

February, 1923

Bulletin No. 199-A

Colorado Agricultural College
EXTENSION SERVICE
Fort Collins, Colorado

CLOTHING CLUBS
THEIR ORGANIZATION AND PLANS
OF WORK

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CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME
ECONOMICS—U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COLO-
RADO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE CO-OPERATING

Distributed in Furtherance of Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914

The purpose of this leaflet is to outline the organization of clothing clubs and give plans for carrying on their work.

CLOTHING CLUBS

THEIR ORGANIZATION AND PLANS OF WORK

Local Leader.—The most essential element in a successful club of any project is the local leader. Upon the leader depends the success or failure of the club. It is her personality, intelligence and leadership that win the confidence of the club members and their parents. It is through her that the County Extension Agent and the State Extension workers can reach the club members. Therefore, a club should not be organized unless a local leader is first designated. The local clothing club leader need not be an expert in sewing or hat making but she should know good sewing and be able to impart this knowledge.

Club Members.—Club members should be selected who wish to make a demonstration of good methods of clothing. These members must be between the ages of ten and eighteen years. It is required, in order to have a **standard club**, that there be five members working on the same project. There are, however, many clubs in Colorado doing excellent work that do not measure up to the requirements of a standard club.

The Club.—When the club members and local leader have been chosen, the club should elect officers from among the members. A constitution and by-laws should be adopted. A suggestive constitution is given herewith:

SUGGESTIVE CONSTITUTION

Name: This club shall be known as the _____
Sewing Club.

Purpose: The purposes of the club shall be: (1) To acquire a better understanding of the principles of sewing; (2) to help in caring for the clothing of the family; (3) to make simple and appropriate garments.

Membership: Any girl between the ages of 10 and 18, inclusive, by signing the membership roll may become a member.

Dues: Members shall pay no dues except such as may be mutually agreed upon.

Duties: Each member shall study all lessons received from the State Agricultural College and do the required work in sewing; attend club meetings regularly and furnish reports of work done.

Officers: The officers of the club shall be a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary-Treasurer.

Exhibits: At a time to be determined by the leaders, members will be expected to make an exhibit of sewing at a local or a county fair; proper instructions will be given each member and prizes may be offered by the local community or fair association.

The club should, at this time or previously, decide upon a program of work for the year by selecting their demonstration work. The County Extension Agent should be notified of this selection on cards supplied by him. All members of the club must select the same demonstration so that the entire club will be working on the same garments. Girls of different ages and abilities may form two separate clubs. These two clubs may work at the same time under the same leader.

The County Extension Agent will then send to the State Extension Service for the required bulletins. Each club member will receive the Sewing Handbook and the bulletins of the demonstrations selected by the club.

Meetings.—It is well for the club to organize on a permanent plan and to continue in existence for several years, completing certain demonstrations each year. There should be an annual meeting at which time the officers should be elected and the work for the succeeding year planned.

The frequency of meetings will be determined by the number of months of the year that the club plans to work, the number of demonstration problems to be undertaken, and also the rapidity with which the members are able to complete this work.

The meetings should always include—

1. A business meeting
2. A period of work
3. A social hour for games and songs.

The meetings may take the form of tours, picnics and other variations frequently enough to keep the interest but not so often that the object of the club be lost.

All of the sewing work should be closely supervised by the local leader, though some of the work may well be done at home during the interval between meetings.

Records.—Record books are furnished for the work and each leader should carefully instruct her club members in the keeping of these records. The record should be kept in full and will form a part of the exhibit of each year's work.

Team Demonstrations.—The public team demonstration is really the "show window" of club work. It is the best method of securing community interest and community knowledge of certain good practices. The team should develop the subject matter of their demonstration with the community in mind. While the contest is a feature at the County and State Fairs, the most successful demonstration is the one which succeeds in putting a good practice into use in the community. A demonstration team that can accomplish this is usually the successful team in a contest.

Many demonstrations of simple practices should be given frequently by two or three club members for the other members of the club. In this manner good demonstrators are developed and much originality asserts itself. It is hoped that each club will develop some very original demonstrations. During the working season, suggestive plans for demonstration-team work will be sent to each leader.

Judging.—The club members should have the practice of scoring and judging all of the work done by the club. This judging may take the form of a contest or it may be used as a club meeting program preceding the final judging at a fair. By this method club members will learn to determine relative values of the work accomplished.

Requirements.—A clothing club, to function well, should be of value to the entire community as well as to the individual club members. Many times in forming a club, the only thought of the member is "What can I learn?" or "I will have a new dress if I join the club." In selecting the demonstrations to be used as the program of work, the clothing problems of the entire community should be considered and thoroughly discussed before the choice is made.

The Colorado Clothing Club material is arranged in the form of bulletins. Those available at present are:

- (1) Simple Articles for Clothing and for Household Use
- (2) Undergarments—Simple and Suitable Types
- (3) Textiles and Care of Clothing
- (4) Dresses
- (5) Remodeling
- (6) Hat making
- (7) Clothing accounts

The Sewing Handbook gives the foundation work for all of the sewing and is the basis for all of the other bulletins. The details of construction are not given in the individual bulletins. The club member should refer constantly to the Sewing Handbook for methods of making all articles or garments suggested as demonstration work.

The work is not graded except that a club composed of members who have not previously done sewing, must choose demonstration problem number one: "Simple Articles for Clothing and Household Use." If the members complete this required work and wish to continue for a longer period they may choose some of the other demonstration problems.

Following this work in the first bulletin, the club may choose from the other demonstrations. If the club girls are older than fourteen or have had experience in sewing, the club may make the choice of the demonstrations.

A year's work shall consist of at least three of the demonstration problems and shall be as follows:

If "Undergarments" are chosen, then at least two garments must be made. The club may make two different garments each year for several years as a large choice is given.

"Care of Clothing" shall be demonstrated by each club member in her home care of her clothes. Textile discussion given in this demonstration, gives the club members much information and experience needed in selecting materials for clothing.

When "The Dress" is selected as the club demonstration problem, each club member must complete at least one dress during the season.

The "Remodeling" demonstration problem requires the cutting over and the remaking of a garment.

In the "Hat Making" each club member is to make at least one hat.

"Clothing Accounts" will give to those using it as their demonstration, the relative values to be given to various articles of clothing.

Exhibits.—Each club member shall exhibit all of the articles or garments made in the season's work.

The garments should be kept clean during the making so that laundering is not required.

When preparing garments for exhibition, they should be carefully pressed, folded neatly and pinned.

Requirements for a year's work.—1. Complete all demonstration projects undertaken.

2. Make an exhibit.

3. Keep a record.