



2012 Cloverleaf County Project Achievement
Date: TBA
Location: TBA



How to Prepare your County Project Achievement Project

There are several steps you can take to have an excellent project at County Project Achievement. The first step is to choose your project. There are lots of projects to choose from. I have included a complete listing of project areas along with the objectives in this packet. For more information or help with your project contact Mrs. Cindy Sheram at the Washington County 4-H office at 552-2011.

The next step is to narrow their project area into a topic. For example if you choose Arts as your project area you could narrow Arts into a topic about cartooning or calligraphy. If you choose Dog Care & Training you could do your project on how to house break your puppy. If you choose entomology you could do it on insect control in the home or beekeeping. These are just some of the thousands of topics you could do for each project area.

After you decide what your topic is you need to do the research on the topic. You can get information from the library, reliable internet sources, even by interviewing professionals in your project area... like a veterinary if you are doing Cat Care.

Once you do the research you need to write your speech. The speeches need to be a maximum of 6 minutes with a minimum of 4 minutes. If the speech is less than 4 minutes there probably is not enough researched and factual information in your speech. Remember the speech needs three parts: the introduction the body, and the conclusion.

The introduction will allow you to introduce yourself and your topic to the judges. For example, "Hello. My name is John Doe. I am a 6th grader from Washington County. Today I am going to tell you about 3 good ways to take care of your cat. I have a cat that I love very much and with some extra care your cat will love you back just like mine loves me."

The body is where you will show and tell the how and why. This is where the research comes in.

The conclusion is where you will leave the audience and judges wanting to hear more. You will need to summarize the main points again and close with something clever, a thoughtful question or humorous remark etc.

After you are finished with your speech you need to prepare your visuals. Sometimes you have to see it not only to believe it, but to remember it. That's why you need visuals as a part of your presentation. Your posters should be more than pretty colors and pictures. Visuals will help you show and share your information. The purpose of the poster and other visuals is to help make your speech more understandable to your audience. The posters will need to be created so the audience and judges can clearly see the information on them from afar. Other visuals can be used. For example, if you are doing a project on camping and discussing the items that are

needed while on a camping trip, you can actually have the items to make reference to, like a sleeping bag or a compass. You don't need items for show, so if you have items, you need to make reference to them during your demonstration.

Finally you will need to practice, practice, practice. You need to be comfortable giving your speech and making reference to your posters or other visuals. You need to begin with a smile. Through practice, you will learn how to present yourself with enthusiasm and confidence. When speaking you should avoid mannerisms that may distract the audience, such as: pushing back hair, rocking back and forth, referring to often to your notes, wearing too much jewelry or chewing gum.

Another good pointer for County Project Achievement and especially District Project Achievement is to be well groomed from head to toe. This is a competition. You need to consider your project before you decide what to wear. For example a costume may be needed for performing arts, while nice jeans and a shirt might be appropriate for a horse project. Or if you do a project on Beef and talk about showing heifers you might want to dress in your show attire.

Remember:

- Select a Project
- Narrow it down to a Topic
- Do your Research
- Write your Speech
- Prepare your Visuals
- Get Ready and Practice

All of the project areas with the exception of food labs and performing arts will need to be presentations (speech and visuals). The performing arts will of course be performing and you will only have 4 minutes to complete your introduction and performance. If you are singing, it is advisable for you to find a performance track (music only) to sing with. When you sing with the artists the judges hear the artist more than you and it makes it hard to do well.

Washington County 4-H

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