

## **4-H NEEDLECRAFT GUIDELINES**

The following are guidelines for providing learning experiences in needlecraft projects. These include embroidery and where applicable, counted cross-stitch and needlepoint.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL MEMBERS**

- Learn needlecraft skills for lifetime leisure and vocational pursuits.
- Learn different types of stitches.
- Learn how to select materials, thread, yarn, fabric equipment and kits.
- Learn how to combine colors for harmony or contrast.
- Encourage creativity and original work by experienced members.
- Pictures should be either framed or stretched, edges finished.
- Judging will not be on the frame or framing technique, but on the project only.
- Projects must be neat and clean.
- There are fair classes for needlecraft kits and originals. The specific classes are embroidery, needlepoint, counted cross-stitch, candlewicking, and any other type of needlecraft or an exhibit with a combination of stitches.
- Learn to make useful and decorative needlecraft articles and repair worn or damaged articles. Designs on clothing acceptable for experienced members.
- For candlewicking and embroidery, make sure threads are not so long so they show through the fabric on top.

### **EXPERIENCE GUIDELINES FOR EMBROIDERY: COUNTED CROSS-STITCH AND NEEDLEPOINT, WHERE APPLICABLE.**

These guidelines may be modified according to the member's age and experience. For instance, a first year member who is 16 may want to try something more challenging than a beginning project member who is nine.

#### **BEGINNERS - Usually 1st and 2nd year in the project**

- Learn how to do the cross-stitch, split outline, satin and french knot stitches. (These stitches do not have to be included in the project exhibited at the fair.)
- Any pictures should be either framed or stretched, edges finished.
- Will not be judged on frame or framing technique, but on project only.
- Exhibit should have neat appearance - no threads or knots showing, pressed, clean, etc.
- Begin with a simple project.
- Further knowledge each year by not repeating all the same stitches in the project but by adding in more stitches.

#### **INTERMEDIATE - Usually 3rd and 4th year in the project**

The above guidelines apply, plus the following:

- Learn more varied stitches; couching, daisy buttonhole, etc.

Original designs encouraged  
Designs on clothing acceptable.  
Preprinted design ink should not be apparent.  
Backside presentable (no long threads over 1/2 inch)  
Complete more complicated projects each year.

**ADVANCED - Usually 5th year and over in the project.**

Original design strongly encouraged.  
Product should be completely finished (pillows zippered, edges finished, etc.)  
Designs on clothing acceptable.  
Try to hide knots.  
Any pictures should be either framed or stretched, edges finished.  
Will not be judged on frame or framing techniques but on project only.  
Complete more detailed, more complicated project each year.  
Learn new needlecraft skills, stitches or techniques each year.

**Helpful Hints**

1. Set colored yarn in warm salt water before using.
2. It's a good idea to initial and date project.
3. Use proper weight cord for candlewicking.