

# 4-H Sewing Box Evaluation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Items required: \_\_\_\_\_ 10 pts each

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hand-sewing needles**- come in many types and sizes, generally sizes 5 to 10. A needle should be appropriate for the kind of fabric and thread you will be sewing. The needle should be small enough to slip through the fabric easily and fill the hole with thread. "Sharps" and "embroidery/crewel" needles are two kinds of needles used for hand sewing. Sharps have round eyes to keep the thread from slipping out. Embroidery needles have long slender eyes for easy threading.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Thimble**- used to protect the end of your finger when pushing a needle through the fabric. Thimbles come in different sizes to fit the middle finger. They may feel awkward at first, but soon you will be able to sew faster, especially on tightly woven fabrics.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Shears**- should be bent-handled to help you cut better. They have longer, stronger blades than scissors. Shears should be sharp. They should open and close easily in your hand and be comfortable to use. The blades of better-quality shears will be joined with a screw. Always keep shears closed when you are not using them. Wipe the lint off the blades with a clean cloth. Occasionally, put a drop of sewing machine oil near the screw, then wipe away the extra oil. Use shears only to cut fabric. Use other shears or scissors for cutting paper, plastic, or other things.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Seam ripper**- has a curved blade with a sharp point in a handle and a cover. It's used to cut every second or third stitch when ripping a seam.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tape measure**- should bend easily, but not stretch. They often are made of plastic-coated cloth and have metal tips on the ends. The numbers should be on both sides.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Thread**- use a good quality sewing thread, and include black, white, and colors you have used. Always re-wrap and secure thread ends to prevent loose threads in your sewing box.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Pins**- a pin's size refers to how many sixteenths of an inch long it is. A size 7 pin is 7/16 inches long. Pins may be marked for how thick they are, most are .5 millimeters or .6 millimeters. Silk pins are fine, thin, and extra sharp, and they work well on lightweight to medium-weight fabrics. Other pins are available that have colored heads, are longer and finer, or are ball-point for use on knits. Select the correct type of pin for the fabric.

## Recommended Items: \_\_\_\_\_ 10 pts each

\_\_\_\_\_ **Machine needles**- Be sure to always use the correct size and type for the fabric.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Needle threader**- looks like a flat piece of metal with a looped tail of wire. It is used to help thread a needle. You slip the wire through the needle's eye. Next, slip the thread through the wire loop. Then, pull on the metal part of the threader to pull the wire loop back through the needle, and the needle is threaded for you.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Small scissors**- use to cut threads.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Seam Gauge**- small tool used to check widths of seams and hems. They are measuring devices that look like skinny rulers with a slide on the sides. Seam gauges are available marked with both inches and centimeters.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Pin cushion**- this can be a wrist type, a tomato type, and some are magnetic and may stick to the machine. Use the type you find convenient.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chalk and/or Water-Soluble Pen**- always pretest chalk and pen on a fabric scrap to make sure it will come off and will not stain. Use to make construction markings on your fabric after cutting out the pattern.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Pressing cloth**- is used to protect your fabric when pressing during construction.

Box is neat, well-organized, and suitable for storage.

**Total Points** \_\_\_\_\_ White 35 pts or less  
Red 36-70 pts  
Blue -71-150 pts