

Yellowstone County 4-H Clothing and Textiles Project

Guidelines and Suggestions
(Revised February 2024)

**Clothing and Textiles projects include Sewing and Textiles, Shopping in Style, Quilting, Embroidery, Crochet, and Knitting. Project completion guidelines are listed in the project books or sections below.

SHOWCASE

- 4-H Showcase is an event held in Yellowstone County where members are interviewed, model and compete with their completed projects. The event is held on a Saturday in April. Registration forms are mailed to each member enrolled in a **Clothing and Textiles project. Any member enrolled in any **Clothing and Textiles project can enter the Shopping in Style, Costume, Duct Tape, International, Refashion/Repurpose/Redesign or Display categories at the Showcase.
- A separate Showcase will be held at MontanaFair as well. You DO NOT have to participate at the county Showcase to enter the MontanaFair Showcase.
- If you have questions, visit with your project leader, or call the 4-H Agent at the Extension Office (406-256-2828).

SEWING AND TEXTILES PROJECTS

- Members enroll in one of the levels in Sewing and Textiles. Members should complete one skill level book before starting another. Members will utilize the lessons in the units to complete 4-5 projects per year using the skills learned in this level. Members enrolled in level 3 and Independent Study set their 3 goals and work to meet them.
- For the Showcase, garments will be entered in the sewing level (beginner, intermediate, advanced intermediate and advanced) based on the construction techniques used in making the garment. Members need to learn the basic skills before moving on. Be sure the garment made is not too difficult or too easy for the member.
- Listed below are the types of articles that would be appropriate to make in each level of the Sewing & Textiles Project for entry in the 4-H Sewing and Textiles Showcase. These are only suggested items. Articles other than those listed may be constructed, but they should incorporate the skills for the level in which the member is enrolled.

Beginner

- The primary goal is to learn to operate a standard sewing machine in a safe and correct manner. The operation of a serger is not recommended in beginning sewing.
- Refer to the “The Singer Complete Photo Guide to Sewing” book available for check out at the Extension Office for beginning skill lessons.
- Garments made in beginning sewing should use the following construction techniques but should avoid those skills described in intermediate and advanced sewing sections.

Beginner Sewing Skills

Read and understand pattern envelope	Fabric selection and preparation	Pressing different fabrics
Threading and operating a sewing machine	Laying and cutting out a pattern	Sew a straight seam and curves

Beginner Construction Techniques

Elastic or draw string waistband	Seam finishing (edge, pink, zigzag)	Under stitching
Grading, clipping, notching	Interfacing	Stay stitching
Patch and in-seam pockets	Decorative machine stitching	Velcro closures
Handling trims (may include pre-gathered lace, bias trims, or other flat trims. Ribbed knit trims are excluded.)	Sewing on hooks, eyes, snaps, and buttons	Top stitching

Garments in this level should not have gathers, buttonholes, or set-on waistbands. Basic trims may be used. Do not use plaids, stripes, or fabrics requiring matching. Fabrics with one-way designs should be cut in the same direction.

Suggested Project Ideas

Scarves	Chef's apron	Tote bag
Simple jumper	Vest - lined with similar fabric	Placemats (4)
Simple skirt (elastic/draw string waist)	Tie or other accessory	Napkins (4)
Simple shorts or pants (unfitted style)	Simple pillow	Potholders (2)
Simple top or tank top (without set-in sleeves)	Swim or bath wrap	Stuffed animals or toys (flat un-pieced)

Intermediate

- The primary goal is to learn new techniques and seam finishes. The use of a serger is an acceptable seam construction method for knit fabrics such as those used for sweatshirts. Use of the serger should be discouraged for seam construction of woven fabrics, but serging could be used as a seam finish.
- Refer to the "The Singer Complete Photo Guide to Sewing" book available for check out in the Extension Office for intermediate sewing skill lessons.
- Garments made in intermediate sewing should use the following construction techniques but should avoid those described under advanced intermediate and advanced sewing.

Intermediate Construction Techniques

Darts	Waistband application	Gathering
Stitch-in-the-ditch	Seam finishes (overcast & French)	Zipper
Pleats (excluding multiple panels of pleats)	Simple flat yokes	Machine buttonholes

Suggested Project Ideas

Blouse or shirt (dropped shoulder or raglan sleeves)	Pants or shorts	Vest - lined or unlined
Top or tank top	Skirt/Dress/jumper/simple jumpsuit	Pajamas/Nightgown
Western Wear for your horse	Stuffed toys/dolls (pieced)	Beach robe/cover up
Bath robe (dropped shoulder/raglan)	Hooded top	Apron with waistband &/or ruffles
Pullover sweatshirt-single ribbing application, round neckline	Pillows with ruffled gathered trims	

Advanced Intermediate

- The use of a serger is acceptable in seam construction on knits and most woven fabrics (cotton, polyester, rayon, blends, etc.). Seam finishes done with a conventional machine or a serger are acceptable.
- Refer to the "Easy, Easier, Easiest Tailoring" book available for check out in the Extension Office for advanced intermediate sewing skill lessons.
- Garments made in advanced intermediate sewing should use the following construction techniques but avoid those described under advanced sewing.

Advanced Intermediate Construction Techniques

Yokes with a point	Collar	Use of knits
Seam finishing including flat-fell binding	Pattern alteration	Fly
Cuff application	Linings	Pleats (multiple panels)
Plaids, stripes, checks, or any fabric requiring matching	Set-in sleeves	

Suggested Project Ideas

Skirt - lined or unlined	Vest - lined or unlined	Swimsuits
Simple luggage (gym bags, gaiter kits)	Dress	

Bib overalls or jumpsuits	Blouse or shirt	Western wear for your horse
Pullover sweatshirt - single or double ribbing application - round or v neck	Fitted pants or shorts	Jacket or coat - lined or unlined (no collar preferred)
Sleepwear	2 piece coordinated outfit	

Advanced

- Any method of construction, either by serger or conventional machine, is acceptable. A serger would be especially suitable for lingerie or delicate specialty fabrics such as crepe de chine or sheer fabrics for formals.
- For assistance in learning techniques when making tailored garments, contact the FCS Agent in the Extension Office.
- Garments in advanced sewing should use the following construction techniques.

Advanced Construction Techniques

Lingerie construction (slips, camisole)	Tailoring skills	Corded seam (piping)
Boning	Slot seam	Bound buttonhole
Specialty fabric construction (woven sheers, wool, lacy fabric, pile, satin, metallic, brocade, leather, suede, etc.)	French or chain tacks	Under lining

Suggested Project Ideas

3 garment exhibit or lingerie	Tailored garment	Luggage, fanny pack kits
3 piece tailored outfit	Lined coat or jacket	Formals
5 piece tailored outfit	Design your own garment	Dress of specialty fabric
Article made of leather or leather-looking fabric	Down or poly filled garment	Recycle a garment

SHOPPING IN STYLE PROJECT

- The Shopping in Style project focuses on the importance youth place on clothing interests, fads, and trends. In the project youth learn to be better clothing consumers and to use their resources wisely in making apparel choices. They learn to determine which clothing styles are most appropriate for their own age, body type and lifestyle. In addition, they will explore ways to stretch their clothing dollar through informed wardrobe building strategies.
- The Shopping in Style project includes a purchasing project in which members compare clothing at different stores to find the best buy for them. They learn to consider fabric, color, cost, clothing design, proportion and building a wardrobe.
- The project book "Shopping in Style" is designed to be completed by the member in up to three years. Members complete a minimum of 7 activities per year. Members who take the Shopping in Style Independent Study project will set 3 goals and complete the project based on these goals. The non-animal record sheet will be used.
- For Showcase, 4-H'ers interested in Shopping in Style will need to compare the cost, care, quality and fit of at least three articles of clothing. A comparison sheet is needed to take to the store. Additional forms can be printed off the [4-H county website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/>.
- At the Showcase members will give a one minute talk on why the garment looks good on them, how it fits into their wardrobe, and describe the activities for which they purchased the garment.
- To enter Showcase at the county or fair level, members must be enrolled in a Sewing and Textiles project or Shopping in Style project. Only one Shopping in Style outfit may be entered in the county Showcase. The same outfit and/or one different complete outfit may be entered at MontanaFair. Accessories are not considered a separate item.

QUILTING PROJECT

- Each year the Yellowstone County 4-H Showcase includes a quilt show. Quilt entries will be accepted from any 4-H'er or family member of a 4-H'er. Quilts must be made by the person entering the show. They do not have to be a 4-H project or have been shown at the fair. The quilt can be made this year or any past year, but each quilt can only be entered in the Showcase one time. Quilts will be judged with member interviews at the Showcase. Quilts will be hung for display during the Showcase.

The following are Showcase areas in addition to Sewing and Textiles, Shopping in Style, and Quilting.

Members must be enrolled in a Clothing or Textiles project to compete in these areas.

DISPLAY

- The central focus should be an item related to a Sewing and Textiles, Ready-to-Wear, Crochet, Knitting, Embroidery or Quilting project by the 4-H member that will not be worn in the Showcase Fashion Review. You may enter up to 2 displays. You will be interviewed by a judge and entries will be “on display.” As you are thinking of your display, imagine a window in the store. Do not limit your imagination! What kind of display would you see in a camping store, a fishing store, at a costume shop, at an antique store or in a toy or doll store? Build the surroundings for your sewn item. If you are sewing a sleeping bag - bring a tent and some rocks and build a fire pit. Use your imagination!
- Bring all items needed to complete your area. It can be on the floor or on a table. Indicate on the 4-H Showcase Entry Form that was mailed to you if you will need a mannequin. Your display should also have a title.
- Here is a list to get you thinking of ideas: doll clothes, embroidered items, prom clothes, costumes, backpack, beanie babies, hats and gloves, pillows, upholstery, baby books, napkins, tote bags, camping stool, curtains, fishing jacket, aprons, sleeping bags, etc.

COSTUME

- Enter your Halloween costume or any other costume you make in this category. Many 4-H members make their own costumes, and this is your chance to show them off. Members will be interview judged and wear their costume in the Public Fashion Review at the Showcase for everyone to see.

DUCT TAPE FASHION

- From the ridiculous to the sublime, duct tape has been used by enterprising duct tape enthusiasts worldwide to create some wonderful fashions. This is your chance to design your own duct tape creation. Go big with a ball gown or sport jacket or small with a purse, wallet, or backpack. For inspiration, check out the [Duct Tape Fashion Page](http://octanecreative.com/ducttape/fashion/) at <http://octanecreative.com/ducttape/fashion/> and the [DIY Projects for Teens](https://diyprojectsforteens.com/duct-tape-projects/) at <https://diyprojectsforteens.com/duct-tape-projects/>. Members will be interview judged and model their entry in the Public Style Show at the Showcase for everyone to see.

INTERNATIONAL CLOTHES

- You can make or model clothes with an international focus. Learn about the clothes and the country. This category allows you to share another culture.
- Members will be interview judged and model their entry in the Public Style Show at the Showcase for everyone to see.

REFASHION/REPURPOSE/REDESIGN

- This class allows members to show off their creativity by altering an old clothing or textile item into something new. Clothing items will be worn in the Public Style Show and other items will be made into a display. Members will be judged, and awards will be given.
- If you are a senior 4-H member and wish to try and compete at State 4-H Congress you must follow these State Refashioned Contest Guidelines.
 - At least one clothing item has been repurposed into a significantly different wearable garment or look.
 - A photograph of the original clothing item is required to be brought to judging.

EMBROIDERY – KNITTING- CROCHET

- This class is for items that members have made in these projects that can be worn. Members will do an interview and model the item in the Public Style Show. Items can also be entered into the display category.

CLOVERBUDS

- Cloverbuds can enter into any category at the Showcase. They will talk to judges about their project and participate in the Public Style Show.