



Evaluating 4-H Personal Development Exhibits

The Personal Development Department is designed to allow 4-H'ers to demonstrate knowledge and skills gained through personal development project/program participation. The department encompasses nine project areas so exhibits may convey a wide range of concepts and ideas. This department allows youth to create an exhibits illustrating an idea or a product that demonstrates their learnings.

A. General objectives of Personal Development program/programs

1. Develop personal skills in the areas of decision making, communication, leadership, citizenship, learning to learn, coping with change, and enhancing positive self esteem.
2. Help members to understand the rights and responsibilities of membership within the family, neighborhood, community, state, nation and world, and develop a willingness to assume them.
3. Explore career, job and productive leisure opportunities.

Note: Individual project/programs within the Personal Development category have more specific objectives. See project guidelines for more information.

B. Trends and emphasis in Personal Development programs

1. 4-H'ers are being encouraged to explore concepts that relate to their projects which may have traditionally fallen in another project area.
2. Continued emphasis on identification of goals by members, related to the individual and family needs, interests and resources.
3. The emphasis is on continued project learning and growth. The exhibit emerges from the 4-H'ers goal identified at the beginning of the 4-H year. The exhibit is the result of need and interest by the 4-H'er rather than a selection based on the fair list.

C. Special evaluation considerations

1. In some cases youth will exhibit something that is an outgrowth of a Personal Development project which may more closely reflect the subject matter expertise of another judge, i.e., communication idea that describes nutrition and exercise information. When this occurs, you may wish to request that another judge provides consultation.