

# JUDGING 4-H PROJECT EXHIBITS



## A MESSAGE TO 4-H MEMBERS ABOUT CONSULTATIVE JUDGING...

4-H events and fairs are often used to provide youth with opportunities to have their work judged against a set of standards. The evaluation of an exhibit should be a positive and motivating part of the total 4-H experience. To plan, practice, and present a finished product is to “learn by doing.” The exhibit is not an end in itself, nor does it illustrate all of the learning that has taken place during the 4-H year.



An important goal of 4-H is to teach skills to young people that they can use now, as a youth, and in later life. Standards of excellence help 4-H'ers to evaluate the skills they are learning. Standards of excellence can be useful for products (skirts, cookies, tomatoes, livestock, etc.) and skills (speaking, decision making, demonstrating, etc.).

### DANISH SYSTEM

The Danish system of judging is a method of evaluation where an exhibit or process is evaluated against a set of standards, and recognition is awarded on the degree to which the standard has been met by each 4-H member. The standards of excellence are often printed on a judge's scorecard, and allows for the exhibit to be judged on one's own merit, and not in comparison with others in the class. The following ribbons apply:

- WHITE:** Fair, denotes much improvement needed. Fails to meet minimum standards.
- RED:** Good, some improvements needed. Meets minimum standards.
- BLUE:** Excellent, minor improvements needed. Exceeds minimum standards.
- PURPLE:** Superior, outstanding on all standards. (In some cases, this means an exhibit is selected for the state fair.)

### Possible questions from a Judge:

- How did you improve your skills?
- Did you enjoy working on this project? Why?
- What was the easiest...( or most difficult)?
- Where did you learn how to... ?
- Why did you choose this?
- Next time, you may want to consider...
- Who gave you help with the project?
- I noticed you... (or) I could see you felt....
- How does this exhibit fit into your project?
- What were your goals for this project?
- You really did a good job!
- What would you like to do next year?
- You should feel proud because...
- It would be helpful if...
- Tell me more about...

### 4-H BELIEVES THAT...

4-H boys and girls are more important than the 4-H exhibits

Learning *how* to do a project is more important than the project itself

“Learning by doing” through a useful work project is fundamental in any sound educational program and characteristic of the 4-H program.

There is more than one good way to do most things. Our job is to teach 4-H'ers *how* to think, not *what* to think.

A balanced program of work and play, geared to the individual's needs, is more important than “grooming winners.”

Every 4-H member needs to be noticed, to feel important, to experience success and to be praised.

A blue ribbon 4-H member with a red ribbon chicken is more desirable than a red ribbon member with a blue ribbon chicken.