



Extension Snapshot

Talk With Me, Listen To Me, Care...

Conference judging is a big part of the 4-H experience. Through events like the Fulton County 4-H General Show, 4-H members learn how to interact with other people. They bring their projects to the 4-H show, and are called up one at a time to show their project and talk about it with a local person who has that expertise, whether it is Woodworking, Cooking, Small Engines, Photography, or any of the dozens of other projects available through 4-H. Judges may ask questions like “What was the hardest thing about preparing this project?” or “What did you learn from this topic?” Four hundred thirty-one projects were exhibited at this year’s show.

Anecdotal remarks heard by staff over the years include things like “I was not afraid at job interviews or scholarship interviews, because of having conference judging in 4-H.” One 4-H member who is a mentally-challenged young adult attributes her ease at speaking in front of a group to her conference judging experiences.

Conference judging is a wonderful confidence booster for kids, and helps them realize that there are a lot of adults out there who care about them and want to hear about their interests. 4-H provides many opportunities for communication and confidence-building activities.



For more information on the 4-H Youth Development program in Fulton County, please contact Janis Blout, Extension Program Coordinator, at jblout@illinois.edu or 309-547-3711. For more information about the 4-H Youth Development program in the Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell unit, please contact Judy Schmidt, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, at schmid7@illinois.edu or 309-347-6614.

