



## Getting 4-H Exhibits Ready For The Fair



- Exhibits can be actual items (pillow, garment, plant, photo, poster, etc.) or can be a freestanding tabletop exhibit.
- Actual items should be clean and neat. Clothes should be clean, well pressed, and in good shape. Clothes that have been well worn would not be a good choice for a display.
- Food should be entered on a disposable container and some thought given to how it will appear to the public. Aluminum foil, gift wrap, or a doily may add to the attractiveness of the exhibit. Food is to be covered with plastic wrap and the recipe attached to the bottom of the container before wrapping. No names should appear on recipe. Foods are “from scratch,” not a box, and no items needing refrigeration will be accepted.
- Plants should be well groomed for the show. Plants are to be labeled with common name. To get plants ready for show, do the following:
  - \*Wipe off all dirt and mildew on outside of pot.
  - \*Remove dead or diseased blooms, stems, branches.
  - \*Clean plant’s leaves.
- Photos must be mounted on a mat, foam core, construction paper or poster board. No other mounting material (glass, wood, plastic, or metal) will be considered. **DO NOT BRING PHOTOS IN A GLASS FRAME.**
- When judging photos, judges consider (among other things):
  - \*Main subject well positioned and sharply focused.
  - \*Creativity in selecting subject.
  - \*Message conveyed.
  - \*Overall photo well balanced.
- Single posters (14" X 22" only 1/2 sheet of standard poster board) can be exhibited related to any project area and will probably be displayed on a flat, free standing panel using 4 map tacks. Names should not be visible on the front or if names are on front they should be covered. If you are doing a 4-H Promotion Poster, you must follow the theme “FACES OF FLORIDA 4-H”. Posters should not be 3-dimensional and cannot use copyrighted characters (such as Spiderman, Snoopy, Garfield, etc.)
- When making posters:
  - \*Plan
  - \*Have a message

- \*Have enough space
- \*Consider color
- \*Use variety of techniques (pictures, textures)
- \*Consider lettering

- Posters using computer assistance to create components of the poster or the poster itself should affix a statement of one paragraph explaining how the computer assistance affected the poster's composition and visual presentation.
- When judging posters, judges consider:
  - \*Does it attract and hold attention?
  - \*Does it convey a message clearly?
  - \*Accurate information.
  - \*Is it well-planned, neat, and easily read?
- The freestanding table top exhibit should measure a MINIMUM of 28" wide X 22" high and a MAXIMUM of 36" wide X 36" high. The posters should be sturdy and (hopefully) withstand some of the humidity. Mat board is a good choice as well as peg board and heavy duty cardboard (perhaps from an appliance box). You could also purchase a tri-fold backboard but that is not required. Use your creativity. Poster board is basically too flimsy to stand up over 10 days time. Strapping tape can hold the pieces of board together better than masking tape. If you think the board is too flimsy and may curl, paint stirring sticks could possibly be taped to the back for support. A pleasing tabletop exhibit could also include items placed in front of the poster(s) to convey the message more clearly. Items placed flat on the table may not be seen by the public as security chains prevent persons from getting too close; therefore, make plans for any flat items to be raised at an angle by using some sort of brace (book, brick, easel, etc.). Lettering should be large enough for someone standing several feet away to read.
- For **specific requirements of each "class,"** please refer to the "4-H Club Department" section of the current North Florida Fair premium book.

**Think about how other people will view your exhibit. If you were walking through the 4-H Building looking at the exhibits, how would people see your exhibits? Be creative; put some effort into making a pleasing display--whether it's just making sure your clothing garment is clean and pressed, or that you've made a poster backdrop for the rocket you've made. Give some attention and thought to how your exhibit will look to the general public.**