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 areas of expression using their bodies and voices to convey a message in a performance. Through this project 4-H'ers may:

- develop an appreciation for appropriate use of leisure time
- express originality and creativity through performance
- identify different methods of expression through vocal, dance, and instrumental performances
- acquire an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of those supporting performers during performances
- explore career opportunities in the area of performing arts

Each Performing Arts General Participant will:

- prepare and present a 4 minute performance that includes a short introduction. Talent acts should include something other than or in addition to just a vocal, instrumental, or dance performance. **Instrumentation will not be judged unless presented as part of the performance by the performer**
- use the microphone provided at the contest and not his/her own personal microphone

**Examples of Project Development Experiences:**

- Take lessons from a professional trainer, attend a workshop, or attend a performing arts camp
- Participate in a school, community, or church performance group, such as your school’s literary team, solo and ensemble, etc.
- Audition for performing groups, such as Georgia 4-H Clovers & Company, All-State group, etc.
- Consider drama class or acting to build your stage confidence and stage presence
- Write your own content/dialogue and enter talent shows
- Interview music teachers, vocal trainers, or professionals in your field of interest
- Attend professional performances
- Organize a book of selections for community performances

**Overview:**

⇒ Choose project
⇒ Develop skills in:
  - Project
  - Leadership
  - Service
⇒ Prepare portfolio for work completed from January 1—December 31
⇒ Prepare performance
⇒ Practice
⇒ Compete
⇒ Reflect

Georgia4h.org/programs/project-achievement
**Recommended Resources:**
- Georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement
- atlanta.broadway.com
- foxtheatre.org
- karaoke-version.com
- music.uga.edu
- musical-creations.com
- youtube.com

**Considerations in Performance Selection:**
- Consider your ability and level of skill for specific pieces.
- Showmanship is 25 points of your total score. This includes facial expression, use of stage, appearance, and eye contact.
- Consider filming yourself or performing in front of a mirror.
- Be sure to consider the 4-H Code of Conduct to be certain your selection is appropriate, including any song, skit, costume, etc.
- Make sure you time yourself. Including your introduction, you have a total of 4 minutes.
- Practice a brief introduction that includes your name, county, length of study, name of selection, and author. You may also choose to include the performance’s origin/history.
- Be certain that your performance fits this category well. Check the project objectives and the scorecard to be sure it qualifies.
- Note that dancers and actors may not enter this project unless a vocal performance is a part of the entry.

**At Competition:**
Performers may play their own instrument, use an accompanist, or use an accompaniment track. Instrumentation will not be judged in this area unless it is performed by the 4-H’er. Participants will be judged on their introduction, performance ability, showmanship, degree of difficulty, and time. Acts are limited to 4 minutes total. Youth are required to use the microphones provided at the contest.

Prepared by: Cheryl Varnadoe and Keri Hobbs
Reviewed by: Jason Estep and Mary Ann Parsons
Sources: