

Conference Judging

Philosophy

An exhibit is not the final statement of a child's effort nor does it offer a measurement of all of the learning that has taken place. The exhibit offers a display of what the child is capable of doing and that he/she has accomplished a goal.

Objectives of the 4-H Program

4-H members should have fun, learn to make decisions, think, feel, and act creatively; be conscious of their community and country; and inventive, resourceful and original in problem solving; explore aspects of their 4-H project; evaluate their 4-H project; and investigate careers that are related to their project.

Evaluating the 4-H Project

- The purpose of the evaluation is for positive learning. Judges are expected to be objective. If there is a questionable decision, error in favor of the youth.
- Projects and members knowledge are evaluated.
- Projects and members need to be evaluated independently, not compared.
- Judges will award ribbons according to the exhibitors' knowledge about the exhibit (50%) and the quality of the exhibit (50%).
- Emphasis during the evaluation should be placed on what the member has done and learned.
- There's no such thing as "the 4-H way" of doing things. Many different methods of preparing an exhibit are acceptable.

A Message to Judges

Conference judging brings 4-H members and judges together to evaluate project exhibits. It provides a unique opportunity for 4-H exhibitors to learn from the experiences and knowledge of the judge.

Conference judging involves one-to-one communication in which judge and exhibitor talk directly with each other. This two-way evaluation provides the judge the opportunity for suggestions for improvement. The participant also has an opportunity to explain problems encountered and solutions used.

Timely tips to use during the interview

- Smile and be friendly. A warm cordial greeting and friendly manner can make a difference.
- Put the member at ease. Help the exhibitor relax by initially discussing something other than the exhibit.
- Let the member do the talking.
- Keep in mind the age and experience of the 4-H member
- Begin and end with positive comments, make constructive criticism somewhere in the middle.