



# Section 10

## Buymanship

The objective of Buymanship is to learn how to make wise consumer choices and **not** to see how inexpensively garments, accessories, or products can be purchased. 4-H members should learn how to expand a wardrobe and to make small changes to create a more expensive or total look. Alterations can be a part of the project along with recycling old clothing. Items sewn by someone other than a member may be used to show cost effectiveness versus buying a ready-made outfit.

### Get Started

#### ***Plan Your Wardrobe***

- Survey closets and drawers.
- Determine what looks good on you, and eliminate clothing and accessories about which there are negative feelings.
- Determine for what activities the clothes will be worn.
- Mix and match clothes and accessories on hand to create new outfits.
- Plan and budget seasonal wardrobe purchases (i.e. winter coat, schedule purchases on end-of-season sales).

#### ***Complete a Basic Plan***

- Select garments in related color combinations.
- Choose varied fabrics, texture, and patterns for interest.

- Use the rule of 3: buy an item if it can be worn with at least three other garments or occasions.
- Build a wardrobe over several seasons. Update and add pieces each season.

#### ***Plan Accessories to Enhance Your Wardrobe***

- Use accessories to enhance outfit(s) (jewelry, belts, scarves, neckties, handbags).
- Wear socks or hose that blend with shoes and the outfit.

#### ***Money Management***

- Decide how much money there is to spend.
- Determine whether purchasing or construction is best.
- Check the cost required to keep purchase(s) wearable.
- With money saved on wise purchases or construction, you could spend more on accessories such as appropriate shoes, jewelry, or undergarments.

Each 4-H member enrolled in the Buymanship project is encouraged to complete a portfolio containing information found in this unit. The portfolio may include any comparison of a product/item related to the wardrobe, personal appearance, or upkeep of the wardrobe. The portfolio will explain to judges the buymanship (decision-making aspects) considered when purchasing a garment or other products.



### ***Pictures in a Photo Album***

Over the year, a 4-H member purchased seven garments. These garments were teamed with other clothing items in the person's wardrobe to create 25 different looks. Pictures were taken of the 4-H member in the different outfits, placed in the portfolio, and the cost of the seven new garments was stated.

### ***Rodeo Queen Outfit***

A 4-H member described efforts to create an outfit to wear as a newly crowned rodeo queen. The member already had boots, a hat, and a leather belt. She described her efforts to find jeans, a blouse, and a vest. By shopping at more than 10 stores and by viewing catalogs, the member was able to save \$25 on the jeans. By sewing a ribbon on the collar of a simple, white blouse, the member saved \$40. With the money saved on the jeans and blouse, the member was able to buy a more expensive vest, which was to be worn with other jeans and blouses to create additional outfits. This exhibit included a picture of the member in the outfit, and the purchased blouse, jeans, and vest. Additionally, she included a detailed, written narrative and a chart stating the cost of each garment.

### ***Planning for College and Career***

A member developed a detailed plan for clothing needs for college. A purchase plan and budget were developed. For example, a heavy winter coat was scheduled to be purchased in January or February to take advantage of sales. Whenever possible, clothing was purchased with the idea of using the garment to help launch a career.

### ***Display of Construction Points***

A member attached a pair of jeans to a display board and used labels to describe the points of construction to inspect. For example, jeans should have a minimum of five belt loops, each of which should be of good size and be able to accommodate a wide variety of belt widths or a favorite belt. One arrow pointed to the pocket to explain the need for reinforcement at the corner.

### ***Prom Night***

Compare the cost of buying vs. renting a tux, purchasing a suit or black jeans and renting a tux jacket and cummerbund. Compare costs of purchasing or sewing other formal attire.

### ***Creating a "Dream Outfit"***

Pretend that money is no problem. What "dream outfit" would you buy? A leather jacket, jeans, and boots? A prom outfit fit for a king or queen? Put together a dream outfit complete with accessories. List the cost of each item. When possible, take a picture of each item. If artistic, draw a sketch of yourself in the outfit. State the total cost of the "dream outfit."

### ***From the Ashes***

A fire has destroyed every possession of a family in a community. You agree to develop a clothing budget for one member of the family. The entire wardrobe (undergarments, shoes, socks, clothes, belts, coat, etc.) must be replaced. Develop a budget listing items and approximate costs.

