



Role of a 4-H Judge

The following guidelines and suggestions were developed specifically to help new judges self-evaluate their skills and interest in judging.

- A. Qualification Guidelines for 4-H Judges.
 - 1. Interest in and likes to work with youth.
 - 2. Evidence of some experience in working with youth.
 - 3. Understanding of developmental stages of youth, i.e. Ages and Stages, helps in determining level of expectations. Indicate preference if more comfortable with a specific age group, i.e., Jr. vs. Sr.
 - 4. Possesses a warm and friendly manner.
 - 5. Feel confident in sharing expertise and communicating with youth.
- B. Knowledge base in specific area(s) of subject matter to evaluate exhibits based on established criteria and standards.
 - 1. Be selective – encourage you to judge only in areas that you have expertise.
 - 2. Familiar with 4-H project materials.
 - 3. Understands breadth and intent of exhibit classes.
 - 4. Keeps current on new products, trends, etc. relating to subject area.
 - 5. Aware of related safety issues.
- C. Has/Will attend 4-H Judges Training
 - 1. Familiar with the philosophy of the 4-H program and 4-H in Fairs.
 - 2. Understanding of the Goal Centered Learning process. (See 4H-203.)
 - 3. Ascribes to the 3 E's in evaluation: Educate, Evaluate, and Encourage.
- D. How to get started.
 - 1. Prepare ---- and practice.
 - 2. Ask a neighborhood 4-H'er to work with you. Practice judging an exhibit.
 - 3. Ask for feedback from the 4-H'er.
 - 4. Volunteer to write comments at fair in your county.
 - 5. Shadow an experienced judge. Observe process of a judging conference.
 - 6. Help at local achievement show if held in your area.
 - 7. Visit county Extension office in person or send write letter of introduction with qualifications to counties to which you are willing to travel.
- E. Steps to Prepare for first Judging Experience
 - 1. Review/study references in Judging Philosophy section of Handbook referred to in Opening Session.
 - 2. Read and be familiar with materials sent from county- fair book, rules, classes, etc.
 - 3. Understand relationship of Goal Centered Learning with evaluation criteria and standards.
 - 4. In 4-H we believe life skill development can be enhanced through experiential learning. Simply stated it is: **Do Reflect Apply.**
4-H'ers **do** the exhibit, the judge can help the 4-H'er **reflect** and **apply**, during the conference, reinforcing the learning process.