



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



## Winnebago County 4-H Clothing & Consumer Savvy Projects

### Thrifty Threads Challenge



Second-hand shopping has become more popular over the last decade. Thrifting can be cool and challenging. It's good for the environment, supports the community, and saves you money while you create your unique wardrobe. It can be a challenge to find great items, depending on the store. Some stores are organized, with great buys, but other stores make it harder to find what you want.

There are many things you can find in a good thrift store. It's time to unleash your creativity and create your own style. Set a budget, visit a thrift store, and challenge yourself to find one-of-a-kind clothing items that reflect your own distinct style.

#### Inspire Kids to Do

##### Skill Building

- Prepare and stay within a clothing-shopping budget.
- Learn how to select clothing items that are of good quality and a good buy.
- Learn what makes a good clothing donation at a thrift store.

##### Goals

- Research thrift stores in your area.
- Set a budget.
- Shop within your budget to purchase clothing items
- Learn about recycling your clothing.

##### Project Ideas

- There are other items you can purchase at a thrift store to go with your outfits. Look for purses, shoes, scarves, belts, jackets, and jewelry to accessorize your outfit.
- Participate in your county Clothing Revue.

#### Starting Out

- ⇒ Identify thrift stores in your area.
- ⇒ Identify your budget.
- ⇒ Purchase an outfit at a thrift store.

#### Learning More

- ⇒ Inventory the clothing you have and figure out what you need to complete your outfit or an outfit you need for a job interview or a special occasion.
- ⇒ Develop a plan to recycle your clothing.

#### Expanding Horizons

- ⇒ Try mixing and matching your thrift store purchases with your existing wardrobe items. How many new outfits can you create?
- ⇒ Experience a thrift store by volunteering.
- ⇒ Set up a 4-H Clothing and Textiles project meeting on shopping at thrift stores.

#### Self-Evaluation Before

Using the rating scale below, answer the following:

1 = not at all  
2 = a little  
3 = a lot

I know how to ...

Purchase clothing at a thrift store ..... 1 - 2 - 3

Purchase an outfit that fits within my budget ..... 1 - 2 - 3

Recycle my clothing .... 1 - 2 - 3

### Choosing Thrift Stores

1. Make a day of visiting all the shops in a specific area or around town. Might have to go out of town if you don't have any thrift stores.
2. Each store will have a slightly different kind of stock, so take a grand tour and take it all in.
3. Keep track of items they carry and if they are in your size.
4. What days of the week do they run discounts?
5. Ask what's on sale when you enter the store.
6. Find out if the store supports a mission and who they are.
7. Be nice to people who work in the stores. They are not usually paid very well or not paid at all.



### Know What Your Needs Are

1. Use the list from your Budget Chart for deciding on what clothing purchases you want to look for on a given day. (Remember to check what days are good bargains for certain clothing in the store.)
2. Be creative and keep your eyes (and mind) open for clothing or accessories that might fill a need or a want from your list.
3. Select items to create an outfit or outfits you like and that are most suited for the occasion you had plans for.
4. Always check the labels to find out how the outfit is to be cleaned. The cost will be higher if it has to be dry cleaned.
5. Most thrift stores do not have ample dressing rooms, so when you go shopping wear clothes that you can slip other clothing over to see if it fits appropriately.
6. Take an inventory of the clothing you are looking at to make sure it is of good quality (no stains, tears, etc.) It might not be repairable. Don't just buy it because it's a good deal.
7. Determine if the outfit is in your budget prior to purchasing the item.

### Give Back

1. Don't forget to drop off the things you no longer use or need at the thrift store.
2. Volunteer to work at a thrift store. Most of them support a mission. Do a good deed!
3. Don't try to bargain, chances are you're already getting a good bargain. If it does seem overpriced, ask to speak with a manager.

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### Clothing Revue Narrative:

**Narrative is a must and should be emailed to [sarah.thompson@wisc.edu](mailto:sarah.thompson@wisc.edu) by: \_\_\_\_\_ (date). Your narrative should be about 45 seconds in length (about 150 words). Try to answer the following questions when writing your narrative:**

- Where will you wear this garment?
- Why did you choose the accessories you will use?
- What did you learn while planning and shopping for this garment?
- List other sewing projects.
- List interests, family, 4-H club, school and age.

This guide has been adapted from K-State Research & Extension's Kansas 4-H Project Challenge—adapted from NW 4-H Advisory Challenge created by Melinda Daily and Karen Nelson, Sunflower Extension District.

## What Is Your Clothing Budget?

Complete the Budget Chart below to help keep track of your budget and spending.

### Budget Chart:

[illegible]

***Life Skills Learned (check all that apply)***

- ◇ Positive Self-Concept
- ◇ Inquiring Mind
- ◇ Concern for Community
- ◇ Sound Decision-Making
- ◇ Healthy Interpersonal Relationships

***Share (optional)***

- ◇ Volunteer at a thrift store.
- ◇ Present a project talk or demonstration at a club meeting telling what you have learned about during this challenge.
- ◇ Create a fair exhibit.

***Evaluate Your Experience!***

What did you learn about clothing available at a thrift store? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did you learn about shopping on a budget in the thrift store? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did you learn about the quality of the clothing at the thrift store? \_\_\_\_\_

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What type of outfit did you purchase and where did you wear it? \_\_\_\_\_

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**To complete the Thrifty Threads Challenge, remember to:**

- ⇒ Complete pages 3&4
- ⇒ Attach your receipts to pages 3& 4
- ⇒ Write up Clothing Revue narrative: (see bottom of page 2)
- ⇒ Bring your outfit, pages 3&4, receipts and narrative to the clothing revue taking place on:
  - Date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Time: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Place: \_\_\_\_\_