

Frequently Asked Questions

Table of Contents

How do I know if I need to attend pre-fair judging?	1
My child placed 1st but did not receive an award. Is this a mistake?	2
My child placed 1st but was not selected for state competition. Is this a mistake?	2
My child placed 2nd but is listed for state competition. Is this a mistake?.....	2
My child was selected for State Fair. Now what?	3
What do I bring to judging?.....	3
What do I wear to judging?	3
What does county judging “look” like?	3

How do I know if I need to attend pre-fair judging?

Each 4-H member taking non-livestock projects must attend pre-fair judging for them to complete their project. Pre-fair judging includes all “still” projects, including: About 4-H, Horseless Horse, Companion Animals, Veterinary Science, Clothing & Sewing, Creative and Leisure Arts, Food and Nutrition, Healthy Living, Communication, Home Living, Leadership and Citizenship, Money Management, Natural Resources, STEM, and Self-Determined Projects all get judged at pre-fair judging.

All About Dogs and You and Your Dog Projects attend pre-fair judging.

Dog Obedience, Showmanship, Performance, and Working Dog Projects are judged at the fair.

How do I get an appointment for pre-fair judging?

Each 4-H member needs to sign up to attend project judging. A link to register will be sent to families via email.

Do I have to do judging?

To be kept as a 4-H member in good standing, you must complete your project by attending judging. If you cannot attend, please call the office ASAP to schedule an early judging appointment.

My child placed 1st but did not receive an award. Is this a mistake?

All projects are eligible for award competition. However, in most cases related projects are grouped together and awarded one overall so all of the 1st place winners within that grouping are considered for that award. Those decisions are made based on project enrollment numbers each year.

My child placed 1st but was not selected for state competition. Is this a mistake?

Not all projects have state competition options.

My child received a superior ribbon but was not selected for 1st place. Is this a mistake?

Although it may appear your child did very well according to the judging sheet, the judge may be selecting one 1st place winner, out of several superior winners. For example, in the Get Started in Art project, there may be four people who receive 'Superior'. The judge will review all of their score sheets to determine a 1st place winner out of the recipients.

My child placed 2nd but is listed for state competition. Is this a mistake?

All state competitions set their own eligibility requirements and sometimes we can send more than one youth per project (based on age, years of experience, or other parameters), so yes, sometimes youth who place 2nd (or 3rd) can be selected for state competition.

My child was selected for State Fair. Now what?

State fair is an optional activity so every member can decide if they want to participate. Details will be emailed after judging and can also be found at:

ohio4h.org/nonlivestockguidebook if you would like to review the guidelines. Each member will need to get a packet with their ticket and signed registration letter either at the awards ceremony during the fair or picked up at the junior fair office at the fair.

What do I bring to judging?

Each project has an outline of *County Requirements*, found in the [4-H Handbook](#) in the Project Grid. Most projects require at minimum a completed project book, and a display or portfolio.

Note: State Fair requirements may differ from county requirements.

What do I wear to judging?

Dress appropriate. 4-H members should arrive clean and prepared for the interview. We recommend blue jeans or khakis, polos, or blouses, or if a sewing/clothing project you can wear what you have created.

What does county judging “look” like?

When you arrive, you will check in at the registration desk. The 4-Her will be escorted to a table where they will meet with a judge. Parents can kindly wait in the designated waiting area. The judge will ask questions about the 4-H project, display, and conduct an interview. 4-H participants should have knowledge over their project and be prepared to answer questions such as their favorite part, why they chose the project etc. The interview will take around 10-15 minutes. When the interview is complete, the judge will score the 4-Her, and hand them a ribbon. At this time, you are free to go, or check-in at registration if you have another project to be judged.

Judging results will be posted the Friday after judging, or sooner.