

4-H Exhibit Judging Day

All 4-H non-livestock exhibits will be judged on Wednesday, July 9. Cherokee County 4-H uses a judging process called Conference Judging. Conference Judging is visiting with the judge about your exhibit. Conference Judging is meant to be an educational experience for the 4-H'er. The 4-H'er is practicing communication and interview skills that they will use in the future.

Judging Criteria

4-H exhibits are judged on three major criteria: the learning involved, the workmanship and techniques used, and the general appearance and design. All three of these criteria are taken into account when the judge assigns a ribbon placing. Following is a breakdown of what is involved in the three criteria.

- **Learning Involved:** The judge will ask the 4-H'er about their exhibit goal. What was your goal or purpose in creating this exhibit? The exhibit goal is what the 4-H'er wanted to accomplish by creating this exhibit. The judge will ask what the 4-H'er learned while creating the exhibit. The 4-H'er should have learned something new about themselves and about the exhibit.
- **Workmanship and Technique:** The judge will ask the 4-H'er about how the exhibit was created. What techniques were used? The judge will make sure that proper techniques were used in the creation of the exhibit.
- **General Appearance and Design:** The judge will look at the exhibit to see if it looks good. Did the 4-H'er create a neat and attractive exhibit?

Exhibit Evaluation Cards

In order to assist 4-H'ers in the conference judging experience, the Extension Office provides Exhibit Evaluation Cards or sheets. The 4-H'er does not need to complete an Exhibit Evaluation card for their exhibits. However, a written or recorded explanation is needed for any exhibit that is considered for the Iowa State Fair. The Extension Office also encourages the use of an Exhibit Evaluation Card or sheet in order for 4-H'ers to collect their thoughts. The card gives the 4-H'er a "cheat sheet" to use when talking to the judge. Most of the questions asked by the judge are on the card. If the 4-H'er fills out the card, they have their answers in front of them during the judging.

Exhibit Evaluation cards or sheets contain the following four questions on the front.

- What was your goal(s)?
- How did you go about working toward your goal(s)?
- What were the most important things you learned as you worked toward your goal(s)?
- What would you like to do in this project area next year?

On the back of the Exhibit Evaluation Card is a list of the 5 Design Elements and 5 Art Principles (Principles of Design). Some fair departments require 4-H'ers to identify the Design Elements and Principles used while creating their exhibit. Materials explaining the Design Elements and Principles are available from your club leader and also from the Cherokee County Extension Office.

The sentence at the bottom of the back of the Exhibit Evaluation card, "I decided to make this exhibit after:" gives the 4-H'er a chance to think about where they got the idea for the exhibit. 4-H'ers need to be aware of where their exhibit ideas come from. Since the Fair is a public display of 4-H'ers exhibits, all 4-H exhibits must follow copyright laws. The Cherokee County Extension Office has material available on copyright laws.

Before 4-H Exhibit Judging Day

There are some things that need to be done before the 4-H Exhibit Judging Day. ***4-H'ers and parents need to carefully read the rules for any department or class that you will enter.*** Fair books can be received from your club leaders. Each 4-H family will receive one fair book. The fair book is also available online at www.extension.iastate.edu/cherokee/kidsteens.htm. Read it carefully!

4-H'ers need to complete the following forms before 4-H Exhibit Judging Day. All forms can be obtained from club leaders or the Cherokee County Extension Office.

- 4-H Fair Entry Form - List 4-H exhibits on this form in the proper classes. Club leaders will help do this during the Club Achievement Show before the Fair. The leader will keep this form until judging day. On judging day, the leader will give the 4-H'er the form. As the 4-H'er goes to the various judges to have their exhibits judged, the judge or judge's assistant will mark the ribbon placing next to each exhibit. After all of a 4-H'ers' exhibits are judged, this form will be turned in to the 4-H Fair Office and they will receive their premium money from the Cherokee County Fair Board.
- Exhibit Evaluation Card or the equivalent – This is not necessary unless a 4-H'er wants the exhibit to be considered for the Iowa State Fair. This card will help during the judging process.
- Photography Exhibit Labels - This form must be completed for each photography exhibit that is exhibited at the fair.
- Poster Exhibit Entry Form - Complete and attach this form for each poster exhibit that is exhibited at the fair.
- Food Preservation Label - Complete and attach this label to the can or jar.

During 4-H Exhibit Judging Day

4-H'ers need to check in with their club leader. They will receive their Fair Entry Form from their leader. Exhibits will be judged in the North 4-H Building. Tables will be set up throughout the building for the different project areas. Wait by the outside doors until a judge in that project area is ready to judge a new exhibit. There will be at least one judge in each Fair Department. Be patient. Some departments have many exhibits to judge.

If the judge feels that the exhibit is an Outstanding Junior Exhibit or should be considered for the State Fair, they will keep the exhibit. If the judge does not keep the exhibit, it will be displayed in a club booth in the South 4-H Building. A leader or a parent will be there to arrange the exhibits in the club booth.

Once all of a 4-H'er's exhibits have been judged, they can go to the 4-H Fair Office window at the north end of the North 4-H Building and receive their fair premium money. They will be asked to sign for it.

Part of all Food and Nutrition exhibits will be sold at the 4-H Bake Sale. If a 4-H'er has a Food and Nutrition exhibit, please take it to the 4-H Bake Sale table in the South 4-H Building. The money raised from this sale is used to give to 4-H'ers who have Food exhibits chosen for the State Fair.

After 4-H Exhibit Judging Day

4-H exhibits can be picked up on Sunday, July 13 between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. at club booths in the South 4-H Building. If exhibits are removed early, the 4-H'er will forfeit 4-H Foundation premiums and lose State Fair eligibility.