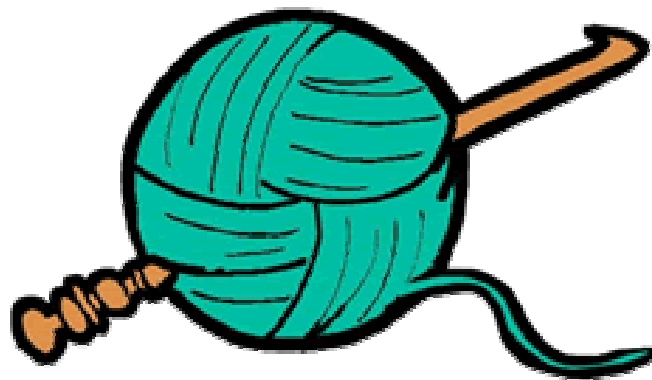


4-H CROCHET PROJECT

Member's Guide and Requirements



4-H CROCHET PROJECT

History of Crochet

Crochet is a form of needlework that has been practiced throughout time in almost every corner of the world. The word crochet is a French name meaning “little hook.” It consists of the interlocking of looped stitches formed with a single thread or yarn and a hooked needle. Many variations are possible with different stitch patterns, combinations of colors, sizes and textures of yarns or threads, and sizes of hooks. It is a handicraft so simple and enjoyable that it continues to be a favorite form of needle art. The endless variations, the individual look of each piece, the swiftness of the work, and the personal satisfaction achieved by the crocheter make this a creative and adaptable project.

The origin of the art of crocheting is unknown. Early needlework implements were made of wire with a hook at one end. Hooks were also carved out of wood and bone. Some of the Indian tribes in North America practiced an early form of this art. The earliest European settlers in America created household items with their crochet hooks, but crocheting did not become popular in Europe or America until the beginning of the 19th century. Irish immigrants first popularized crochet trims and garments in this country.

Until the early part of the 20th century crochet work was done mostly as edging or decoration. Almost all crocheting was done with thread. Doilies were made and used to decorate and protect furniture. In the 1930’s women crocheted hats and purses. Within the last forty years the use of 4-ply yarns has become very popular. They are used to make afghans, garments, toys and handicraft items.

Project Objectives

- Learn to enjoy and appreciate a traditional needle art.
- Acquire the skill of crochet and apply it by creating articles.
- Develop confidence through successfully completing the project.
- Share what you learned with others.

Requirements

1. Select the phase that is appropriate to your skill level and set at least three goals that you want to achieve in this project.
2. Learn the skills listed for that phase.
3. Complete the specific requirements listed for that phase.
4. Give an oral presentation (demonstration, speech, or illustrated talk) related to this project.
5. Complete the 4-H Project Record Book (#91950) and the 4-H Involvement Report (#91910). Include in your record book the yarn content (example 50% cotton/50% polyester) and care of your yarn.
6. Mount the required test swatches on heavy paper and include in your record book, label and include information about the yarn or thread, stitch and hook used.
7. Exhibit two small or one large item you have made using the skills learned in the phase you selected.

8. Optional: Model your crocheted garment/article in the Fashion Revue in your county.

References

There are many books, magazines, and crocheting guides available in libraries, fabric and craft stores, and on the Internet. Some of these include:

Cool Stuff, Teach Me To Crochet, Leisure Arts, Inc. (Instructions geared to youth)
Reader's Digest, Complete Guide to Needlework (Leader Reference)

Web sites with downloadable "how-to" instructions:

www.crafttown.com/crolesson.htm

www.bevscountrycottage.com

Other web sites of interest:

www.anniesattic.com

Leisure Arts, American School of Needlework, Nomis, and Annie's Attic all have several "how-to" books available in fabric and craft stores. Crochet and knitting supply companies, such as Boye and Susan Bates, may also have starter kits available in fabric and craft stores, that include instruction books, hooks, etc.

Phase 1 Let's Crochet

Learn crochet terms and abbreviations.

Learn about:

- selecting crochet tools
- yarn and thread characteristics
- measuring gauge
- working in rows and rounds
- care of crocheted articles
- reading crochet patterns and following pattern instructions

Learn the following skills:

- single crochet
- double crochet
- slip stitch
- chain stitch
- making rounds
- securing yarn ends
- turning at end of row
- recognizing and correcting mistakes
- joining seams with an overcast or whip stitch

Make a yarn test swatch about 2" x 4" of each (make swatches only of the skills that are not included in your exhibit):

- a round
- a slip stitch seam

Make and exhibit two articles, one in single and one in double crochet, such as a bag, belt, cap, pot holder, head band, necklace, scarf, placemat, beret, purse, runner, animal toy, pillow, shell, slippers (counts as two items), hair scrunchie, CD holder, coaster, soft drink cozy.

Phase 2 More Crochet

Learn about:

- gauge and how to adjust for it
- finishing edges
- blocking crocheted items

Learn the following skills:

- half double crochet
- treble or triple crochet
- making ribbing
- increasing and decreasing
- double treble crochet
- joining seams with single crochet and back stitch
- making fringe

Make a test swatch about 2" x 4" of each (make swatches only of the skills that are not included in your exhibit):

- half double crochet
- treble or triple crochet
- increase
- decrease
- double treble crochet
- seam joined with single crochet
- seam joined with back stitch
- ribbing

Make and exhibit two small or one large item you made using one or more of the stitches learned this year, such as beret, dog sweater, doily, mittens, necklace, pillow, drawstring bag, placemat, runner, scarf, shawl, vest, slippers (counts as two), stole, tote bag, tunic, pillow sham.

Phase 3 Still More Crochet

Learn the following skills:

- making filet or mesh crochet
- making squares and ovals
- making tubular crochet
- using markers
- making buttons and buttonholes
- making tassels and pompoms

Make a test swatch of each (make swatches only of the skills that are not included in your exhibit):

- filet crochet
- an oval
- a square
- tubular crochet
- a pompon
- a button and buttonhole
- a tassel

Make and exhibit two small or one large item using techniques learned this year, such as a purse, drawstring bag, scarf, hot mat, placemat, runner, vest, shawl, sweater, stole, throw, or afghan.

Phase 4 Crochet with Color

Learn about:

- changing color to achieve a design
- attaching yarn in color changes
- measurements for garments
- finishing details on a garment
- taking

Learn the following skills:

- work with colors: in rows or bands, in woven overlays, in granny squares, in chained overlays
- making tapestry or jacquard crochet
- making plaid crochet

- making ribbon facings
- weaving seams together
- working with measurements in fitting crocheted garments

Make a test swatch of each (make swatches only of the skills that are not included in your exhibit):

- woven overlay
- chained overlay (plaid design)
- granny square in 4 colors
- jacquard design
- a woven seam

Make and exhibit two small or one large item using one or more techniques learned this year, such as afghan, hat, cape, doily, dress, jumper, placemat, poncho, runner, scarf, shawl, skirt, sweater, tunic, or vest.

Phase 5 Advanced Crochet

Learn about:

- thread characteristics
- stiffening crochet work
- interchanging yarns and threads of varying sizes and types

Learn the following skills:

- Crocheting using multiple stitch patterns
- Crocheting using thread
- Crocheting pattern stitches in yarn and in thread.
- Making medallions in 3, 5, and 6 sides and/or points
- Joining medallions as last row of one is being crocheted.

Make a test swatch about 2" x 4" in yarn or thread (at least one in thread) of each (make swatches only of the skills that are not included in your exhibit):

- shell stitch
- V or open shell stitch
- cluster stitch or popcorn stitch
- medallion, 3, 5 or 6 sided
- Make a swatch in thread (stitch of your choice) and starch it (if not done for project).

Make and exhibit two small or one large item using multiple stitch patterns, such as afghan, bag, cap, cape, collar, collar-cuff set, cuff set, placemat, doily, scarf, shawl, shell, simple dress, poncho, skirt, stole, sweater, vest, or Christmas ornament.

Phase 6 Crocheted Insertions and Edgings

Learn the following skills:

- crocheting a scallop and picot edge finish
- turning corners in edgings and insertions
- making insertions, edgings, and appliqués
- attaching edgings, insertions, and appliqué to fabric

Make a test swatch of each (make swatches only of the skills that are not included in your exhibit):

- insertion (sewn between pieces of cloth)
- edging with a corner
- appliqué (sewn on top of a piece of cloth)

Attach to fabric as necessary.

Make two small or one large item incorporating skills you learned in this phase, such as blouse, cape, collar, dress, edged handkerchief, jacket, pillow, edged pillow case, placemat, skirt, tunic, vest.

Phase 7 Modified Crochet

Learn about:

- modified crochet techniques
- reclaiming and recycling yarn and/or fabrics.

Learn the following skills:

- afghan (Tunisian) crochet and variations
- making broomstick lace
- making hairpin lace

Make a test swatch of each (make swatches only of the skills that are not included in your exhibit):

- afghan crochet
- one variation of afghan crochet
- recycled yarn or torn fabric strips
- broomstick lace
- reversible crochet
- hairpin lace

Make two small or one large item using techniques you learned in this phase, such as afghan, bag, coat, jacket, pillow, placemat, poncho, purse, scarf, shawl, skirt, stole, sweater, tunic, vest.

Phase 8 Individualized Crochet

Learn about advanced crochet techniques and garment selection, construction and fit.

Select one or more of the advanced crochet techniques/projects:

1. Crochet an item in multiple stitch and/or medallion design (such as dress, skirt, sweater, runner, placemats, vest, bag, afghan, hat, pillow).
2. Combine crochet with fabric or leather in constructing a garment (such as dress, coat, pants, skirt, suit, jacket).
3. Draft, chart, and/or adapt a pattern to your personal needs. Make the item (such as dress, skirt, suit, jacket, sweater, coat).
4. Make and line a larger item (such as coat, jacket, skirt, sweater).
5. Crochet for others (such as sweater, afghan, blanket, baby set-dress or sweater, booties, hat).
6. Make an item using jacquard or plaid technique different from that in Phase 5.
7. Make item using a modified crochet technique: afghan stitch, broomstick lace, hairpin lace, Irish crochet or woven crochet. Use a technique different from that used in Phase 6.

Make and exhibit one article using skills learned in one of the above options.

Project Evaluation

	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Appearance		
Clean and attractively prepared for exhibit	_____	_____
Article is properly blocked	_____	_____
Pattern and style are suitable for age and use	_____	_____
Yarn/thread chosen is suitable for pattern and use	_____	_____
Color scheme is pleasing and appropriate	_____	_____
Buttons, if used, are proper size and color	_____	_____
Crocheting		
Hook size and yarn/thread are suitable for the article	_____	_____
Stitches are uniform in size	_____	_____
Tension is uniform	_____	_____
No evidence of twisted or missed stitches	_____	_____
No evidence of split yarn	_____	_____
Yarn ends are fastened neatly	_____	_____
Seams are smooth, straight and inconspicuous	_____	_____
Beginning chain, finishing row are not tight, puckered, or stretched	_____	_____
Increase and decrease are acceptable	_____	_____
Pattern is carried across with no irregularities	_____	_____
Record Book		
Shows requirements were completed	_____	_____
Shows achievement of goals or explanation why they were not achieved	_____	_____
Relates experiences, skills learned, insights gained, etc.	_____	_____
Oral presentation given	_____	_____
Has been signed by member, parent, and leader	_____	_____

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Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Charlotte V. Eberlein, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844. The University of Idaho provides equal opportunity in education and employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran, as required by state and federal laws.