



Scrapbooking

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Use this two-page publication as the starting place for your 4-H Self Determined Project. You may choose to do a little or a lot depending on your level of interest in this topic. Use in conjunction with our 4-H 365, Self Determined Project Guide; available through your county OSU Extension office or by visiting our web page at www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~idea. Be sure to register your Self Determined Project with your county OSU Extension office.

Background

Scrapbooking has become quite popular over the last few years. To some, scrapbooking is a craft, but to others it's their responsibility to capture their family's story with pictures and words. Why do you scrapbook?

Take a moment and think about this.... Why do people take pictures? Why do you take pictures? Most people answer this question with, "Because I want to remember." Did you know that most of the people you ask keep their photos in boxes in a closet or under their bed? How often do you take your photos out of the box to look at them? Are you a scrapbooker or a "photos in the closet" person?

People who make scrapbooks tend to look at their photos more, mostly because the albums are together and accessible, not hidden out of sight.

Have you seen pictures of your parents or grandparents when they were growing up? If you decide to do a family heritage album, you can become a "detective" and find out where your parents grew up, what they did for fun, etc. Ask your parents or grandparents for pic-

tures of them growing up and find out who or what is in the picture with them. Working on a heritage album will give you a glimpse into your family's history, just like an album that you do today will give your descendants a glimpse into your life.

With this project idea starter, our goal is to help you become a new scrapbooker or a better scrapbooker than you already are.

Planning Your Self Determined Project

Every Self Determined Project can be broken down into areas of interest. These are the specific things members wish to address during their project adventure. Using your Self Determined Project Record, 4-H 365, explore all five interest areas with at least three activities per area to explore. Take your ideas from the list below or make up your own.

Areas of Interest and Things to Do

This project contains five Areas of Interest with a variety of activities in each area: Selecting Photos, Cropping Photos, Mounting Photos, Journaling, and Enhancing Your Pages. Before you cut your first photo, consider what type of scrapbook you want to create. Do you want to create a chronological scrapbook that depicts events over a specific period of time? Do you want to create a scrapbook highlighting an activity—such as 4-H camp, cheerleading, or a sport? Perhaps you'd like to create a memory scrapbook of a trip or vacation. Or perhaps you'd like to create a scrapbook for a gift to a loved one.

Selecting Photos

1. **Organize**—Sort photos by event or album.
2. **Select**—The best photos and memorabilia to include in your album.
3. **Arrange**—Photos in chronological order.
4. **Ask**—If you find a picture and you aren't sure who, where, or what it is, ask a parent or grandparent.
5. **Count**—The number of photos that you have, in order to determine the size of album that you will need to work in.

Cropping Photos

1. **Look**—At your photos and determine what parts of the photo are really important.
2. **Keep**—Anything in the background that places or dates the photo. If the Statue of Liberty is in the background of the picture, it is important that the landmark remain in the photo.
3. **Choose**—To crop most of your photos into a simple shape, such as a square or a rectangle.
DO NOT cut Polaroid pictures because that will cause the colors in the picture to break up.
4. **Pick**—One or two photos per page to highlight, if you wish, into a shape such as a heart, oval, or circle.
5. **Investigate**—Everywhere you look you see Acid Free, Lignin Free, and maybe even Buffered on packages of scrapbook supplies. What do these mean to your photos? What would happen if you used products that weren't Acid Free, Lignin Free, or Buffered?

Mounting Photos

1. **Layout**—Photos on your page several times and see which way you like best. Remember, this album is yours; express yourself!
2. **Choose**—A photo-safe adhesive that works well for you. Place the adhesive on the back of the photos, making sure that all corners are held down securely.
3. **Leave**—Room to write on every page.
4. **Think**—About your photos and memorabilia. If they might need to be removed in the future, be sure to use photo corners for those items.
5. **Wipe**—All photos clean of fingerprints using a soft cotton cloth. Do not use anything on the surface of

your photos that contains paper fibers, like a tissue or a paper towel, because these can scratch the surface of your photos.

Journaling

You're the only one who knows what's going on, so let others know by writing it out!

1. **Think**—About the story behind the photos in your album. Write about what's going on in these pictures.
2. **Gather**—All information you need, including names, dates, and places.
3. **Label**—Each photo with at minimum, this basic information.
4. **Draw**—Pencil lines on your pages or place ruled paper on the page to encourage writing and to keep your lines straight.
5. **Pick**—As many pages as you can to journal larger stories, including details not necessarily apparent in the photos, such as your emotions at that time, funny things people said, or your feelings about the people in the pictures. Use interesting, descriptive words in your writing.

Enhancing Your Pages

1. **Select**—One or two colors that appear frequently in your photos and use these as your accent colors. The papers should be used to make your photos stand out.
2. **Anchor**—Stickers to a photo or to your journaling, so that they don't appear to be simply "floating" on your page. Stickers should accent your pictures, not take away from them.
3. **Make Sure**—Your page isn't too crowded or busy. Remember that it is OK to have blank spaces on your album pages.
4. **Remember**—Enhancements, while fun, are the least important ingredient to a meaningful photo album!
5. **Present**—Your completed album to your family and friends and watch their faces fill with joy!

Helpful Web Sites

www.creativememories.com
www.scrapbookingnow.com

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