

# Self Determined Projects

Self determined projects take youth in many directions. Self determined projects are designed to provide youth the opportunity to explore topics of personal interest. It was not designed to be a way for members to explore something they already know about or how to do.

The project books ask members to go through a series of steps to identify their topic. Some members skip that section because they have already decided on their topic. After members have picked a topic they should do the following.

1. Decide on the goals for the project. What they want to learn. What they are going to do. Where they will go for resources, information and whatever else they need to complete the project. This should all be a part of the plan they develop. Members should have a written plan that will be their guide for the project. Members will generally have one major activity. The book asks the members to do three planning activities, but we find most members want to select one major topic and that is acceptable.
2. Members then complete the steps they set forth in their plan. They may obviously change their plan due to unforeseen developments. Still, they should not have meandered aimlessly about forgetting about the plan they set forth.
3. Develop a record of their work. Be able to tell what happened in each step.
4. Create some type of visual display for judging and exhibit. Bring samples or examples or some type of record/proof that they did what they said they would do in their plan. Their accomplishments should be closely tied to the goals they set down. If not, the member should be able to explain why they were different and what prompted the change.