

## **4-H LATCH HOOK GUIDELINES**

The following are guidelines for providing learning experiences in latch hook project.

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

Learn latch hook skills for lifetime leisure and vocational pursuits.

Learn how to select appropriate canvas, yarn, and/or kits.

Learn how to make useful and decorative craft articles and repair worn or damaged articles.

Learn proper finishing techniques.

All knots should be hooked from the same direction. Knots should be tight. Do not miss any loops in the canvas.

Learn how to combine colors for harmony or contrast.

Learn how texture affects a latch hook project.

When finished the yarn should be even, or for accents have long and short yarns.

Example: in an animal picture, trim the background yarn shorter than the animal yarn.

There are fair classes for kits and originals.

An original is separately bought canvas and yarn. It can be printed canvas or one of the 4-H'ers' own designs. Yarn colors are 4-H'ers choice.

A kit is any package or boxed article with pre-arranged yarn colors and canvas.

Projects must be neat and clean.

### **ARTICLE DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES**

**Pillows:** Foam or stuffing should fit the pillow. Stuffing should not be lumpy or heavy. Backing should be color-coordinated to the front. Yarn should NOT be sewn in backing, and no rug backing should show in the pillow. Try not to have any puckers or bunching of material. Pillows should be firm and have a soft look. (Some kits do not supply stuffing or backing.)

**Rugs:** Must be bound with binding or hooked into the back. Binding should be sewn straight. Do not sew yarn in canvas. Corners should be angled, try not to have puckers. Hand sewing is recommended to finish rugs. Rugs should lay flat with no bunching in corners. (Most kits do not supply binding.)

**Pictures:** Must be bound or hooked into the back. Must have a hanging device or is not considered a picture. Same instructions as for rugs.

**Christmas Stockings:** Must have a hanging loop.

**Christmas Ornaments:** Must have both sides finished. No yarn should be sewn in. Should hang flat without twisting.

**Stuffed Animals:** Must not be lumpy. Should stand or lay flat without leaning or falling. Special attention to trimming is very important in these animals.

## **EXPERIENCE GUIDELINES**

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 first year member who is 9.

### **FIRST YEAR:**

Introduce member to the craft and proper use of the latch hook tool. Begin with a simple project. A kit is acceptable.

### **SECOND YEAR:**

Encourage an awareness of color and design in a project.

Complete a more complicated project, with more color and detail in the design.

Rya strands can be used but not mandatory.

A kit is acceptable.

### **THIRD YEAR:**

Encourage members to work out their own design rather than work from a kit.

It is recommended that a variation of yarn types and/or lengths contribute to the design.

### **FOURTH YEAR & ADVANCED:**

At the fair you must exhibit an original design. This design should show an awareness of color combination, texture, and good design features.

Encourage 4-H'ers to do their own original design sketches.

It is also suggested that a cost workup sheet which shows canvas type, yarn, etc., be kept.

The fair judge may ask questions on the cost of doing a project.

## **GENERAL LATCH HOOK TIPS:**

1. Set colored yarn in salted warm water before using.
2. Initial and date all needlework.