



Days Gone By...

*A 4-H Project
That Explores Our Past*

Days Gone By 4-H Project

(County Project Only – No State Fair Exhibit)

Project Requirements

Explore historical figures (people), places, things, events, businesses or organizations relevant to the County or Southern Indiana.

Each project exhibit **must** include some sort of documentation and support material such as poster, notebook, journal, photo album, scrapbook, etc. This documentation may be presented in any combination of written form, photographs, oral recorded form, and/or recorded musical form on video or audio tape.

Members may do as many activities as they wish, but, must complete one exhibit for the 4-H Fair.

Projects will be judged by the following grade levels:

Mini 4-H / Exploring 4-H: Grades K-2

Level A: Grades 3-5

Level B: Grades 6-8

Level C: Grades 9 and above

A Champion and Reserve Champion will be awarded in each level

A Grand and Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded to the top two overall projects.

(Exception: Mini 4-H / Exploring 4-H are not considered for champion or above.)

Any 4-H member regardless of grade level may complete a fair exhibit from **any** of the suggested activities. Members are encouraged to follow personal interests and modify projects to make them age appropriate.

Some Suggested Exhibit Ideas (Use your creativity. Members are not limited to these options.)

Places to Go: Research a local place of interest and make a project from your findings. Many places in the county and southern Indiana have a rich history.

People to See: Explore local historical figures (people) from the region (such as: school teachers, celebrities, athletes, elected officials, etc. Any of these might make a good research project.

Gone But Not Forgotten: Research a business or place that no longer exists but may have played an important role in regional history. (i.e. schoolhouse, factory, church, etc.). A poster, scrapbook, or photo album could help preserve the past.

4-H as History: The county 4-H program has a rich history. It might be fun to trace the Presidents of a particular 4-H Club or 4-H Council, or maybe research the 4-H Educators/Agents that have served the county. Many awards, events, contests have photos to help document your research.

I Love A Parade: Many communities in the county and region have local festivals, parades or similar events. It might be interesting to explore the very first one, or why it became a festival, or maybe a photo display from multiple years. These events are usually well-documented in photographs.

Make a Documentary: It might be fun to re-enact a moment from the past and capture it on film. You and some friends might pose for a picture portraying a scene or maybe even a video that recreates an important occurrence.

Monumental Memories: Many important spots are marked with monuments or statues that capture the importance of historical events, places and people. (i.e. soldiers from past wars, important sites, etc.). Maybe a photo collage or model of one of these monuments would be good project.

Seeing is Believing: Visit a local museum and look for interesting exhibit ideas. There are several great museum options right here in the county.

Hallowed Ground: Research the final resting place of someone who interests you. Cemeteries and gravestones can be a good place to find historically significant information.

Free Then ... Worth a Lot Now: Businesses and organizations have given advertising/promotional items over the years such as calendars, ash trays, pens/pencils. Perhaps a collection of these give-away items would make a great collection to display. (Do not plan to display actual items of great value. Photos of rare or expensive pieces are best).

Living History: Learn about history first hand by interviewing someone who has lived a long time. Conversation with someone who is older may help you discover a little know fact or interesting exhibit idea.

Abraham Lincoln. One of the most prominent historical figures from the region is Abraham Lincoln. Here are some suggestions for projects that relate to him and his era.

Rail-Splitter's Homestead: Build a model of a log cabin or create a replica of the Lincoln Homestead. Be creative when selecting building materials for cabins, fences, barns, etc. Remember Lincoln had a nick-name "rail-splitter". Members may also choose to paint or draw a scene depicting a pioneer homestead.

Gee, Haw, Whimmy Diddle: Make a toy that would be like a toy from the Lincoln era. Toys like Jacob's Ladder, Jacks, Jumping Jims, Checkers, Whimmy Diddles, Button and string "Buzz Saws", Cup and Ball and other handmade toys were popular during this time period.

Fourscore and Seven Years Ago: Explore one of Lincoln's speeches. Interpret what he meant, explore the historical significance and the political climate in which the speech was first presented. Explain why the speech is an important part of our history. Perhaps some members would like to memorize and record one of Lincoln's speeches on video or audio.

The Lands of Lincoln: Discover the geographical impact Lincoln made. Pay close attention and highlight those that relate to Lincoln's time in Indiana. Maybe members can plan a trip to visit the Lincoln Boyhood Home National Historical Site or Lincoln State Park. Perhaps members might want to hunt for other sites visited by Lincoln. Members who like to take photographs may choose to make a collage of actual Lincoln historical sites.

Tailor Made: Research clothing, shoes, hats and accessories made and worn in Lincoln's time period. Members may choose to design and make an outfit or display vintage clothing and explain the occasion, event or work for which it was designed. These items may be displayed on dolls, mannequins or dress forms, etc.

Honest Abe: Lincoln exhibited outstanding personal character traits. One of those characteristics earned him the nickname "Honest Abe". Members could explore the personal traits he developed that contributed to his success and Presidency. Some exhibit ideas could be: a poster explaining those traits, a character summary in essay form or a research project that explores his popularity and rise to prominence among the citizens of the United States.

Tools Made Life Better: Pioneer life required many tools for daily survival. The majority of these tools were handmade for specific purposes. Members could explore the tools that interest them. Members might choose to make a poster or photo collection of such tools or perhaps make a reproduction(s) and explain its intended use(s). Avoid potentially harmful tools (such as an ax with a real head). Make a safe reproduction of the tool from wood or other materials.

Homespun Charm: Pioneer families often used folk crafts as recreation and gift-giving. Members could enjoy making similar folk crafts to exhibit. Such crafts might include (but, are not limited to): patchwork quilting, embroidery samplers, doll-making, weaving, knitting, whittling, etc.

Settler Cooking: Pioneer homesteads produced much of their own food. Members might try churning butter, baking homemade bread or cornbread, or cooking homegrown vegetables, etc. Food exhibit items should include recipes that would use ingredients that pioneer families would have available to them. Members might choose to prepare a meal for their family that would resemble a pioneer family meal. Photos of the event could show family enjoying the meal in pioneer family costumes. Perhaps other members may be interested in food preservation techniques then and now and explain how they are the same or how they differ.

From Here to There: Transportation was not an easy task for settlers. Members might explore which modes of transportation were used in Lincoln's day. A poster displaying the types or transportation or a model of a locomotive train, carriage, wagon or ferry would be some ideas for members to try.

Not All Fun and Games: Pioneer families often played games which allowed them to have fun, but, also helped them be prepared for the demands of their survival. Wrestling, foot races, climbing trees, jumping rope, etc. would have been fun, yet strengthen their bodies at the same time. How might people of today use this method to be healthier?

Book Learning By Candlelight: Lincoln loved education and was an avid book reader. Books played an important role in his education and development. Members might choose to read a book that would have been available during Lincoln's time and report on its contents and how it might have played a part in Lincoln's education. Other members might like to explore what a pioneer schoolhouse was like and how it is different and / or similar to schools today.

Myth Buster: Many myths and legends surround Abraham Lincoln. Members could explore popular conceptions / misconceptions for historical accuracy. It could be fun and educational to collect short descriptions and play "myth buster" to determine which are true and which are not. Did Lincoln really receive a letter from a young girl that suggested he would look better with a beard? Did Austin Gollaher save him from drowning when he was a small boy?

Working for a Living: Pioneer families tended to live in communities that had the things they needed. It might be interesting to explore what careers and occupations were necessary during pioneer days. Which occupations performed vital services and products to early settlers? Which jobs did Lincoln have that helped him grow into adulthood?

For the History Buff: Topics such as the Civil War, The Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln's Presidency, his duel with James Shields, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, his early political career, the contents of his pockets when he was assassinated and many other such topics would be great research projects or poster ideas. There are many biographies of Lincoln. Some members might like to read and summarize one such book.

Anything Lincoln: This category allows members to explore other Lincoln related topics that interest them. Some idea starters might be: storytelling, "The Parallel in History" connection and similarities between Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, burial sites of Lincoln family members, Genealogy of the Lincoln family, toy construction using pennies, Lincoln coin collection, etc.

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Sample of Judge Score Sheet:

Judging Criteria	Excellent	Good	Fair	Needs Work
Relevance to Dubois County/Southern Indiana region				
Historical Accuracy				
Educational Value				
Creativity / Interesting Presentation				
Completeness of Documentation				
Neatness / Project Mechanics				
Explanation of Project				

Judge Comments: _____

Ribbon Placing _____