



4-H SOCIAL SCIENCE PROJECT



4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic, and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent, and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character, or establish connections.

Social sciences are the studies of society and humans, with fields in anthropology, communication, education, history, geography, linguistics, political science, psychology, health, and sociology. In this project, youth may explore multiple social science fields or focus on one. Youth raise questions and gather, analyze, discuss, display, and communicate data. Youth will

- learn about social science fields, such as psychology, sociology, and anthropology
- discover the primary data and methods used in the social sciences: quantitative (numerical), qualitative (non-numerical), and mixed methods
- explore a variety of social science methods, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, participant observation, and secondary/existing data

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Have discussions on each member's family, culture, and community history.
- Explore what each social science field studies.
- Learn about the history of social sciences.
- Watch a video or listen to a guest speaker explain their social science research. your own relationship with food, clothing, money, government, and community; present to others.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Explore how social science can be used to think about everyday events.
- Learn about identity, culture, and power and what they mean in the social sciences.
- Practice with social science methods; e.g., a survey, interview, or focus group. Collect, analyze, and interpret the data.
- Try different ways of presenting quantitative data (e.g., bar graphs, pie charts).

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Design and implement a social science project.
- After collecting quantitative data, practice calculating descriptive statistics.
- After collecting qualitative data, practice finding patterns and themes.
- Throw a "data party" where people can discuss what the data mean to them.
- Discover careers in the social sciences.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Learn about how to use video recording for social science.
- Explore advanced statistical analysis of quantitative data.
- Compare and discuss differences between social sciences and natural sciences.

Healthy Living

- Conduct a social science study to look at people’s behaviors related to health and wellness.
- Explore social sciences fields that study health, nutrition, and well-being.
- Find published research on the benefits of mindfulness and meditation.

Civic Engagement

- Undertake a youth participatory action research project to contribute to your community.
- Discover how your local government uses social sciences research in decision-making.
- Conduct a needs assessment to document community issues and challenges.

Leadership

- Become a Junior or Teen Leader.
- Plan, prepare, and present a Science or Engineering Presentation at a 4-H presentation day.
- Conduct an evaluation survey of a 4-H event, analyze, and share results at a data party.

College and Career Readiness

- Learn about social science careers and go on a field trip.
- Visit a local community college social sciences department, like sociology, psychology, etc.
- Investigate what educational research has to say about your school’s teaching philosophy.

Resources

- An Animated Introduction to Social Science
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DS1daTSG2Gg>
- Crash Course Sociology and Psychology
<https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse/>
- Journal of Emerging Investigators
www.emerginginvestigators.org/
- National Council for the Social Studies
<https://www.socialstudies.org/>
- Social Sciences Fields (UC Davis)
<https://www.ucdavis.edu/majors/interest-groups/social-sciences>

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Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Books
<p>Presentation Days – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.</p> <p>Field Days – 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p>Contact your UC Cooperative Extension office to determine additional opportunities available, such as a field day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YA4-H! Youth Participatory Research and Action oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/projects/ya4-h/curriculum • YPAR Hub: Investigate http://yparhub.berkeley.edu/investigate-curriculum/ • Youth Engaged in Leadership and Learning gardnercenter.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/YELL%20Handbook.pdf 	<p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning, and development.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</p> <p>To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit http://ucanr.edu/orb/.</p>





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