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# Conference Judging

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## A Message to Leaders and Parents

Each child is an individual of utmost importance. Keeping this in mind, the leader should try to make 4-H a positive learning experience. Part of this experience is the 4-H exhibit.

The 4-H exhibit is not an end in itself nor does it measure all the learning that takes place in the 4-H project. The exhibit is only one measure of success. Self-recognition, self-satisfaction and the learning from completing the project are important rewards.

1. Discuss the purpose of judging with 4-H members & their parents:
  - To evaluate the exhibit which is an example of the child's work.
  - To help each member see the process that he/she has made and put judging in perspective.
2. Help the child set realistic goals for himself/herself according to his/her own age and experience.
3. Be sure that your goals are in line with the child's age and experience.
4. Recognize good work. Give constructive criticism.
5. Be familiar with the requirements or criteria of the 4-H project that is to be judged.
6. Be familiar with several methods of accomplishing the desired result.
7. Regardless of who does the judging there

are some basic points to keep in mind:

- The development of young people is our first consideration in 4-H work.
  - We are really concerned more about what the 4-H'er learns than with the exhibit.
  - Projects are a means to an end – not an end in themselves.
  - No exhibit is so poorly done that it is not worthy of an encouraging comment.
  - No exhibit is so well done that some improvement may not be made.
8. Judging is done according to quality standards. It is not a matter of personal whim or tastes. The standards area:
    - High, but attainable
    - Appropriate to different age levels.
    - Known by the 4-H members.
  9. Projects are evaluated, not members. All completed projects meeting show requirements will receive a Blue, Red or White rating. Projects are evaluated independently, not compared.  
Blue..... meets requirements  
Red..... needs improvement  
White..... needs much improvement
  10. Stress that judging comments can be helpful, but that they are only one person's evaluation.
  11. In competition, avoid overemphasis of the winner. Help the child accept the results of the competition and realize that through



Revised by: Bill Million and Judy Taylor, Youth Development Educators; from materials prepared previously by University of Illinois and Iowa State University  
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his/her own accomplishments everyone is a winner.



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