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Folkpatterns 4H Activity Book  
Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service  
4-H Club Bulletin  
Folk Arts Division, MSU Museum  
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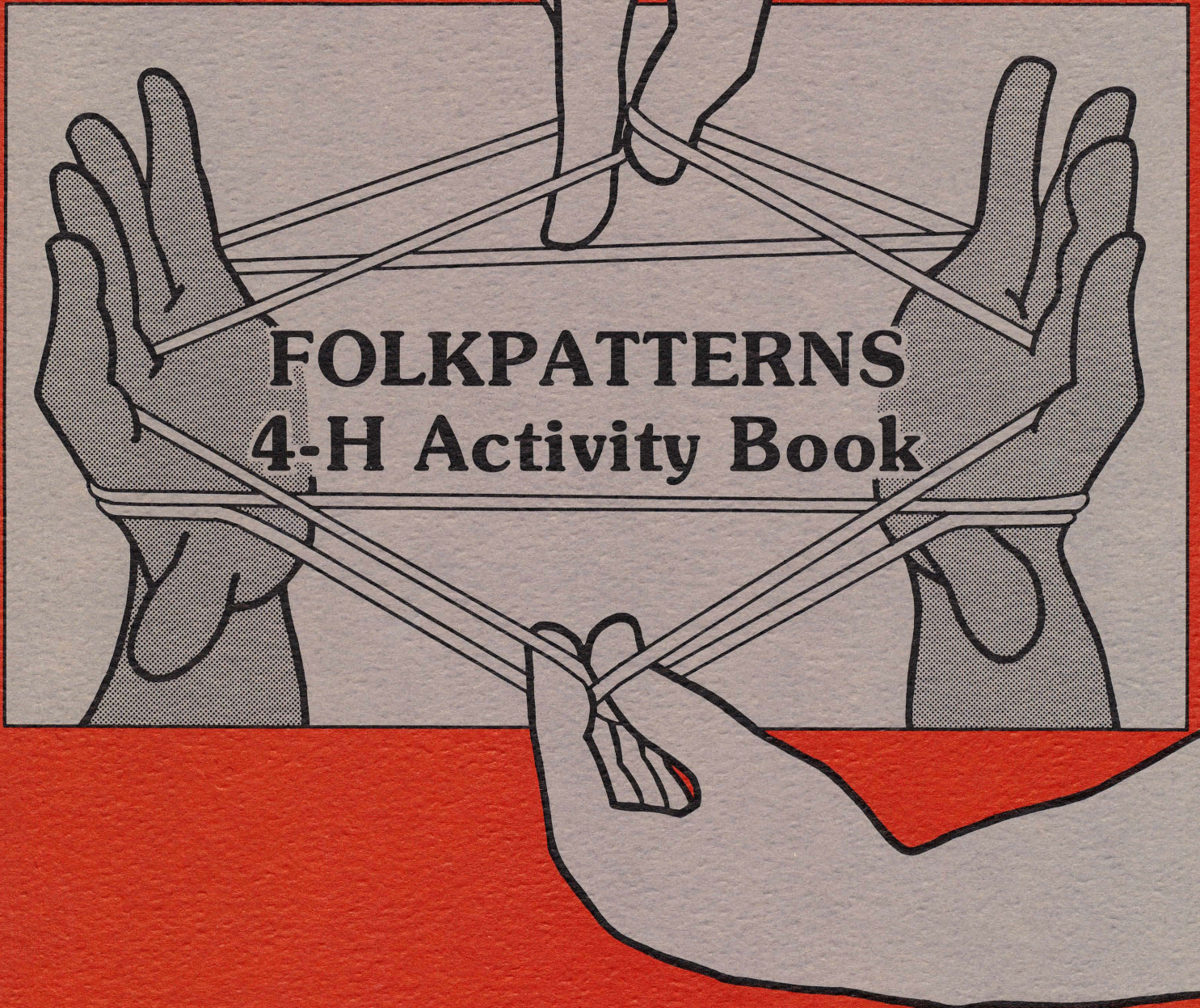
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4-H 1223

4-H—Youth Programs  
Cooperative Extension Service  
and  
The Folk Arts Division, The Museum  
Michigan State University



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Name of FOLKPATTERNS Project \_\_\_\_\_

Duration of Project \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

# How To Use This Activity Book

FOLKPATTERNS is a project of The Museum, Michigan State University, and the Michigan 4-H—Youth Programs. It is funded by a Youth Projects Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency. FOLKPATTERNS is designed primarily for teenagers who are willing to learn more about themselves, their families, and their communities. It is an opportunity for youths, either as individuals or in groups, to explore in an organized manner the various factors and influences that have affected and continue to affect the cultural artifacts, traditions, and institutions that exist in their communities. It is an opportunity for them to explore the folklore and local history of their towns, their families, and their own lives. The word FOLKPATTERNS was coined to describe the traditions (patterns of life) of people (folk). FOLKPATTERNS projects should present an enjoyable challenge for youths and volunteer leaders and result in meaningful outcomes for everyone involved—youths, leaders, and members of the community.

This book has been designed for your use as you plan and carry out a FOLKPATTERNS project. This book contains checklists which you will complete as you work on a project. Your leader will have a FOLKPATTERNS 4-H Leader's Guide which also contains these checklists.

A FOLKPATTERNS 4-H Activity Book can be used with each FOLKPATTERNS project you choose. By working closely with your leader and by completing this activity book, you will learn a lot about yourself, your family, and your community. Once you've completed one FOLKPATTERNS project, you should have many ideas for future projects.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



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## **TRADITION-BEARERS**

Do you know someone who knows a lot about the traditional or old ways of doing things? List the names of these people here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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## **ORAL TRADITIONS**

Do you know people who know about local history or folklore? List their names here. (Don't forget your friends, family, and neighbors!)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

---

## **TECHNIQUES**

Are there skills or crafts you would like to learn? List some of them here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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# LOCAL HISTORY

Check local history items on the list that you would like to know more about.

\_\_\_\_\_ Folktales

\_\_\_\_\_ Place names (or how places were named)

\_\_\_\_\_ Folk arts and crafts (material culture)

\_\_\_\_\_ Folk beliefs

\_\_\_\_\_ Folk customs

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# CRAFT REVIVAL

What crafts would you like to learn about? List them here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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# INDIVIDUAL GROWTH

Perhaps there are some other reasons you would like to begin a FOLKPATTERNS project. If so, write those reasons here.

- 1.
- 2.

3.

4.

Check which of the following ways you would like FOLKPATTERNS to help you.

- Learn more about myself
- Learn more about my family
- Learn more about my community
- Learn how to be more comfortable meeting new people
- Learn how to interview new people
- Learn how to start a research project
- Learn about community resources
- Learn how to use equipment and tools
- Learn how to identify resources

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## **PLANNING RESOURCES**

What planning resources do you have?

- Concept booklets
- FOLKPATTERNS newsletters
- Information on local humanities organizations (list below)

1.

2.

3.

4.

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# COLLECTING AND ORGANIZING

What collecting and organizing materials do you have (or can you borrow)?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Camera (where located: \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Film
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tape recorder (where located: \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tapes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Note pads and pencils
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tape measure
- \_\_\_\_\_ Questionnaires
- \_\_\_\_\_ Short-item cards
- \_\_\_\_\_ File box (where located: \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photo negative sleeves
- \_\_\_\_\_ File folders

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# REPORTING AND EVALUATING

What materials do you have available for reporting and evaluations?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Slide projector (where located: \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Display case (where located: \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibit space (where located: \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photocopy machine (where located: \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Computer (where located: \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ FOLKPATTERNS report form

Who could evaluate your project?

1.

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

---

## PROJECT COSTS

List organizations/individuals who might donate funds, skills, or equipment.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Check off areas for which you think you will need extra funds.

- Gas
- Camera
- Film
- Tape recorder
- Tapes
- Training
- FOLKPATTERNS educational materials
- Telephone calls
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



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# DISCUSSING IDEA POSSIBILITIES

List people with whom you could discuss possible FOLKPATTERNS ideas.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

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# POSSIBLE FOLKPATTERNS TOPICS

List some events in your county, town, community, group, or family which might be topics for FOLKPATTERNS.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

For one of the events above, write down some ideas of folklore you could collect.

- 1.

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

---

## OTHER 4-H PROJECTS

List some of the 4-H projects you are already working on. Put a star next to one that you want to find out about in terms of FOLKPATTERNS.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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## STOP!

To evaluate how planning for your FOLKPATTERNS folklore and local history project is going, answer "yes" or "no" to the following questions.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you made a list of local humanities resources?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you made a list of organizations or individuals who might donate funds, skills, or equipment?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you made a list of items for which you will need extra funds?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you made a list of events in your area that would make good FOLKPATTERNS topics?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you made a list of current 4-H projects you would like to use with FOLKPATTERNS?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you checked off the list of planning resources you have available?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you checked off the list of collecting and planning resources you have available?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you checked off the list of evaluation and reporting resources you have available?

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# LIBRARIES

List your local libraries.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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# NEWSPAPERS/NEWSLETTERS

List local newspapers or newsletters which you might use in your research.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

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# OTHER SOURCES

Though libraries will be one of the most helpful sources of leads for your investigation, you might need to check into one or more of the following sources.

A. List names and addresses of local/regional news offices.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B. List names and addresses of local/regional museums.

1.

2.

3.

C. List names and addresses of local businesses related to your chosen FOLKPATTERNS project.

1.

2.

3.

D. List names and addresses of local/regional archives you might use.

1.

2.

3.

E. List names and addresses of local schools where you might find information.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

F. List names and addresses of local/county/state governmental offices you might use.

1.

2.

3.

4.

G. List names and addresses of local churches or synagogues that you might consult.

1.

2.

3.

4.

H . List names and addresses of local historical societies.

1.

2.

3.

I . List the address of your local Chamber of Commerce office.

J . List the name and address of the local community college.

K . Can you think of other resources? List them here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

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## **WHEN TO COLLECT**

List 4-H occasions or times when you can collect folklore materials or information.

1.

2.

3.

4.

List community occasions or times when you can collect folklore.

1.

2.

3.

4.

List family occasions when you can collect folklore.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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## TRADITION-BEARERS

List people you know who are tradition-bearers. State what traditions they practice.

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Tradition \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Tradition \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Tradition \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Tradition \_\_\_\_\_

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## PLACES FOR COLLECTING

List six places where you could collect folklore.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5.

6.

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## SHORT-ITEM CARDS

Check the following list as you complete a short-item card.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you record the name of the person who gave you the folklore item on the informant line? Did you record his/her age?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you write down the address of the informant? Don't forget the zip code and county!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you record on the appropriate lines when and where you collected the folklore item?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you write your name on the collector's line?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you write down your address?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you record the folklore item as accurately and completely as you heard it? (NOTE: Try to record it word-for-word just as you hear it, even if words sound foreign or unfamiliar to you.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you sketch or diagram a folklore item which needed a visual explanation (for instance, diagramming where players stand for a circle game or drawing the steps in making a cat's cradle)?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you ask your informant where he/she learned this folk item? Did you record the answer?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did your informant tell you anything else about the folklore item? Did you remember to record this additional information?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you record your impressions or information on this folklore collecting experience?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you record the folklore item subject at the top of the card?

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## RECORDING AN INTERVIEW

Use the following checklist to become familiar with the process of taping an interview.

### A. Preparation:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you checked the recorder to see if it is operating properly?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have extra batteries or electrical cord available?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you know how to use a microphone?
- \_\_\_\_\_ If you need a microphone, is one available?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a note pad and pencil ready?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you chosen your subject of interest in advance?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have some questions in mind (or written down) that you will ask your informant?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you let your informant know you are working on a FOLKPATTERNS project?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have extra tapes?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you arranged a time for the interview that is convenient for your informant?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have your informant's permission to tape this interview?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Will you interview in a room or area that will be comfortable for your informant?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you placed the tape recorder in a relatively quiet place?

**B. Actual taping:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you stated on the tape the date, your name, where you are interviewing, and whom you are interviewing?
- \_\_\_\_\_ When you finished your interview, did you remember to say on the tape that it was the end of the interview?

**C. Followup after taping (but before you leave the interview):**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you have your informant sign a release form?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you write your name, whom you interviewed, the date, where the interview took place, and the length of the interview on the tape label?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you remember to thank your informant for the time and knowledge he/she shared with you?

**D. After you've left the interview:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you write down your impressions of the interview on a note pad?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you make a list of questions you'd like to go back and ask?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did you see any problems or mistakes that occurred while taping?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you decided where the tape and related notes will be kept?

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## **PHOTOGRAPHING AN INFORMANT**

Use the following checklist to become familiar with the process of photographing an informant.

**A. Preparation:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you checked the camera to see if it is operating properly?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a flash attachment or flash bulbs?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have the right kind of film for the place where you will be taking pictures?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have you arranged a time for taking photographs that is convenient for your informant?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have permission from the informant to photograph and tape this interview?



B. At the photograph session:

- Have you remembered to take photographs of the informant's home (including exterior and interior shots)?
- Have you photographed all the important steps to the craft technique or folk tradition? (For instance, if a traditional food dish is being prepared, all the steps from assembling the ingredients to serving the final product should be photographed.)
- Have the tools used in the process been photographed?
- Has the workshop, kitchen, or other work setting been photographed?
- Did you have your informant sign a release form?
- Have you recorded what kind of film you are using and the speed and shutter settings used for each photograph?

C. After photographing the informant:

- Did you record in your notebook or journal the information about the session (names, place, subject, date, and impressions of the session)?

D. After the film has been developed:

- Have you labeled your photographs or slides?
- Have you set up a safe place for them to be shared?
- Have you made an extra print to give to your informant? (This is a nice way of thanking an informant for sharing his/her time and information with you.)

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# STOP!

To see how preparation for your FOLKPATTERNS project is progressing, list five ways of collecting folklore information:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

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# STORING AND ORGANIZING

Which of the following materials have you gathered to store and organize your collected information?

- Shoe box or file drawer for tapes
- Notebook binder for slides
- Notebook binder for notes
- File box for short-item cards
- File box for cross-index cards
- Negative files or glassine sleeves for negatives
- Glassine sleeves for photographs
- Computer

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# LOCATION OF INFORMATION

Have you decided where information will be kept?

- FOLKPATTERNS archives at The Museum, Michigan State University
- Local museum or archive
- County Extension office
- Home (in a clean, dry location)
- School
- Local library

Have you made duplicates of any of your collected information?

- Yes
- No

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# REPORTING

Answer "yes" or "no" to the following reporting questions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Have you finished your collection?

\_\_\_\_\_ Have you decided on which way you will share your collected materials?

\_\_\_\_\_ Have you informed local media sources (radio, newspapers, TV) about your project?

\_\_\_\_\_ Have you reported on your project to the FOLKPATTERNS Office at The Museum, Michigan State University?