

## Preparing 4-H Youth for Still Project Judging

- 1) Assign a volunteer or volunteers from your club to help youth enrolled in still projects.
- 2) Help youth select projects appropriate for their age and ability level by utilizing the Ohio 4-H Family Guide. Be aware that not all still projects are state fair eligible. Ohio 4-H Project Central allows you to view a few pages of each project book and reviews of the project at: <http://projectcentral.ohio4h.org/>.
- 3) Distribute project books at a club meeting and:

*Walk through the Member Project Guide section of the book with them so they understand completion requirements. This may include: Notes to the Project Helper, Project Guidelines, Project Areas and Activities, Learning Experiences and Leadership and Citizenship Activities.*

Some books are designed to be completed over multiple years. Youth only need to complete the number of activities indicated in the book for the current year. They can use the same book again for a multi-year project.

It is important to follow the project guidelines (including tools, methods and finished product) to be eligible for state fair selection. Example: Project #409, Sew Fun requires a “fully elastic-waisted skirt, shorts, pants or capris.” Making a garment without a fully-elastic waist would disqualify a youth from state fair eligibility.

### Project Guidelines

1. Complete the Planning Your Project section of this manual (Steps 1 through 4).
2. Explore the recommended Interest Areas for your year in the project.
3. Complete the recommended number of Building Skills and Developing Knowledge questions in each Interest Area.
4. Take part in at least two Learning Experiences.
5. Become involved in at least two Leadership/Citizenship Activities.
6. Build at least two weldments/items following the instructions in the back of this manual.
7. Write a one-page report telling what you did and learned through this project.
8. Members repeating this project should complete one additional activity in Interest Areas 1 through 3 and build two additional weldments/items.

Judges pay attention to these!

*Help youth highlight county judging requirements for their project in the Muskingum County Member and Volunteer Handbook (starts on page 16). Review Project Completion on page 10 and Still Project Judging Information on page 14-15.*

Interested in knowing project requirements for state fair judging? Be aware that each project/project area has different requirements and guidelines for state fair competition.

<http://www.ohio4h.org/families/ohio-state-fair/state-fair-4-h-non-livestock-guidebook>

- 4) Share Project Judging Sheets, available online under Still Project Judging Resources at: <http://muskingum.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/forms-and-documents>

Clothing, Food & Nutrition, Writing, Woodworking and Companion Animals have their own judging sheets. If the project does not fall into one of these categories, the general judging sheet is used. Note: Cake Decorating and Science Fun with Dairy Foods are **not** Food & Nutrition Projects.

- 5) Practice interviewing at a club meeting. Review all materials required for judging.
- Teach youth how to introduce themselves to the judge and how to do a proper handshake. Help them work on eye contact, speaking clearly, and preventing “the wiggles.”
  - A youth’s attire is judged for appropriateness during the interview. Provide youth with tips on what to wear - nice jeans, khakis/dress pants, skirts of appropriate length and nice shirts. It’s also important to share what not to wear - no torn clothes, hats or inappropriately exposed skin.
  - Judges will often ask general questions to “break the ice” and find out more about a member.
  - Youth should be able to answer questions about any aspect of their project, as well as items they bring to judging. Requiring youth to complete a project demonstration can help them develop skills in speaking about their projects.
- 6) Let us know of any need for accommodations to provide the member with the best experience at judging. County 4-H professionals are available before and at judging to address special needs.

### Tips for 4-H Cloverbuds

- 1) It’s never too early to start working on interviewing and public speaking skills in the club setting! Utilize Ohio 4–H Curriculum including Clover Cubes and Choose and Tell Cards.
- 2) If you do a project or activity in your club, have each member present to the others in the group, or to the older members in the 4-H club.
- 3) Have a club show and tell activity or encourage youth to participate in Cloverbud Show and Tell on Sunday of the fair.

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