



Conference Judging - Checklist

Judges:

- Help youth learn
- Recognize efforts/successes
- Evaluate performance/exhibit
- Guide youth to what they would like to learn next

Judges should:

- Recognize accomplishments
- Provide positive, constructive feed back
- Encourage project expansion
- Appreciate members efforts
- Use a friendly judging style
- Be a good role model

CHECKLIST

Characteristics and Selection of Judges

- Knowledge of subject and ability to ask effective questions
- Experience in conference judging
- Warm friendly personality
- Positive evaluation style
- Objective
- Recognized 4-H volunteer or received appropriate paperwork as an Episodic volunteer

Orienting Judges

Consider including the following items in a 30 to 45 minutes orientation period.

- 4-H Judging Philosophy – an exhibit is not the final statement of a young person's effort nor does it offer a measurement of all the learning that has taken place. Exhibits allow 4-H'ers to receive feedback, gain a sense of accomplishment, expand future goals and share learning.
- Ages and stages of youth
- Learning is the focus of an exhibit – what the 4-H'er says should support that learning.
- Exhibit is one part of the total program – focus on the learning process rather than the product or end result
- Life skills development
 - Head - Does the 4-H'er exhibit good decision making and problem solving skills? Did they plan and organize their learning experience and did they reach their goals?
 - Heart - Does the 4-H'er communicate well? Do they appear cooperative and caring of others?
 - Hands - Is the 4-H'er motivated? Did they show good leadership skills? Did

- they talk about relating their skill development to community service?
 - Health - Does the 4-H'er manage their time well so they maintain good health? Did they indicate that they practice integrity and character?
- Skills needed to appropriately interact with children who have special needs.
- Questions that encourage members to talk: How – did you decide...; What – did you choose to...; Tell me – about...; What if – you had changed... Start with concrete questions and move to the abstract. Use open-ended questions so the 4-H'er will have an opportunity to talk in detail about what they have learned.
- Encourage judges to be honest and fair.
- Use the teachable moment to help members learn.
- Help member understand why a ribbon was awarded.
- Explain that both conference and comparative judging will be used
 - Conference judging to provide education, evaluation and encouragement
 - Comparative judging to select State Fair exhibits
- Explain Danish System for new judges
 - Blue Ribbon – Met requirements
 - Red Ribbon – Needs improvement
 - White ribbon – Needs much improvement

Following-up with Judges

Provide an evaluation for the judges to complete.

Send thank-you notes to the judges.

Conduct a club leader or fair committee follow-up 1-2 weeks after the fair to discuss what worked, what didn't work and concerns.

State Fair Selection

State Fair items are selected after conference judging has occurred. These items are generally selected using the highest commercial standards.