

4-H Crocheting Project Member Guide



Crocheting is one of the oldest needlework arts. To crochet means to form yarn or thread into a fabric using a hook. Its name comes from the French word *croche*, meaning “hook.”

The crochet hook was one of many tools first used to make delicate lace. As time went on, more stitches and designs came into being, and crocheting became a separate art.

Crocheting appeals to many people because it can be used to make a variety of creations, such as scarves, caps, vests, sweaters, purses, belts, lace, doilies, tablecloths, afghans, pillow covers, and bedspreads.

In the 4-H Crocheting Project, you can learn to:

- Crochet articles for yourself and others
- Select, use, and care for crocheting tools
- Work and share with others in your club
- Keep simple records of your project and activities

The 4-H Crocheting project is divided into six phases. Skills to learn and suggested articles to make are on page 2.

Your club leader will teach you how to do basic crochet stitches and help you find patterns to use as you learn. When you reach the advanced phases, you’ll need to choose patterns from a variety of pattern books, needlework books, and magazines. You can find these at newsstands, notions counters, fabric stores, or specialty shops that sell yarn and thread.

If you want to show others what you learn in the Crocheting project, check with your leader about exhibiting articles at fairs or other community events. If you make an article to wear, you might like to model in your county 4-H fashion revue.

Giving a presentation at a club meeting, contest, or community center is another way to share with others what you have learned. Sharing also happens when you make a gift for someone using the skills you’ve learned in the project.



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Sequence of Phases

Phase	Skills to learn	Other things to learn	Suggested articles	Fair exhibit classes
			<i>(Article instructions must include one or more skills that the member is to learn.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wearable • Nonwearable • Hands for Larger Service
1	Winding and joining yarn Reading and understanding a pattern Chain stitch, single crochet, double crochet, slip stitch Increasing, decreasing (if pattern calls for it)	Crocheting tools Crocheting terms Different yarns, threads Gauge and tension Blocking, laundering, and caring for crocheted articles	Two or more articles using skills learned scarf bag purse belt place mats pot holder pillow top simple stocking cap	One article showing one or more skills learned (chain stitch, single crochet, double crochet, slip stitch)
2	Understanding more advanced pattern instructions Attaching yarn of another color Treble crochet, double treble, v stitch Crocheting in rounds; increasing, decreasing (if pattern calls for it)	New crochet terms More about yarns, threads More about tension, gauge Achieving textures by varying stitches	Two small or one large article(s) using skills learned scarf slippers cape vest poncho skirt top toys simple afghan	One article showing one or more of the following stitches: treble crochet, double treble, or V stitch Use of two or more colors is optional.
3	Increasing, decreasing Open or filet mesh, block or solid mesh, long single stitch, shell stitch and variations	More about types and sizes of yarns, textures Using an interchangeable yarn chart New crochet terms Fit of apparel articles	Two small or one large article(s) using skills learned (See suggestions for Phase 2.)	One article showing one or more of the following stitches: Open or filet mesh, block or solid mesh, long single stitch, shell stitch and variations
4*	Learn at least two of the following: -waffle (or rib) stitch -picot (Irish crochet) -cluster stitch -popcorn stitch -star stitch -puff stitch	Review of phases 1–3 to help develop additional skills Experiment with at least four different types of yarn and thread (from rug yarn to bedspread cotton)	Two small or one large article(s) using skills learned -sweater with sleeves -cape with arm slits -patterned afghan -rug -small tablecloth or runner -simple doilies	One article showing one or more of the following stitches: waffle (or rib) stitch, picot (Irish crochet), cluster stitch, popcorn stitch, star stitch, puff stitch
5*	Learn at least one of the following: -afghan stitch -hairpin lace -broomstick crochet	Adapting for any size yarn Using type of yarn or thread suitable for pattern choice	Two small or one large article(s) using skills learned	One article showing one or more of the following stitches: afghan stitch, hairpin lace, broomstick lace
6*	Freelance options: Combining crochet with leather or fabric Working with fine thread Working with cloth strips Multicolored patterns (jacquards) using charts Draft pattern for a fitted garment Create original design	Using existing references, resources, and skills in combination Choosing appropriate yarn or thread for article Charting	Two small or one large article(s) using skills learned	One article showing selected option

* It's recommended that Phase 4 be repeated once with different stitches learned the second time. Repeating phases 5 and 6 also works well.