



Title: Build Your Future: Choices... Connections... Careers

Type of 4-H Material: Group Curriculum

Grades: 8th – 12th (Ages 14-19)

Format: Project manuals

Category: Citizenship, Personal Development

Focus Area: Workforce Development, Career Education, Personal Goals

Summary: Consists of One (1) Facilitator's Guide and One (1) Youth Career Journal

The National 4-H Curriculum, *Build Your Future: Choices...Connections...Careers*, is a part of the 4-H Citizenship Mission Mandate and supports the Personal Development area. The curriculum consists of nine activities that target high school students from 14 to 19 years of age. The purpose of the curriculum is to help youth develop skills and knowledge in career exploration. Using identified learner outcomes and success indicators, facilitators can easily lead fun, interactive learning experiences. Participants experience a variety of learning methods such as developing a business plan, competing in a quiz bowl, creating a portfolio, analyzing case studies, and discussing questions that reflect on their experiences. These interactive activities enhance learning and retention. Most activities range from 30 to 90 minutes.

The nine activities are:

1. *Skills...Choices...Careers*—connecting experiences, personal interests, skills, values, and personality to career options and college majors.
2. *Making Career Connections*—increasing knowledge of careers by researching and exploring careers through interviews, internships, and volunteering.
3. *Build Your Future Through Portfolios*—learning about career and employment portfolios and following the steps to create their own portfolio.
4. *Education Pay\$*—exploring how education and training affect employment opportunities, earning potential, and lifetime earnings.
5. *Career FUNds*—understanding the various types of postsecondary education and training, plus ways to fund it.
6. *Turn Your 4-H Passion Into Profits*—learning the advantages and disadvantages of becoming an entrepreneur, as well as the parts that make up a business plan.
7. *Pounding the Pavement*—learning employability skills such as writing résumés and interviewing for jobs.
8. *Putting the Pieces Together: Goals for the Future*—pulling the pieces together, focusing on career Goals and steps necessary to reach those goals.
9. *Pathways to Success*—analyzing scenarios to understand how actions on the job can affect one's career and advancement.

Additional resources are available online: www.4-H.org/curriculum/Careers

To purchase National 4-H Curriculum: www.4-hmall.org/curriculum