition to this Leader’s Guide for the Outdoorsman Project, you will find the following helpful:

3. 4-H Club Circular 100, Let’s Demonstrate

Outdoorsman 4-H Record

This is the two page (single sheet) record that all Outdoorsman Project members fill out at the close of the year. It is required as part of their completion. One 4-H Record will cover both of the subjects carried by each member.
RESOURCE PEOPLE

This project is planned so that the special interests and talents of many local people may be used in the meetings on the subjects selected by the group. You, as project leader, may use the services of these resource people. They may be trained professional people or they may be laymen with special interest and knowledge that qualifies them as recognized resource people. Many hobbyists are excellent resource people and are glad to have an opportunity to use their skills and knowledge in teaching boys and girls.

Knowing the people in your county, you will have excellent ideas on possibilities of assistance with the various subjects. Following are some suggestions of people that may be secured to assist:

1. Missouri Conservation Commission Personnel
   a. Education Advisors
   b. Field Service Agents
   c. Conservation Agents
   d. Biologists
   e. Wildlife Area Managers
   f. Foresters

2. Officers and Members of Federated Conservation Clubs
3. Sportsmen’s Clubs and Organizations
4. Conservation Enthusiasts
5. Gun Club Members
6. Archery Club Members
7. Biology Teachers
8. Red Cross Instructors
9. Forest Service Personnel
10. Doctors and Nurses
11. Dealers in Outdoor Sporting Goods
12. Camping Enthusiasts
13. Fishermen
14. Naturalists

Even though resource people may be relied upon for the instruction or teaching at project meetings, you have the responsibility for organizing and planning the meetings. Close cooperation with resource people will result in more worthwhile and satisfying experiences for the members and for you. Use the subject guide as the basis for planning the meetings to be held for the various subjects.

PLANNING THE PROJECT WORK

As soon as the membership of the Outdoorsman Project group has been determined and any needed resource people have been secured, detailed plans should be made for each of the meetings to be held. Such plans would be made for each subject the group has selected to carry.

The form on page 7 is a suggested way of organizing the plans. Copies of the form could be made so that all of the members could have one to share with their parents.
Plans for Outdoorsman Project Meetings

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