Georgia 4-H Project Achievement empowers young people with skills for a lifetime. Through a competitive process, students explore their interests, unleash their creativity, share their work, and celebrate their achievements! This guide provides 9th—12th graders with examples for getting started with their project exploration.

**Description of Project:**
4-H'ers may explore housing and related equipment as products, environments, services, and processes. Through this project 4-H'ers may:

- develop an understanding of how housing can satisfy human physical, psychological, and economical needs
- discover types of housing available and cultivate skills in selecting housing to meet family needs at different stages of the life cycle
- gain an understanding of energy and water requirements of the home environment and simple conservation measures
- acquire knowledge of technological devices and their use within the household, including mechanical and electrical systems and home automation
- determine the importance of household waste management, water, and indoor air quality in the home environment
- develop skills in reading blueprints and evaluating house plans as related to family needs
- develop an understanding of housing policies at the federal, state, and local levels as they relate to housing markets
- explore construction techniques to address environmental and health issues
- develop an understanding of special design requirements as related to housing and equipment for the elderly, disabled, and other special needs
- explore career opportunities related to housing and the housing industry

**Examples of Project Development Experiences:**
- Understand the programs implemented for people who are without homes or have disabilities
- Know how energy efficient houses are created and how to make homes more eco-friendly
- Shadow an architect, builder, or other professional to understand construction and maintenance
- Research housing policies, equipment, products, services, environments, and/or processes
- Contact your local Extension office to conduct a radon test, water test, etc. in your home

**Georgia4h.org/programs/project-achievement**
### Project Sharing and Helping Examples:

- Assist with local groups that provide housing for low income families, such as Habitat for Humanity
- Shadow a professional that is involved with eco-friendly homes or basic home construction, document the process, and share your experience with others
- Attend a rain barrel workshop and make a barrel for neighbors, community organizations, or schools
- Learn more about storm water and educate friends and family about how they can personally reduce their waste
- Help community members understand their homes’ energy intake and how to conserve by using efficient bulbs, turning off lights, reducing hot water consumption, using Energy Star appliances, etc.
- Volunteer with organizations that specifically work with keeping disabled people in their own homes
- Coordinate a neighborhood clean up to remove litter from yards and streets
- Mentor a younger 4-H’er in the Housing project
- Teach a class about efficient housing equipment and practices

### Recommended Resources:

- Georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement
- habitat.org
- earthcraft.org
- athensclarkecounty.com/4309/Rain-Barrels
- cwp.org/stormwater-management
- energy.gov/public-services/homes
- athenslandtrust.org/affordable-housing
- atlantaga.gov/index.aspx?page=504
- georgiaoptions.org

### Special Considerations:

- Please use best safety practices when handling tools and equipment.
- Be sure to gain land owner permission prior to entering someone else’s property.
- Youth should practice internet safety when communicating with new people online or in-person. A best practice is to take a friend or parent to shadow your interview or copy your parent/guardian on online communications with adult mentors.
- Give plenty of notice for any interview or mentoring requests
- Contact your local County Extension Office to discuss how you can collaborate with and assist with current programming.

### At Competition:

*Housing 4-H projects may use posters, artifacts, biofacts, and/or technology to support their presentation. The time limit for these presentations is 12 minutes.*

*Computers, projectors, screens, and other technological devices may be used.*