

About us.

We are excited to have you as a member of our programs. 4-H is a positive youth development program!

As part of 4-H, we hope you feel a sense of belonging and are gaining some independence. We also hope you are developing skills through project work and practicing generosity through community service.



A positive learning experience

We want you to share what you have learned with the volunteer judge, and we want the volunteer judge to offer you encouragement and positive feedback.

That does not mean they will not offer constructive criticism. You want that too! It helps you strive to learn more and grow in your 4-H project work.

Conference Judging

In 4-H the technique, conference judging brings members and volunteer judges together to evaluate project exhibits. It involves one-on-one, face-to-face communication in which the volunteer judge and exhibitor talk directly with each other.

Typically, it is no longer than 5-10 minutes.



This technique provides a unique opportunity for 4-H'ers to learn from their experiences and knowledge of the volunteer judge.

Volunteer judges are often experts in that particular field or they have a passion that they have followed.

"The exhibit is *not* the final statement of your effort nor does it encompass everything you have learned in that project"



Conference Judging Information for the 4-H Family

What will the judges ask?

Here are some questions to practice answering:

- Tell me about your project.
- What interested you in taking this project?
- How many years have you been doing this project?
- What did you learn while taking this project?
- What would you do differently next time you do this project?



Each judging experience is unique

Your judge may:

- Ask additional follow-up questions to learn more about you and your project.
- Want to know what tools or equipment were used for your project.
- Talk through your scoresheet with you, or your judge may fill it out after you leave.
- Tell you the project rating you earned, or you may have to wait until all judging is complete.
- Share ways to grow in the project area.
- Ask you to leave your project with them.

This is YOUR project

One final thought... the conference judging experience is between the 4-H'ers and the volunteer judge. Parents are not allowed to be present during the process. This is your project and you are the one sharing what you have learned. We hope that you have learned lots and that you have had fun in the process!

DON'Ts

01 Don't forget to shake hands firmly.	06 Don't forget to answer questions with more than "yes" or "no."
02 Don't forget to greet the judge with a smile.	07 Don't forget to share what you did for the project.
03 Don't have candy or gum in your mouth.	08 Don't forget to share what you learned with the project.
04 Don't look down. Try to keep eye contact.	09 Don't forget to thank the judge.
05 Don't seem uninterested, even if you are shy.	10 Don't forget to have fun!

DOs

01 Do greet the judge with a handshake and smile.	06 Do pay attention and listen to the judge.
02 Do introduce yourself with details.	07 Do know your project process.
03 Do keep eye contact.	08 Do share your project experiences.
04 Do provide information on the type of project.	09 Do thank the judge.
05 Do answer questions with appropriate details.	10 Do have fun and show pride in your work!

To Do:

- 1 Before the event:**
Check to make sure you are following guidelines outlined in your 4-H county fair or show book.

Check in:
Check in with a volunteer superintendent in the appropriate department. Bring completed projects and other required materials for the exhibit.

- 3 Wait for your turn:**
Just be patient! You may be asked to hold your project until judging.

Scoresheet:
The judge will keep the scoresheet at the end of your judging. You will receive it at the end of the fair or project judging event.

- 5 Ribbons:**
A blue ribbon means you met the standards; a red ribbon means you met most of the standards, but need some improvement, a white ribbon means you met the standards but need much improvement.

Thank you

Thank you for your time and participation in 4-H. We hope that you are enjoying your experience and go away having learned something from the conference judging process!



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your local Extension Office.

GOOD LUCK!