



## Introduction to the 4-H Back Pack Literacy Program



Before you begin the program please review the recommended book list found in this section. These books cover the ten areas discussed in the back packs. The areas that are being studied are Cultural Arts, Dinosaurs, Entomology (Bugs), Foods and Nutrition, Life on the Farm, Oceans, Science, Engineering and Technology, Self Esteem, Skateboarding, and Space. As you become more involved in the Literacy back pack program, please feel free to add additional books as this will keep the program fresh and new for the young people using the materials.

In addition you will find suggestions on how to put the back packs together for a more successful experience. Be sure to read the recommendations thoroughly before downloading the activities and purchasing the required books and support materials. If you have any questions please contact, the Sonoma County 4-H office at (707) 565-2681 or my email at [elconklinginop@ucdavis.edu](mailto:elconklinginop@ucdavis.edu).

Please return all evaluation materials to the Sonoma County University of California Cooperative Extension 4-H Office at 133 Aviation Blvd. Suite 109, Santa Rosa, California, 95403. Phone: 707 565-2681. We are compiling the results to further advance the back pack project goals of 1) improving reading skills, and 2) promoting family time. Your help in this project is greatly appreciated.





## Tips For putting 4-H Family Back Pack Together



When putting together back packs for the literacy program here are the some tips to help make the back packs be successful.

- 📖 Canvas back packs endure for longer periods. Avoid plastic back packs if possible.
- 📖 Use luggage tags to label the back backs. Include the name of the subject area and the name and phone number of the after school site.
- 📖 Use "two pocket folders" with medal clasps to hold materials. Label one side of the folder for "return materials" such as parent surveys, game parts etc. which will need to be reused. Use the other side for handouts the family can "keep" such as coloring sheets, patterns etc.
- 📖 Use 1" binders instead of folders to hold activities sheets when the subject area contains extra materials. Over time, paper folders do tear and rip.
- 📖 Purchase or seek donations for books on the reading list. Consider asking for donations from your local 4-H Club and Service groups.
- 📖 Add additional books related to the back pack topics to the back backs as the year goes on. Having a variety to meet ages K-5th grade is important. Check with you local county office of education, curriculum department, for suggested book selections.
- 📖 Add additional items related to the subject area back packs to supplement your materials. For example, in the Cultural Arts Back Pack, one of the activities requires sharing a recipe. Include a recipe box in the back pack along with the recipe cards to encourage this activity. Also include puzzles, games, plastic educational toys, play dough, musical instruments etc.
- 📖 Feel free to share new activity ideas. If you would like to see an activity or new back pack subject matter area included on the web site, please send it to [elconklinginop@ucdavis.edu](mailto:elconklinginop@ucdavis.edu). Be sure all activities have been tested with youth before sending them on to be included on the web site. Include your name and email to have them posted with your activity contribution.
- 📖 Be sure and purchase or have donated journals for each back pack. Having parents record their experience is instrumental in collecting feedback on the success of the program. Send completed Journal to the Sonoma County UCCE 4-H office for data collection.
- 📖 Be sure and down load the *Family Back Pack Activities Survey* for families to fill out and return them to the UCCE 4-H office for data collection.