



## **EVALUATE, EDUCATE, ENCOURAGE 4-H CONFERENCE EXHIBIT JUDGING**

Exhibiting at fairs has traditionally been an important part of a 4-H'er's project learning experience. Fair judges are part of the team that plays a key role in the 4-H'er's learning process during the year.

Judges have responsibility during the conference exhibit evaluation to: **Evaluate, Educate, and Encourage.** This can be accomplished by gathering information from and sharing information with the 4-H'er.

### **Evaluate**

- Be a good listener!!!
- Help them evaluate their efforts.
- Be sure to ask questions that require more than a yes or no answer.
- Carefully review their goal for the exhibit and what they learned achieving their goal.
- Critique the exhibit in relationship to the standards appropriate for that exhibit, the age and experience of the young person.
- Use a balance between goals, standards, and factors the exhibitor can control.
- Determine a ribbon rating based on the information (written/oral) and the exhibit as it is presented to you that day.

### **Educate**

- Be knowledgeable in subject matter with up-to-date information.
- Help young people learn and learn from the young people.
- If knowledgeable in the techniques related to the project area you will be able to put personal biases and preferences aside and evaluate the exhibit on appropriate criteria.

### **Encourage**

- Help them recognize their accomplishments (efforts and successes).
- Provide positive, constructive feedback and encourage them to expand their project experience with new efforts, whether in leadership, citizenship, or future fair exhibits.
- Show you appreciate their efforts.
- Focus on a friendly judging style, smile, and tone of voice.
- Remember each young person is unique. You need to have sensitivity to their age, years of experience in the project, cultural differences, economic limitations, learning abilities, and equipment or tools to which they have access.
- 4-H'ers learn from your words and example.

**Be sincere. Be specific. Be positive. Be Friendly.**