



4-H WOODWORKING EXHIBITS



Judges will use the criteria outlined in this tip sheet to **evaluate woodworking exhibits** that represent a **constructed, repaired, or restored item**.

Does the above description not quite fit your project?

If your exhibit is **intended to inform** its audience about a woodworking topic—use the **Poster Exhibits Tip Sheet**.

If your exhibit **represents an engineering solution** to a problem—use the **Engineering Exhibit Tip Sheet**.

If your exhibit **represents a scientific investigation** of a question—use the **Scientific Investigation Tip Sheet**.

If your exhibit **uses technology** to accomplish a task or render a service—use the **Using Technology Tip Sheet**.

What's the judge looking for?

For all exhibits, be prepared to explain:

- 1) What did you plan to learn or do? (What was your exhibit goal(s)?)
- 2) What steps did you take to learn or do this? Explain what you wanted to do so it is easily understood. The judge wants to know and understand the steps you used to make your exhibit.
- 3) What were the most important things you learned?

If your exhibit is a constructed, repaired, or restored item, the judge will use the following criteria to evaluate your woodworking exhibit.

All woodworking projects should include the following:

- Explanation of the project and the steps and variety of techniques used
- Record of work done during the year
- Product shows use of appropriate tools, joinery, and finishes
- Choices of materials is appropriate and indicates understanding of material characteristics
- Construction is solid
- Construction is square and joints close and are solid
- Finish is smooth
- Joints fit snugly and are assembled with even edges and uniform overlap
- Fasteners and hardware are used correctly
- Product is capable and serviceable

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER



As you become more advanced in your woodworking skills, judges look for the following:

- Product shows variety in use of tools, joinery, and finishes
- Construction demonstrates uniformity and skill in measuring, cutting, surfacing, and joining
- Joints are durable and show skill in joinery
- Nail, screws, and bolt heads should be appropriate to the piece and flush with the wood
- Project is clean and free from glue stains and residue
- Finish is attractive, even, and match the intended use for product
- Fasteners and hardware contribute to product appearance and style
- Angles and lines are sharp and uniform

Complex woodworking projects should demonstrate:

- Originality and creativity
- Complexity requiring many woodworking skills
- Product is free of pencil marks, chipping, dents, uncut fibers, hammer marks, splits and planer or sanding marks
- Any woodcarving indicates knife control through clean uniform cuts
- Finish should be uniform and free of blemishes such as dust, specks, brush bristles, runs, and sags
- Product will function well and is attractive and well proportioned given its intended use
- Product gives the overall appearance of being well-made