

# 4-H EXHIBITS

**Basic Principle:** Fair exhibits should show what learning has taken place during the current program year. What you have learned is as important as what you have made. **Be your own exhibit.**

- 4-H Exhibits can take many shapes and forms. There is no specific “4-H way” of doing an exhibit. There are specific requirements for project areas. Check the listing for your project for special requirements. State Fair rules may be more specific than county rules. Make sure you know what the State Fair requirements are if you would like a chance to take your project to State Fair. (This is only a possibility for youth that have completed 6th grade.)
- Bring your project records to use as a guide. Think about the following things: what you set out to learn; how you went about it; what special help you received; what problems you faced; what you learned; how your object shows your learning; and what you would do differently.
- Remember that 4-H exhibits are judged 50% on the exhibit and 50% on your knowledge. You will have the opportunity to talk about your exhibit and project experience during conference judging. You will use your exhibit to explain your learning experience but **you** are the subject of your time with the judge. No matter how great your exhibit, the judge will want to know how it shows what you have learned.
- Prepare your exhibit carefully and neatly. Know how you prepared it and know the cost, time, materials, and your effort. To practice or role-play the judging process, talk about your project with a parent, 4-H leader or friend.

## A few more important notes:

- Poster exhibits may not exceed 22” wide x 28” high. They may be smaller.
- Education/Science Tri-Fold Exhibits for all project areas may not exceed 12” deep x 24” wide x 36” high. (Center back 24” wide x 36” high, right and left wings each 12” wide x 36” high.)
- All exhibits must be labeled with name, county, and club/independent. Other relevant info for the project (eg. vegetable variety) should be included. Each part in a multiple piece exhibit needs to be labeled and designated as “1 of 4,” “2 of 4,” etc.
- Floor space for any exhibit should not exceed 20 square feet. If your exhibit exceeds this limitation, contact the Extension office.

## EXHIBIT TIPS & IDEAS

The following are ideas to start you thinking about ways to exhibit what you have learned. Think about what and how the exhibit appeals to the senses. Consider using touch, sound and/or smell as well as visual attraction to catch & hold the attention of the observer. Use your own creativity to decide what object would best show what you have learned.

### Exhibits may be, but are not limited to:

Mobile Puppet Show Poster Diorama Collage Banner Shadow Box Collection Historical/Cultural Study 3-D Display  
Model Papier-mâché Video Portfolio Photos Skit Display Powerpoint Magazine or Comic Book Scrapbook

The tips below refer primarily to photos and posters. The same principles apply to creative arts and needle arts or any visual display. Remember to put the focus on the featured item, eliminate clutter and let one figure or word dominate.

### Posters:

- Use white space, keep the main object large
- Divide the remaining items into groups. Keep them smaller than focal object
- Make letters large enough to read- 1 inch per 2.5 feet viewing distance

### Framing:

- Use margins and white space as a “frame” for posters
- Use linear objects such as trees to frame focal points
- Matte your object in a neutral color or an accent color

### Finishing:

- Wash and press items as needed
- Matte or double matte photos/posters/pictures
- Wall hung items must have hooks or attachments
- Pay attention to details & presentation in all projects.

### Public Displays:

- A photo of a fragile item or heirloom can be displayed if there is concern about the risks of a public display.
- Perishable items may not hold up in warm weather. They may be discarded and photos used in their place.
- Skits, puppet shows, or presentations should have something that can be left up for display in the 4-H building during County Fair. This may include costumes, puppets, scripts, and/or photos.

### Photos:

- Take photos from several angles
- Keep the composition simple and uncluttered

### Color:

- Use color to add interest and contrast
- Avoid using too many colors; 2-3 colors & a neutral color works best