4-H Exhibitor Judging Tips

This fact sheet was created to help 4-H exhibitors prepare for their 4-H judging experience at County Fair.

1. Be **EXCITED** about your project!
2. The 4-H judge wants to hear **ALL** about your project...
   - How you selected this project?
   - What you used as resources or information sources?
   - Who helped you with the project?
   - Materials, cost and time spent on the project?
   - Talk about your project start to finish.
   - What did you LEARN?
   - What were the challenges or hardest part of the project?
3. Consider the deep thought provoking questions as a result of your project...
   - What did you learn about yourself by completing this project?
   - What did you learn that will help you in everyday life in the future?
4. Be careful not to use too much text on a poster...
   - Use bullet points
   - Only have 1 to 3 sentences per photo caption
5. If you are creating a poster and want to share more text or photos – consider adding a notebook which accompanies the poster. (exhibitors can have a poster and a notebook to explain one project)
6. Photos of **YOU** (4-Her) doing the project – Step by Step – in a poster or notebook is FANTASTIC!
7. When possible add 3-D objects to the exhibit.
8. On the poster or notebook always include your top 2 or 3 resources or references for the project. (books, publications, web sites, people or offices, etc.)
9. Be prepared to tell your **story** about your project with the judge – they want to hear all about it!

For more tips and information about 4-H judging tips contact your County Extension Office and 4-H Program Coordinator or adult 4-H volunteer.

HELPFUL RESOURCES:
“How are Fair Exhibits Judged?” *Page 10-11 of the 4-H Youth Development Family Handbook*  

4-H county fair information and resources: [www.4-H.umn.edu/county-fair](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/county-fair)

**PREPARED BY:** Gary Wyatt, Extension Educator, Agroforestry ([wyatt@umn.edu](mailto:wyatt@umn.edu))

**REVIEWED BY:** Tammy Lorch, Extension Educator, Youth Development ([lorch003@umn.edu](mailto:lorch003@umn.edu))

July 7, 2016