

Ceramics Guidelines

General Guidelines for all 4-H Members

1. PIECES MUST BE CLEANED BY THE 4-H MEMBER.
2. Learn the correct way of cleaning greenware.
3. Cleaning the greenware is an art, seams should not show.
4. Learn the names and uses of tools.
5. Learn the correct terms of ceramics – greenware, bisque, fired, nonfired, etc.
6. Learn the correct way to brush on paint. No drips, applied evenly and smooth.
7. Put your name on the bottom of each piece.
8. All pieces must be finished with paint.
9. All pieces made by hand molding, potter's wheel and coil or slab methods are considered sculpture.
10. The 4-H member should further their knowledge of ceramics and not repeat the same type of item as was finished the previous year.
11. There is a separate class for Plasterware. Plasterware is typically cleaned by the shop and does not need to be fired.

Beginners (1-2 years in project or 8-11 years old)

Finishes –

Stains

Antiqued Stains

Dry brush

Stain and glaze on same piece

Suggested Skills-

1. Learn how to handle and clean greenware.
2. Learn the difference between undercoats, glazes, dry brushing, stains and antiquing.
3. Choose simple pieces with few seams and no handles or extended pieces to clean or paint.
4. Learn names of tool and equipment.
5. Finish bottom of piece with paint and name.

Intermediate (3-4 years in project or 12-14 years old)

Finishes –

Stains

Antiqued Stains

Dry brush

Stain and glaze on same piece

Underglazing – more than just eyes and nose

Glazing – combining or using two or more glazes

Decorating greenware – unusual pieces

Air brushing

Suggested Skills –

1. Continue using skills from previous years.
2. Select a project that calls for new techniques.
3. Learn some detail work.
4. Be creative!

Advanced (5 years and over in project or 15 and older)

Finishes –

Stains

Antiqued Stains

Dry brush

Stain and glaze on same piece

Underglazing – more than just eyes and nose

Glazing – combining, mixing or using two or more glazes

Decorating greenware – unusual pieces

Air brushing

Decals

Miscellaneous – metallics, jewels, etc.

Suggested Skills –

1. Continue using skills learned previously.
2. Make pieces with detail.
3. Try combining glazes and stains on projects.
4. Use techniques not previously used.
5. Be inventive and creative.