



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Leathercraft

Project units are designed for members 8-18 years old.



Units 1 - Introduction Leathercraft and Stamping

Inspiring youth to:

- Learn the history, sources, structures, tanning techniques, and definitions related to leathercraft
- Learn to prepare leather for stamping, create a design and use stamping tools
- Learn basic methods of lacing and stitching
- Learn basic leather finishing
- Keep accurate records of costs and skills

Unit 2 - Beginning Leather Carving

Inspiring youth to:

- Practice skills learned in Unit 1
- Learn traditional carving
- Learn use of a swivel knife, camouflage tool, pear shader, beveler and veiner, seeder, backgrounder, and decorative cuts
- Learn double loop lacing

Unit 3 - Intermediate Leather Carving

Inspiring youth to:

- Practice skills learned in previous units
- Learn the major skills: traditional carving, inverted carving, or silhouette carving techniques
- Learn to use clear finish, staining/antiquing, two tone finishes, and background dyeing
- Learn more skills for lacing and hand stitching

Unit 4 - Advanced Leather Carving

Inspiring youth to:

- Advance your skills in advanced traditional carving, figure carving, pictorial carving, decorative swivel knife carving, embossing or filagree work
- Learn more about dyeing, color shading, antique/stain, and finishing techniques



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Unit 5 - Advanced Stamping

Inspiring youth to:

- Practice skills learned in previous units
- Learn about advanced stamping design with minimal carving
- Learn about dyeing, color shading, antique/stain, and finishing techniques

Unit 6 - Sewing Leather

Inspiring youth to:

- Learn sewing construction skills
- Learn more about hand sewing or machine sewing techniques

Unit 7 - Braiding and Un-Tooled Leather

Inspiring youth to:

- Learn more about un-tooled leather using one or more of these leather art techniques: lacing, braiding, expanding, sculpting, or molding leather.

Unit 8 - Master Leathercraft (This is an advanced unit.)

Inspiring youth to:

- Advance skills learned in previous units
- Learn to apply multiple techniques (two or more) with skill in a single advanced project

Unit 9 - Making and Rebuilding Saddles (This is an advanced unit.)

Inspiring youth to:

- Advance skills learned in previous units
- Apply techniques to a completed saddle (a new build or rebuild of existing saddle)
- You will need to find additional resources to help you with this project



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Tips:

- It is suggested (not required) to do Units 1-3 in order. Units 4-9 may be taken in any order, and members may exhibit in more than one unit, provided the member is enrolled in and has completed the requirements of each of the units. The primary skill being developed (the new technique you're learning) in the project will help determine which unit to exhibit in.
- You can re-enroll in the same unit, as long as your exhibit shows new skills learned.
- Pictorial carvings are pictures and figure carvings are realistic animal and human figures.
- Put your name, age, and county on the back of your exhibit board or individual exhibit.
- Indicate in your e-record whether articles are made from a kit or are self-cut and designed by the member.
- A set means a collection of items considered together and usually having something in common, such as six matching coasters or a belt and buckle with matching designs.
- It is recommended that you practice techniques on a scrap piece of leather before working on your final project.



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Resources:

- Exhibit & Judging Requirements
- Record Books
- Manual Information

Located at: Colorado4h.org

Leathercraft Industry Careers



Saddle/Tack Maker or Repair

Someone who custom builds and/or repairs tack or saddles



Leather Smith

Creates various products such as furniture, hand bags, auto upholstery, & personal accessories from leather



Leather Trader

Works with the leather supply chain



Sales

Assist customers with their purchases based on experience and knowledge of the trade



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Educational Pursuits:

Apprenticeships
Alden's School of Leather Traders
Business/Marketing Degree
Elktracks Studio - Leathercraft
Instructional Resources



Business

Manage individual businesses to sell leather products



Leather Cutter

A leather cutter works with a variety of materials to layout, mark, and trim a pattern for articles such as furniture or garments



Boot or Shoe Maker

Designing, making, and/or repairing boots and shoes with leather



Leather Designer

Utilizing different techniques to design and market new leather products