



JUDGING 4-H EXHIBITS



How Do 4-H Exhibits Fit the 4-H Program?

- Give ways to share learning gained through projects
- Provide ways to receive positive feedback and helpful suggestions
- Give sense of accomplishment for goals met
- Help clarify and expand future goals

What Are Judges Looking For?

- Identification of exhibitor goal(s) in exhibit
--Answers to four goal-centered questions
 1. What was your exhibit goal(s)?
 2. How did you work toward your goal(s)?
 3. What important things did you learn working toward your goal?
 4. What would you like to do in this project area next year?
- Fulfillment of standards appropriate to skills, capabilities, and experience of exhibitor
- Evidence of learning, workmanship and techniques, appearance and design

What Do Ribbon Colors Mean?

- Iowa 4-H uses the Danish system of judging – rather than competing against someone else, youth challenge themselves to create exhibits that represent their best.
- The Danish system places exhibits in groups representing standards met
 - Blue:** Exhibit meets all standards well.
 - Red:** Exhibit meets some standards well, but could use improvement on other standards.
 - White:** Exhibit needs improvement on many standards or is missing information critical to evaluation of standards met.
 - Purple:** If a purple ribbon is awarded, it means the exhibit exceeded standards. It is the best of the blues.

Project or Exhibit – What’s the Difference?

Project: A subject area that the 4-H'er wants to learn more about. Often a multiple-year interest. All the learning and activities within a subject area, including at home, in school, in club activities, and on one's own. A project often includes leadership, citizenship, communication, and decision making. The 4-H'er often researches or gathers information, then applies the findings to the project.

Exhibit: A part of the project that the young person chooses to share or showcase.

