



The 4-H Project Exhibit: A Superintendent's Role

A Message to Superintendents About Consultative Judging

Consultative judging brings 4-H members and judges together to evaluate project exhibits. It provides a unique opportunity for 4-H'ers to learn from the experiences and knowledge of the judge. Consultative judging involves one-to-one communication in which the judge and 4-H member talk directly with each other. As such, parents/guardians should not communicate for the young person unless there are special accommodations in place, which should be communicated prior to the start of judging.

A good superintendent sets the mood for the entire show. The superintendent is knowledgeable about the area they are working in and conducts the exhibit judging in a positive, supportive manner.

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. All completed exhibits meeting the requirements should receive a Purple, Blue, Red or White rating. 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 may mean an exhibit is selected for the state fair. Check with your local Extension Agent.)



Before the Fair

1. Help Extension Agents recruit youth and other adults to sign up to assist superintendents.
2. At least 2 months ahead of time check with the KSRE agent(s) to discuss judges for your area.
3. Make sure judges are familiar with the consultative judging process. Also send a copy of the score sheets, pages from project manuals, and/or show requirements for each particular area so the judge is familiar with standards, techniques, and the criteria they are to use when judging. (Extension Office takes care of this in many local units.)
4. As a superintendent you may be responsible for securing and organizing supplies and/or ribbons and trophies needed for your project at the Extension office ahead of time. Please discuss with your local Extension Agents.

The Day of Judging

1. Provide all supplies needed for judging – ribbons, pencils, scorecards, copies of project manuals, when needed and a glass of water – especially if judging foods.
2. Watch for the judges and welcome them. Show them the judging stations. (Another volunteer may be assigned this task.)

3. Make sure judges know any special awards and the criteria they are to use.
4. Monitor judging stations to see if judges are:
 - Moving at an acceptable pace.
 - Providing positive, constructive feedback.
 - Adequately questioning 4-H'ers.
5. Verify the completeness of all judge's ratings and awards. Ribbon placing for each exhibit should be carefully recorded for awarding of premiums. (Another volunteer adult or youth may do this, then the superintendent can be free to handle questions or situations that arise.)
4. Place exhibits in an orderly and attractive display for public viewing.
5. Turn all books and supplies into the Fair Office.
6. Listen to comments and complaints in a courteous and positive manner. If decisions must be made, a consultation with the County Agent may be appropriate.
7. Fill out the superintendent's evaluation form in its entirety and turn in to the Fair Office so improvements may be made for future years.

When Judging is Finished

1. Ask if judges had general comments for improvements – to pass along to 4-H'ers about their projects or about the way the show was organized.
2. Be sure to thank the judges for their time.
3. Escort judges back to the Fair Office so they may collect their check from Fair Board. Again, thank them for their time and expertise, and encourage them to enjoy the other aspects of the fair.

Local Contact Information

