

South Dakota 4-H Judging 4-H Exhibits and Providing Feedback



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

*This document compliments "South Dakota 4-H Judging Basics"

Four Important words in judging:

Friendly ~ Fair ~ Firm ~ Consistent

Tips to Judging

- » Be informed- review resources ahead of time such as 4-H State Fair Book, score sheets, project materials
- » Offer constructive criticism
- » Make decisions quickly and firmly
- » Begin by examining the Display Exhibit Entry Form for helpful information:
 - ▶ Age of child and number of years in project
 - ▶ Clues to developmental level
 - ▶ Consider what a child might have to work with, for example, limited resources available in areas

Interview Judging

Interview judging brings 4-H members together with a caring adult judge to evaluate project exhibits. Judges can contribute significantly to the positive growth and development of a 4-H member through this process by making each 4-H member feel important and successful.

Judging is an educational activity and 4-H members should learn some different and better methods for completing their project.

- » Help young people feel at ease: by greeting the 4-H'er with enthusiasm and a smile, being sensitive to their age, experience, and personality. Interact whenever possible and discuss your observations.
- » Let the members do the talking: encourage the exhibitor to talk about their exhibit, asking questions to learn more. Find out whether the exhibitor feels successful about his/her efforts.

- » Keep age and experience in mind: comment on their achievements and successes for the child, taking into account the developmental ability of the exhibitor.
- » Discuss your standards as a judge and the rationale for your standards, how this related to real life scenarios. Explain the value you are placing on various aspects of the exhibit and explain why some parts of the exhibit are more important than others.

Judging the Project

This is a time for the judge to share knowledge and skills that are meaningful to the 4-H'er. Describe what you see and feel. Be specific and be factual.

- » Be objective using consistent scoring standards. Avoid personal preferences. Use the standards that are meaningful in reference to typical home, farm, or work. Only judge what is there for the exhibit, careful to not judge what you think should be there.
- » Evaluate the project, not member. Emphasizing stronger points/abilities demonstrated. Help member realize his/her opportunity to grow through the project by suggesting improvements for future exhibits.
- » Emphasis during the evaluation should be placed on what the member has done and learned.
- » Wrong subplot-no problem! 4-H members should not be docked for this. Please alert a 4-H professional and move to correct area. If interview judging, this is another point of learning with the exhibitor.



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Questions to Ask

Starting with questions found on the display exhibit entry form is a great way to help 4-H members warm-up. These are questions they are familiar with. Don't get set on a list of questions, conversations can move in a lot of different directions! As a judge, you are reinforcing the experiential learning model by reflecting on the results, reaction, observations, and application of the 4-H members learning.

Additional questions might be:

- » What did you want to achieve from this project?
- » Did you learn anything new?
- » What was the most enjoyable moment of your project?
- » How did you do it? (processes, steps, plans)
- » What changes would you make?
- » How did you improve your skills?
- » Did you enjoy working on this project? Why?
- » What was the easiest ... (Hardest or most difficult)?
- » What caused you the most problems?
- » Why did you choose this?
- » What would you like to do next year?
- » Explain to me about the kinds of materials you used.
- » What were your goals for this project?
- » How does this exhibit fit into your project?
- » Who gave you help with the project?
- » How can you use what you learned?
- » How will this experience help you?
- » What are some ideas or goals you might like to strive for next year?

Providing Feedback

Feedback is key to learning and growing and an essential part of your role as a judge. In cases where a judge is interview judging, feedback is given verbally with the young person. It's important to the learning process when we cannot have verbal interaction with youth, that judges take the time to provide written feedback on the score card.

Use the sandwich method for providing feedback.

1. Start with two positives.
2. Discuss one way to improve.
3. Add another positive.
4. End with a one or two work descriptor of 4-Her's capabilities.



Avoid "You" statements and replace with "I" Statements

Avoid "You" statements such as "You did this well" or "You could improve this". Even though this may sound constructive, it does not always come across that way. It's better to use "I" messages. Such as "I really liked ..." "I felt you might try to ..." or "I thought this part really worked well."

Other Positive Comments to use:

- » I like how you ...
- » I can tell you enjoyed this because...
- » I felt you handled _____ very well.
- » I can tell you learned a new skill by how ...
- » I can see you did a nice job of following the standards by ...

Constructive Comments to use:

- » Some other ideas to try ...
- » It would be helpful if ...
- » It may be helpful to practice _____ before you do this again.
- » As you work on a _____ an important thing to remember is ...