

Introduction

Posters are like a billboard advertising a great project or program: they tell a story of what you did, why and how you did it and what was learned. This guide was prepared to provide basic guidelines for creating effective posters.

Two guides are included, a shorter version for students and/or 4-H members, and a longer, more detailed guide for leaders or teachers.

Additional elements are provided that will enable the leader to teach from this guide and provide a hands-on experience to make the learning more fun with more impact.

An example has been included based on the topic of attracting backyard birds. Elements are provided for creating posters incorporating the examples. Display visuals are included that would be used to illustrate points related to using color in mounting pictures, both in a single and double color mounting, text in colors, different directions and font styles.

It is a good idea to have a variety of picture mounting paper pre-cut in a variety of colors so the participants may vary their selections and avoid having all the posters look alike.

For younger students and Clover Kids: It is probably a good idea to have the pictures pre-cut and mounted in a variety of backgrounds to facilitate the process. You may also want to provide handwriting paper so the students may have guides for writing.

Gluing 101:

White glue is too runny, and will create wrinkles.

To apply the glue, lay the element face down on another piece of scrap paper. Apply the glue to all the edges, in a strip about 1/2 " wide all the around the element. It does not need to be "painted" solid over the entire surface. Caution students not to hold the element in their hand while they apply the glue.

Name Plates:

An important step of the poster making process is the label identifying the author. The size of the name plate will vary depending on the finished size of the poster, but it is suggested that one limit their name plate to approximately 2" x 4", and that it be prepared as a separate element and attached to the poster. This will help prevent a mistake on the final product.

Supplies Needed:

- ◆ Individual poster elements: text, photos, illustrations, graphics, etc. (Provided in this workshop kit)
- ◆ Poster board: Heavy paper similar to cardboard that comes in 4-ply or 6-ply; the 6 ply is heavier and stronger. One of the most popular sizes is 22"x 28", however various other sizes are available. If you are following 4-H guidelines 11 X 14 is the recommended size.
- ◆ Sample of Foamboard for display
- ◆ Colored paper to create borders and backgrounds.
- ◆ Adhesive – rubber cement, glue sticks or glue dots.
- ◆ Sharp razor knife – like an Xacto or a craft knife to cut out charts, graphics, photos and text – avoid this by having everything pre-cut for your learning session, or use scissors only.
- ◆ Scissors – including left handed scissors
- ◆ A paper cutter is optional but is very beneficial to cutting good straight lines.
- ◆ Ruler and yardstick (clear rulers are ideal)
- ◆ T-square or L-square (optional but very handy).
- ◆ #2 pencil and eraser (art gum eraser) – allow one per person.
- ◆ Permanent markers– washable markers are more likely to smear.
- ◆ Corner cutter, as for scrapbooking