



4-H EXHIBIT GOAL CARD



3.

What's the judge looking for?

1. What was your exhibit goal(s)? This should be a learning goal not really a product goal. What were you hoping to learn instead of what did you want to make? Ex. Instead of saying, "I wanted to learn to make good chocolate chip cookies," say "I wanted to learn to measure ingredients properly to make chocolate chip cookies." Consider learning new techniques, comparing techniques/methods/products, or identifying critical elements of a specific process. Remember, this goal is supposed to be specific to the item you're exhibiting not the overall project area. Ex. "I wanted to learn to draw a person's face" and not "I want to learn to draw." Ideally your goal includes an action, result and timetable. Most judges will be satisfied with your action and result and assume the timetable is to have it completed by the fair. Also, keep your goals something you can control not, I want my cookies to go to the state fair. That is the judge's decision.
2. How did you go about working toward your goal(s)? What steps did you take to achieve your goal? What was the first thing you did? After that, then what did you do next? And so on. You don't need to re-list the method of preparation. Think big picture – ex. For a goal to make curtains for my bedroom:
 - a. I learned about different style options.
 - b. Selected a style that fit the atmosphere of my room.
 - c. Selected a fabric that worked well with the colors in my room.
 - d. Made the curtains.
 - e. Hung them up.

Include how many times you might have practiced. Be sure to include where your idea came from or where you got your information. This can be a list of key steps numbered or bulleted. It's not necessary to have paragraphs or a lengthy description.



3. What were the most important things you learned as you worked toward your goal(s)? What did you find most challenging? What did you learn accidentally, or what surprised you? What did you learn about your goal? What would you change if you were to start all over? It is okay if it didn't turn out the way you expected or wanted as long as you learned why. What problems did you encounter and how did you deal with them? You can include cost of your exhibit here or in question two.

Check for additional requirements and suggestions on exhibit tip sheets for food and nutrition, photography, visual arts, home improvement, sewing and clothing. Make sure you have:

- Included design elements and art principles for visual arts, home improvement, clothing & fashion, and sewing and needle arts.
- Identified the source of any recipe.
- Checked for the number of items you are to bring, esp. horticulture.
- Prepared food preservation labels if bringing preserved items.
- Not violated any copyright rules. Sample copyright permission letters are available at your local ISU Extension office.
- If bringing food, reviewed the Inappropriate Food Exhibits for Iowa 4-H Fairs, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/4H3023.pdf>

Design elements and art principles

You use design elements and art principles every day when you make decisions about what clothes to wear and what you like and what you don't like about things you see. In order to explain to a judge about the design elements and art principles you used, all you really need to do is share how and why you made the decisions you made that resulted in the item you bring to the fair. Often we make these decisions so quickly that we don't even realize we've made them. So stop and consider:

- Why did you choose that color(s) instead of others?
- Why did you choose this pattern or design over another?
- What was it about the texture of this that you liked and made it a better choice than an alternative?
- What is it about this product's line and shape that made you choose it?
- How does this fit with other things that you have?
- What emotions or how does this make you feel with you look at it? Excited, happy, calm, content?
- What, specifically, drew your attention to this choice?

For more information on how to specifically apply these to a certain project area, select that project's website when you get to www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/ and look for exhibit tip sheets and design elements and art principles resources.