



The \$15 Challenge Q & A

The \$15 Challenge Rules

The \$15 Challenge category is designed to expand the 4-H'ers shopping experience to include different shopping venues. Outfits **must** be purchased at a garage sale, consignment store, Goodwill, Salvation Army, or similar place of business.

Please Note: Hand-me-downs and gifts of clothing belong in **Clothing Selection** IF the 4-H'er actually selected the item(s).

Clothing selection category examples can be found in 6-N *Clothing Event Judges Orientation* located in the Iowa State Fair 4-H Handbook at

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/iowa-state-fair-4-h-handbook>.

The \$15 Challenge Q & A

Each year similar questions arise regarding The \$15 Challenge category. The questions have primarily been about item C indicated below. Please note the venues for shopping for The \$15 Challenge are different than traditional retail stores in that the venues are to emphasize recycling, reducing, and reusing.

The following are rules for The \$15 Challenge:

All participants (male or female) to qualify for participation in The \$15 Challenge at the Iowa State Fair 4-H Awardrobe Clothing Event must:

- a. Purchase an outfit that represents the 4-H'ers' intended use for the selected outfit.
- b. Have individual or county experience(s) in choosing shopping alternatives; evaluating fit, quality and construction features; and cost comparison.
- c. Select and purchase outfits from a garage sale, consignment store, or resale shop including Goodwill, Salvation Army, or other stores of this type. (Garage sale "free box" items would qualify.)
- d. Cost of outfit must be \$15 or less, not including shoes, accessories, or undergarments.
- e. Receipt(s) **MUST** be included with the report form. Failure to provide receipts or sales slips will result in loss of points.

The following are additional questions and answers about The \$15 Challenge :

Q: Can a 4-H'er attend the Iowa State Fair 4-H Awardrobe Clothing Event more than one year in The \$15 Challenge category?

A: No. Similar to Clothing Selection, an individual can participate only once in The \$15 Challenge category.

Q: Can a 4-H'er use an outfit purchased during a store's Crazy Days or Sidewalk Sale days or Walmart in The \$15 Challenge?

A: No. The spirit and intent of The \$15 Challenge category is to shop at different "venues". Oftentimes garments with tags still attached show up at consignment stores, Goodwill,

Salvation Army, and garage sales. We encourage young people to expand their shopping horizons by being thrifty and to “go green” by recycling and reusing clothing and therefore reducing clothing materials tossed in landfills.

Please note: An outfit purchased at the retail stores listed in the original question would belong in the Clothing Selection category.

Q: How can a 4-H'er obtain a receipt at a garage sale when receipts aren't provided?

A: A receipt can be a piece of paper with the date, price, and the names of the seller and buyer. If one piece of an outfit is purchased at a garage sale and another piece is purchased at a Goodwill store, two receipts are required.

Q: Can 4-H'ers use the Internet to purchase outfits for The \$15 Challenge?

A: Yes and no! Remember the spirit and intent of The \$15 Challenge. Individuals can purchase an outfit on eBay, but not gap.com.

Q: If eBay is used, is shipping included in the \$15 limit?

A: No. The cost of gas is not included when shopping at garage sales, consignment stores etc., so shipping is not included in the \$15 limit when items are purchased online.

Q: Is tax included in The \$15 Challenge limit?

A: Yes. It's the price paid at the cash register/time of checkout. However, garage sales, Goodwill and Salvation Army type stores do not charge tax.

Q: If a garment is found in the “free box” at a garage sale, does the 4-H'er list zero as the cost?

A: Yes. “Extra points” are not given by judges if an item is obtained at no-cost. As long as an outfit is \$15 or under, all outfits are judged the same.

Q: The \$15 Challenge rules read “an outfit”. Is an outfit a top and bottom or would a pants and jacket also count as an outfit?

A: An outfit is a top and bottom or a dress. Jackets can be an additional piece, but for judging purposes, the only way a jacket would count is if it can be worn with the skirt or pants without a top of some kind.

Q: If a garment is a hand-me-down or gifted to the 4-H'er, can it be used for The \$15 Challenge?

A: No. The purpose of The \$15 Challenge is to encourage 4-H'ers to shop at different venues including garage sales, consignment stores, Goodwill, and Salvation Army type stores. If the outfit was a hand-me-down or gifted to the 4-H'er they would not have had that experience. However, if the 4-H'er actually made the selection, it could be used in the Clothing Selection category.

Q: What are other examples of outfits that should be included in Clothing Selection?

A: An outfit purchased at a department store, boutique, or online vendor with no price restrictions. Other examples include garments purchased at a garage sale, consignment shop, or Goodwill or Salvation Army store with no price restrictions. Additional examples include garments purchased at sidewalk sales or end of season sales at retail shops or malls with no price restrictions and garments that were a gift or a hand-me-down **IF** the 4H'er

actually selected the item(s) or an outfit selected from a relative's closet **IF** the 4-H'er selected the outfit.

Q: Do 4-H'ers participating in the Clothing Event have to be enrolled in the clothing project?

A: Yes and no. Yes, for participation in Fashion Revue (constructed garment) and no for Clothing Selection and The \$15 Challenge. However, all have to participate in an individual or county planned educational experience. This experience is often the county clothing event.

Q: How is the "total cost" calculated for The \$15 Challenge? On the state FR/CS Participant Form, page 7, is "list purchased garment costs and accessories cost and then ADD these costs to get the Total Cost" so anything listed in those two columns would be calculated for the total cost of a Clothing Selection or The \$15 Challenge outfit. Is that correct?

A: The "total cost" portion of the entire outfit includes shoes, accessories, special clothing needed (like strapless bra), etc. The purpose of this section is to illustrate how the cost of an outfit is more than the cost of one or two individual garments. So, while the cost of the top and bottom or a dress might be \$15 or less, when the shoes and accessories are added it will be more than \$15 and that's okay! Remember The \$15 Challenge does not include shoes or accessories.

Q: Can a 4-H'er make alterations to a garment they want to enter in The \$15 Challenge like substantially shorten a skirt from floor to knee, shorten long sleeves to short sleeves, or make multiple minor alterations?

A: Yes, alterations may be made. There is a place on the Participant Form to include alterations/modifications or embellishments. This is similar to the Clothing Selection portion of the program and we encourage alterations to achieve good fit.

PLEASE publicize the information contained in this document and the links below when speaking about the Iowa State Fair 4-H Awardrobe Clothing Event with volunteers, youth, and parents so everyone is on the same page.

STAFF / JUDGES / PUBLIC

4-H Iowa State Fair Handbook www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/iowa-state-fair-4-h-handbook > Family Consumer Science (Home Economics) > [6-G Clothing Event](#) > www.extension.iastate.edu/4hfiles/statefair/SFDocuments/SF6GCLothingEventEligibilityRequirements.pdf