

Department 32 EDUCATIONAL BOOTHS

State 4-H Project Description

An educational booth is one that aims to tell a story of methods employed, of purposes and ideals and of growth and accomplishments of any youth (4-H, FFA, FHA-HERO, high school Vo-Ag, Scouts, YMCA, church groups, etc.) project or club activity. The display should represent what the club has done as part of the 4-H or youth program or the theme suggested. So those who observe the booth will get the information regarding the 4-H program and practices. There is no statewide 4-H literature for booths.

Judging Tips

General county fair booth exhibiting requirements:

- Any youth group may prepare and exhibit a booth.
- Booths are to be constructed without professional assistance and should not include advertising or brand names.
- Most county fair books call for “educational” booths, which are designed to provide educational information learned from a 4-H or other youth group project or activity.
- Other common classes are “promotional” booths that are designed to tell the public the value of the 4-H or other youth program, and “informational” booths that are designed to provide information to the public on a specific topic or activity, e.g., recycling or waste reduction.
- Space for booths is often limited at a county fair, so a group may be limited to one booth.
- The county fair sometimes selects the theme for booths, such as citizenship, conservation, consumerism, dairy promotion, health or safety. Otherwise groups can choose their own theme.
- Booths need to be free standing. Sometimes, groups must provide a card table for their booths. Usually no electricity is available.
- Booth size requirements vary from county to county. Be sure to check the size of the booth for your county.
- Any booklets that are not for distribution should be attached with a cord for security.
- Booths are placed using the Danish judging system.

Common judging criteria of county fair youth booths:

- Effective title: short, personal, active verb
- Suitable subject: timely, personal, original, single theme
- Attracts attention: eye appeal, stopping power, color, light, moving parts
- Holds interest: encourages study, audience participation
- Conveys message: accomplishes purpose, simple, clear, legible, accurate, educational value
- General appearance: simple, balanced, proportioned, unity
- Workmanship: neat, well constructed, quality materials

Sources: *Grant County (WI) Fair Book*; *Montana 4-H Guide for Judges*

Tips about using color in a booth:

- Have at least one bright color. If using more than one bright color, use only one in large amounts, the other(s) in small amounts. People like warm colors – they catch the eye.
- Light colors make a booth seem large. Dark colors make a booth seem smaller.
- Arrange light objects on dark backgrounds and vice versa. Color combinations that can be read easily at a distance are dark blue on white, black on yellow, and green on white.

Tips about using photos in a booth:

- Use dull (matte) finish.
- Make them large – 8 by 10 inches or larger.
- Large photos can often be mounted on plywood and the figures cut out.