



## Responsibility of Judges ---- County Events

You have been chosen as a judge for the Lake County 4-H Share-the-Fun because of your knowledge and your ability to be objective, fair, and impartial. We appreciate your cooperation and support to the development of youth involved in the Florida 4-H Program.

1. Take a moment to read the description of each category that you will be judging and the scorecard that will be used.
2. Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks are judged based on the standards provided on the score sheet. Participants should not be compared to one another, but rather judged on their own ability. Top scoring individuals and teams in each age division and category will advance to district events. This component makes this a competitive event.
3. In team demonstrations, both 4-H'ers should actively participate. Points may be deducted for this standard if necessary.
4. Each Senior participant is allowed between 5 and 12 minutes and each Junior and Intermediate participant between 3-12 minutes. Room monitors will keep time and deduct points if necessary.
5. You may wish to ask participants questions at the end of their presentation to clarify points in demonstrations or to explore the 4-H'ers knowledge of the subject. If question are asked of participants, a limit of two questions per judge per contestant is suggested.
6. Make sure to fill in all the blanks that require a numerical score.
7. Notice the score range in comparison to the ribbon color on the bottom of the score sheet. Make sure your scores reflect the color ribbon you desire for the presentation.
8. Make sure to write comments. Comments mean so much to the participants. Please write and give constructive comments or suggestions. These will help the young people in planning future presentations. Constructive criticism is encouraged as it is part of the learning process.
9. After all demonstrations are complete please return to the tabulation room.
10. Ask your room monitor if you have any questions. There are three judges in each room and a room monitor to assist you as needed.

## Constructive Written and Verbal Comments

The development of young people is our first consideration in 4-H work. It is important that comments for the 4-H member be made in a constructive manner. Here are some suggestions to make your verbal and written comments more effective:

- ✚ Use the members' first name whenever possible.
  - Examples:
    - I enjoyed your demonstration, Mary.
    - John, next time I suggest you...
  
- ✚ Use personal pronouns.
  - Examples:
    - I think..., I feel..., In my opinion..., I suggest..., I like..., I appreciate...
  
- ✚ Be positive. Focus on "Do" instead of "Don't", "Could" instead of "Should".

Avoid labeling and name calling. Avoid 'loaded' words that put the other person on the defensive. Avoid absolutes (words such as 'always', 'never', or 'ever').

<i><b>Instead of Saying</b></i>	<i><b>Try Saying</b></i>
Don't be clumsy	Doing it this way might feel less awkward for you.
You were too slow.	Practice working a little faster next time.
Don't be nervous.	I know how hard it is speaking in front of an audience. Practice giving demonstrations in front of people whenever you can to gain confidence.

- ✚ Be specific. Evaluate the act, NOT the person. Give specific, detailed suggestions for changing, improving, solving the problem, etc.
  
- ✚ Be encouraging, thoughtful and sincere.
  
- ✚ Give praise as well as criticism. Try the "sandwich" approach: give a praise/positive comment followed by a suggestion, then another positive comment.
  
- ✚ Avoid "double-edged" compliments. Give an honest compliment with sincere enthusiasm (for example, don't say "You did a good job for your first demonstration" just say "You did a good job").
  
- ✚ (Optional) Sign your name. Qualified judges have confidence in their ability and are willing to stand behind their decision. Take pride in the helpful comments you've written, and take credit for doing an excellent job!