

# Virtual Project Evaluations

## Considerations for 4-H Members and Project Helpers

**Source:** Developed by **Cassandra Dietrich**, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Shelby County Extension, The Ohio State University. Modified for Darke County 4-H Virtual Project Evaluations.

For many, the idea of virtual 4-H project evaluations may be a foreign concept. It can be a challenge to wrap our minds around the idea of moving from the traditional in-person experience to a digital format. But, fortunately, 4-H has proven to be adept at managing transitions and uncertainty. From the avian influenza crisis in 2015 to project books that address challenging subjects such as mental health, Ohio 4-H has shone bright in time and change.

While initially unfamiliar, virtual 4-H project evaluations present an opportunity to provide members with a satisfactory 4-H and youth development experience. Much of what we do with project evaluations can still be accomplished virtually.

One of the leading reasons why virtual project evaluations differ from in-person interviews is the amount of time and effort involved. Both the youth and their project helper may need to commit to the experience at the beginning of the evaluation process. Photo and video submissions may require an extra level of consideration on the part of 4-H families. We have created this document to ease the minds of youth and project helpers as they prepare for virtual project evaluations. We hope the following list of best practices, categorized by evaluation type, will serve as a guide for families as they navigate uncharted territory.



4-H youth in Shelby County, Ohio participate in group interviews via Zoom.

### KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL TYPES OF VIRTUAL PROJECT JUDGING EVALUATIONS

- Plan ahead. As with anything new, extra time and planning will pay off. Procrastination creates added and unnecessary stress.
- Openly communicate accessibility needs or accommodations to OSU Extension staff so arrangements can be made in advance. While you may have already completed a Winning 4-H plan, reminding staff of your needs is helpful.
- Maintain the same professional attire and behavior virtually, that is used in face-to-face interviews.
- Prepare answers to questions related to project highlights, such as the following:
  - I chose this project because...
  - The time it took to complete the project...
  - The activities I completed include...
  - I learned about...
  - My favorite part of the project was...
  - The hardest part of the project was...
  - I will use the skills I learned
  - This is my project display. [Explain it.]
  - I enjoyed (or didn't) the project because...
  - Any other details you would like to share about your project...





## CLOTHING PROJECTS

- Tell what kind of fabric you used to make/create your garment/creation.
- Do a slow turn to show the design and fit of your garment/creation.
- Show a seam finish and hem (may be done through video or photograph).
- Show pressing and sewing skills.
- Point out specifics on your garment/creation (any details you want the judge to notice).
- If it is a skill new to you, point it out.

## VIDEO SUBMISSIONS

- Make sure member is appropriately groomed and dressed.
- Choose a neutral background to avoid visual distractions.
- Articulate slowly and clearly. Ensure there is limited background noise.
- Smile. Introduce yourself (name, age and club).
- Mention how long you've been a member of 4-H.
- Consider having a project helper provide prompts or questions throughout.
- Tell which project you completed and if this is your 2nd year taking this project.  
(i.e. *Cake Decorating - I'm taking Cake Decorating for my second year. However, I'm still learning beginner level techniques, so I didn't advance to the intermediate level.*)
- Watch examples of good demonstrations (<https://youtu.be/qAity49zs-k>).
- Practice several times before recording.
- Remember, have fun! You've got this!

## FOOD PROJECTS



- Discuss recipes made from the project book and your baking results (i.e. *taste, texture; if you and your family liked it; would you make it again and why; changes you would possibly make to any recipes, etc.*).

## PHOTO GALLERIES

- Make sure images are taken in good lighting with clean backgrounds.
- Photos should tell a story about the youth's project experience.
- If the member is in the photo, make sure they are appropriately groomed and dressed.

