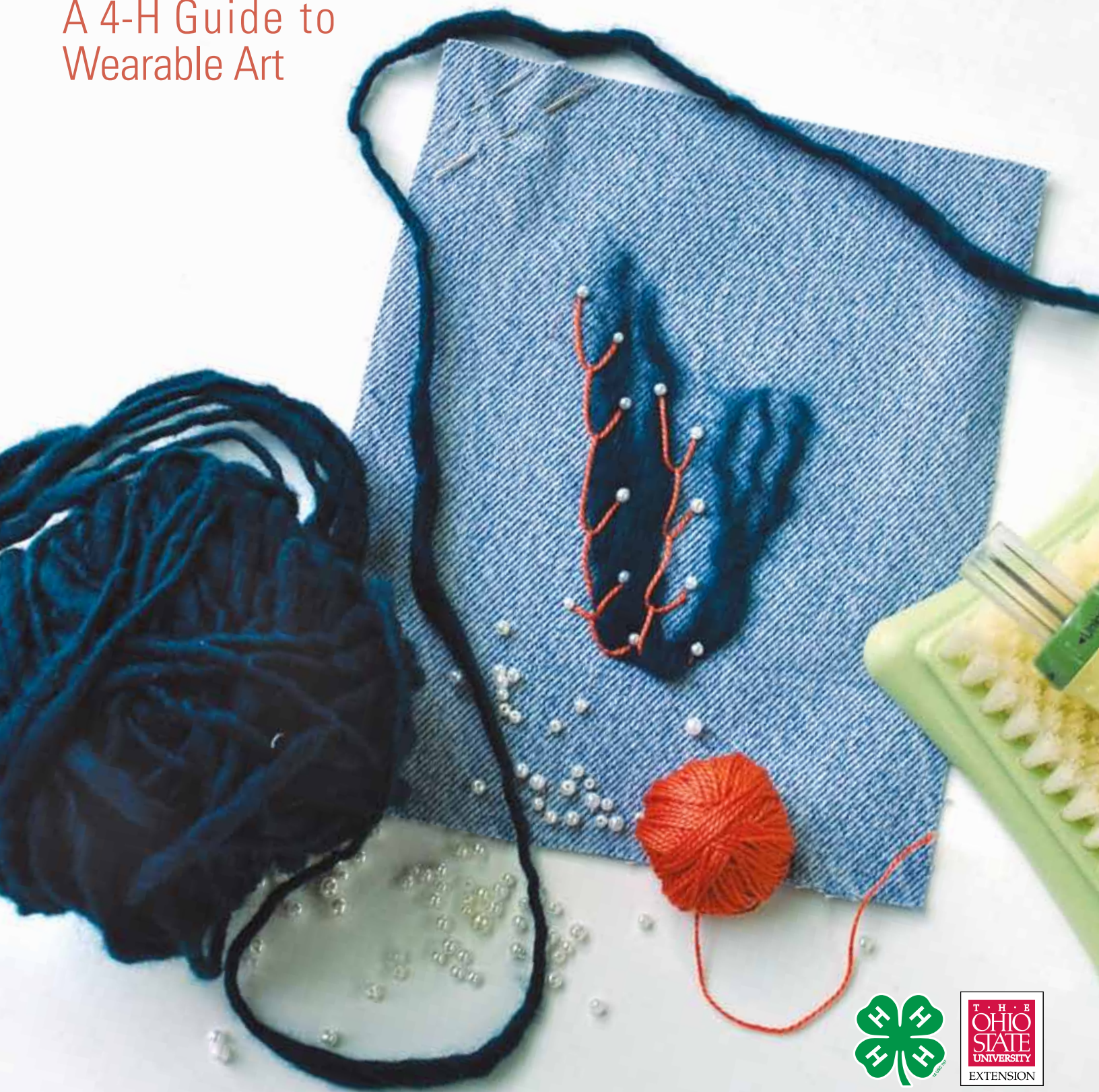


em•bel•lish

A 4-H Guide to
Wearable Art



Name _____

Club name _____

Age _____

Club advisor _____

(As of January 1 of the current program year)

County _____



Contents

Introduction	3
Notes to the Project Helper	4
Member Project Guide	6
PROJECT AREA: WHAT IS EMBELLISHMENT?	
Activity 1: Use Your Own Words	10
Activity 2: Do Some Exploring	15
Talking It Over	20
PROJECT AREA: DECIDING WHAT TO EMBELLISH	
Activity 3: What Clothes Do I Have?	21
Activity 4: What Are My Ideas?	23
Talking It Over	27
PROJECT AREA: EMBELLISH	
Activity 5: Repair, Re-purpose, or Up-Cycle?.....	28
Activity 6: Select Techniques	31
Activity 7: What Resources Do I Have?.....	33
Talking It Over	36
PROJECT AREA: THE COMPLETED OUTFIT	
Activity 8: A Good-Looking YOU!	37
Activity 9: Your Total Look	40
Activity 10: Summary of Your Project.....	41
Bonus Feature: Competition Tips	42
Recommended Resources.....	44
Summary of Learning Outcomes	inside back cover

em•bel•lish

em-bel-lish (im-be'-lish) *transitive verb*

1 to make beautiful with ornamentation: decorate (Ex.: a book embellished with illustrations) **2** to heighten the attractiveness of by adding decorative or fanciful details; enhance (Ex.: embellished our account of the trip)

Etymology: Middle English, from Anglo-French *embeliss-*, stem of *embelir*, from *en-* + *bel* beautiful — more at *beauty* Date: 14th century **synonym:** adorn

Wearable art can be defined as individual and specific pieces of clothing and jewelry that have been created for personal use, for selling, or to display or exhibit. The term wearable art implies that the creator has spent time planning the item from an artistic point of view. While all garments and jewelry have aesthetic (artistic) properties, a wearable art piece presents artistic expression as a main point and begs to be considered as an art piece. This project devotes itself to exploring how to embellish ready-to-wear and custom-made garments for personal use. It is intended to provide introductory information on the topic of wearable art and embellishment techniques and should not be viewed as an all-inclusive treatment of either topic.

Embellishment work by Hannah M., 4-H member from Wayne Co., Ohio





Member Project Guide

Welcome to em•bel•lish! This is an intermediate level project for members with some clothing experience who are interested in learning about a variety of embellishment techniques. To complete this project, a 4-H member completes this book and all the activities, including at least three different techniques with at least one technique on one garment piece.

This project may be repeated as long as the member makes samples of three different techniques each year, collects all the samples (from current and past years), and shows them in a complete collection notebook. Repeating this project also requires members to use different embellishment technique(s) each year to complete their total look.

The goal of this project is for the 4-H member to take a ready-to-wear or previously made garment and refresh it with embellishment. The garment can be a former clothing project, but it does need to be constructed by you. Do not construct a new garment or outfit with the intention to embellish it for this project within the same year.

FREE YOUR MIND! The illustrations used in this book are only examples of embellishment techniques and do not represent required or recommended approaches to this project. Feel free to experiment with your own ideas.

PROJECT GUIDELINES

1. Complete all ten activities (including a sample notebook as described in activity 6) and three Talking It Over pages, and add embellishment(s) to at least one garment for your total look outfit.
2. Take part in at least two learning experiences.
3. Become involved in at least two leadership/citizenship activities.
4. Take part in a project review.

STEP 1:

Project Areas and Activities

Complete all ten activities and three journal pages. When you begin an activity, fill in the date you start it. When you finish an activity, fill in the date of completion. Review your work with your project helper. Ask your project helper to initial below.

PROJECT AREAS AND ACTIVITIES	DATE STARTED	DATE COMPLETED	PROJECT HELPER INITIALS
WHAT IS EMBELLISHMENT?			
Activity 1: Use Your Own Words			
Activity 2: Do Some Exploring			
Talking It Over			
DECIDING WHAT TO EMBELLISH			
Activity 3: What Clothes Do I Have?			
Activity 4: What Are My Ideas?			
Talking It Over			
EMBELLISH			
Activity 5: Repair, Re-purpose, or Up-cycle?			
Activity 6: Select Techniques			
Activity 7: What Resources Do I Have?			
Talking It Over			
THE COMPLETED OUTFIT			
Activity 8: A Good-Looking YOU!			
Activity 9: Your Total Look			
Activity 10: Summary of Your Project			

STEP 2:

Learning Experiences

Learning experiences are meant to complement project activities, providing the opportunity for you to do more in subject areas that interest you. What are some learning experiences you could do to show the interesting things you are learning about? Here are some ideas:

- Attend a clinic, workshop, demonstration, or speech related to embellishment techniques.
- Help organize a club meeting based on this project.
- Go on a related field trip or tour. Examples related to embellishment include . . .
 - Visit an art museum exhibit and spend time viewing items of interest. Look at the colors the artists used as well as the specific media in which they worked, for example, painting, sculpture, pottery, textiles, and photography.
 - Visit a historical museum, clothing collection, or theater costume collection and view different garments or accessories with embellishment.
 - Visit a retail store and view the supplies available for embellishment and note how they are displayed.
- Give a demonstration on one or more embellishment techniques.
- Give an illustrated talk based on your research for this project.
- Invite someone from another culture or ethnic group to share how his or her clothing is embellished and any special meaning the clothing conveys.
- Participate in county project judging.
- Participate in Fashion Revue.
- Make an exhibit related to your embellishment project.

Once you have a few ideas, record them here. Complete at least two learning experiences. Then, describe what you did in more detail. You may add to or change these activities at any time. Ask your project helper to date and initial in the appropriate spaces below.

PLAN TO DO	WHAT I DID	DATE COMPLETED	PROJECT HELPER INITIALS
<i>Demonstration</i>	<i>Demonstrated to other club members how to hand embroider using one basic stitch</i>	<i>4/5/YR</i>	<i>M.R.</i>

STEP 3:

Leadership/Citizenship Activities

Choose at least two leadership/citizenship activities from the list below (or create your own) and write them in the table below. Record your progress by asking your project helper to initial next to the date as each one is completed. You may add to or change these activities at any time. Here are some examples of leadership/citizenship activities:

- Teach someone about clothing embellishment. For example, you might show your completed technique samples at a club meeting and explain or demonstrate how you achieved the sample look.
- Help a club member produce an embellishment technique onto a sample, a garment, or a gift item.
- Help a younger member with his or her clothing project.
- Help another member prepare for his or her project judging.
- Help organize a club field trip to a museum, store, or special event related to clothing embellishment.
- Organize an event in your area.
- Encourage someone to enroll in a clothing project.
- Arrange for a speaker knowledgeable about fashion and design to visit your club.
- Serve on a county or state fashion board.
- Plan your own leadership/citizenship activity.

LEADERSHIP/CITIZENSHIP ACTIVITIES	DATE COMPLETED	PROJECT HELPER INITIALS
<i>Organized a club field trip to a fabric and sewing supply store</i>	<i>5/5/YR</i>	<i>M.R.</i>

STEP 4:

Project Review

Arrange for a project review with your project helper, club advisor, or another knowledgeable adult. Completing a project review helps you evaluate what you have learned and assess your personal growth. Your evaluation can be part of a club evaluation or it can be part of your county's project judging.

1

Use Your Own Words



What is embellishment?

How is embellishment different from a functioning design feature?

For this project, embellishment is a permanent addition of anything that can be sewn, tacked, glued, or painted on in a decorative manner and something that does not **NEED** to be there for the garment to function properly. For example, buttons are necessary for a shirt or blouse to stay closed and while buttons can be artistic, in this example they are a functioning design feature, not an embellishment. Buttons sewn in a design across a shirt back yoke become an embellishment since the shirt can function as a shirt without them.



What to Do

Write a brief answer to each of these questions.

Why is embellishment used on clothing?

Why do you want to embellish a garment?

What are a few embellishment techniques you would like to test?



LEARNING OUTCOMES

Project Skill: Defining embellishment
 Life Skill: Processing information
 Success Indicator: Uses own words to define embellishment



Techniques

This is not an all-inclusive list of the techniques possible for this project. If you have a specific technique that does not appear on this list, it is all right to use it as long as you keep your project helper informed. (NOTE: Smocking is NOT considered an embellishment for this project. Normally smocking is an integral part of construction).



Applique (hand and machine; mola and reverse)

Batik dyeing

Beading

Binding

Chinese knotwork

Crazy quilting

Cutwork

Discharge dyeing

Distressing

Divore

Dyeing (garbage bag, tub, vat, washing machine)

Embroidery (machine and hand techniques; crewel dimensional, and silk ribbon)

Eyelets

Felting (needle and wet)

Foiling

Grommets, rivets, or studs

Heirloom sewing

Knitting and crochet

Lace making

Leatherwork (carving, painting, stamping, staining)

Painting

Piecework (bargello, patchwork, Seminole)

Pintucks

Piping

Pleating

Quilting (hand and machine)

Resist dyeing

Rhinestones or "bling"

Richeleau

Rust-dyeing

Rust printing

Sashiko

Shibori dyeing

Shisha mirrors

Stamping

Stenciling

Sun-printing (also called blueprinting or photo exposure)

Tatting

Tucks

A Note of Caution

Some of these techniques require the use of chemicals and/or dyes. It is your responsibility to read all manufacturer labels and to follow the recommendations and safety procedures. It can be very helpful to find an experienced adult to assist you each time you attempt a new technique.

Supplies

The techniques you choose determine what supplies you need. Listed below are some common supplies used in embellishment, but it is by no means an all-inclusive list.

Adhesives, including glues
and fusibles
Angelina Fibers®
Beads
Brushes and sponges
Buttons
Charms
Embroidery floss
Fabric dyes
Fabric paint
Feathers
Fiber-Etch®
Fringe
Fur
Glitter
Grommets
Heat soluble embroidery
backings

Lace
Leather working tools
Pens and markers
Ribbon
Rivets
Sequins
Shrinking threads and backings,
i.e., Texture Magic®
Spray paint
Studs
Tassels
Threads, all-purpose and
decorative
Trim
Water soluble embroidery
backings (Solvly®)
Yarns
Zippers



Did You Know?

B.F. Goodrich tagged the closure on their 1923 galoshes the “zipper.”