2017 Taos Wool Festival

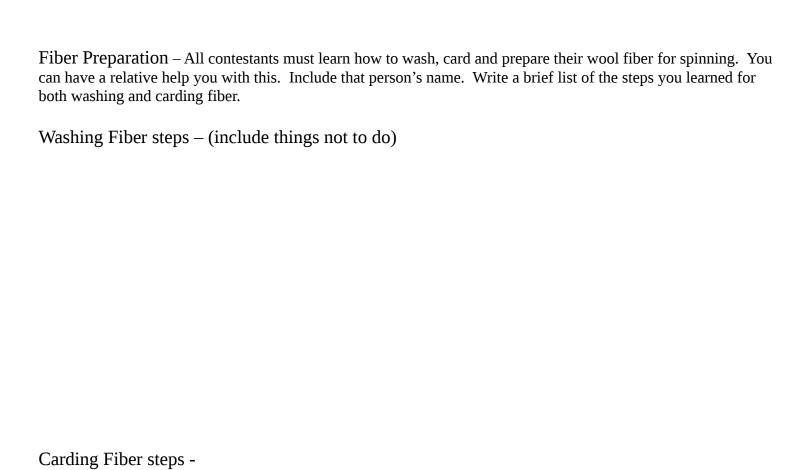# Youth Fiber to Fabric Project Booklet

Name_____ **Age**_____

Address_____

_____

Shearing Day – All contestants must watch a fiber animal shearing. It can be a family event, a scheduled shearing event, or a demo at a show or festival. (You do not have to shear an animal yourself, but it is fine if you do). We can help arrange a shearing event if you need. Call or email to get information about scheduled shearings in your area.

Write 2 paragraphs about what you saw, and what you learned. Include pictures of you at the shearing.

Local Fiber – All contestants must use local <u>wool</u> fiber for this year's project. We have a list of local producers who are willing to provide fiber at a reduced cost for the project.   Family grown fiber is fine. Please list where your fiber came from. Again add pictures if you can. If you buy fiber, include a receipt, and write a paragraph or 2 about the kind of fiber you are using. What kind of sheep it comes from, and what you have learned about the best uses for this type of fiber. If you are not sure about the type of sheep, get a picture of it, and we will help you.

Fiber Preparation – All contestants must learn how to wash, card and prepare their wool fiber for spinning. You can have a relative help you with this. Include that person's name. Write a brief list of the steps you learned for both washing and carding fiber.

Washing Fiber steps – (include things not to do)

Carding Fiber steps -

Spinning Classes – All contestants must learn to spin wool into a single strand yarn using a spindle or wheel. A relative can teach you to spin or you can learn at a class. We can arrange spinning classes if needed, but you must contact us to make arrangements. If you already know how to spin, tell us when and where you learned.

Write a few paragraphs about learning to spin. What did it feel like, how long did it take, and what you learned about spinning fiber. Include pictures of you learning. Include a 1 oz sample skein of your first yarn.

Knitting – All participants must learn to knit yarn for this year's project. We have found a simple knitted scarf pattern that you must use for the final project. You may learn and use other techniques if you want, like dying, using beads, plying etc. For your final project you must use the knitted scarf pattern that we have included here. You must also learn to block your scarf. Please contact us if you need help with any of these steps, so we can arrange a lesson.

You may attend knitting classes, or you may have a relative or friend teach you.
Include the date of your knitting class _____
Who taught you _____

Write a paragraph or 2 about learning to knit. How long did it take? What do you like the most? Include pictures of you knitting

Materials

Spin a yarn that will wear comfortably against your bare neck that knits up at 4.5 sts per inch on US 8 needles. One 123-yard skein will produce the scarf you see here, which measures 4 x 45 inches.

The yarn's recommended needle size is US 8, but I wanted the stitches to have plenty of room so I bumped my needle size up to US 9. Fortunately you don't need to be too obsessed with gauge since this will only wrap around your neck.

Cast on 22 stitches and knit 2 rows.
Now you're ready to begin the lace pattern, which is as follows.

Row 1: (RS): K all sts.
Row 2: K2, p18, k2. (Those 2 border stitches on either end will always be knit in garter stitch—their role is to keep your fabric from curling.)
Row 3: K2, (K2Tog) 3 times, (YO,K1) 6 times, (K2Tog) 3 times, k2.
Row 4: K all sts.

Repeat rows 1 through 4 until you've reached your desired scarf length or run out of yarn, whichever comes first. End by completing Row 4, and then knit 1 more row and bind off all sts.
Finishing: Darn in any ends and fill a sink with lukewarm water and add a gentle detergent. Drop your scarf into the water and gently squeeze it until the water has fully saturated the fibers. Gather the scarf together, lift it out of the sink, drain the water, re-fill it with lukewarm water, lower the scarf back in the water, and gently squeeze. Repeat this process until the rinse water runs clear. Then blot the scarf dry in a towel and lay it out to shape. If you're using a finer, lace-weight yarn you'll want to use pins to help open up the fabric to its desired shape.

Note: The knit stitches on row 4 (a wrong-side row) produce a garter stitch-like effect. If you'd rather have a totally smooth surface for your pattern, you can opt to purl that row (as shown in the picture at left). If you do so, prepare for extra blocking to keep your scarf from curling in on itself.

Local Fiber Contest

All participants must enter their project at their local county fair or a local fiber show.   You must enter part or all of your project. (That means a skein of yarn, the scarf or both) You may enter at more than one show if you wish, and you may enter as 4H or open class.

Include pictures of your entry on display. Include any ribbons or placings that you get for you entry. We will give equal point credit for any ribbon placing you earn, but you may earn extra credit by entering at more festivals. Please include any entry forms that are filled out for your entry.

Local fiber contests will include any local County Fairs, State Fairs, Estes Wool Market. Email me if you have any questions about a festival in your area.

The Final Project Display at the Wool Festival at Taos 2017

The final project must be entered at the 2017 **Wool Festival at Taos** in Taos New Mexico, the first full weekend of October 2017. Entries MUST be entered on Friday afternoon between 1 and 4pm, or Saturday morning, by no later than 9:00 am.   Judging will begin at 9:30 am sharp, and no entries will be allowed once judging has begun. If this will be a problem, contact us, and we can try to arrange for transportation of the project. You may send your completed - ready to display project in by mail, but it must include return postage.

<u>Face to Face Meeting with the Project Judge</u>,
1. Either via Skype (if you are unable to attend the festival in person)
    Or
2. In Person at the festival itself on Saturday morning.

Project Display – (Please label all parts separately)
Your display should include samples of
    2 oz raw fiber,
    2 oz washed and carded fiber
    a 1 oz skein of single ply yarn
    A sample Knitted item or handspun yarn entered at another fiber festival or state fair.
    the finished/blocked knitted scarf
    Your finished project booklet
 Display the project in a basket or similar container.