

2007 County Fair Orientation for 4-H Families

Armbands

- All 4-H members who exhibit at the Mini Fair or County Fair will be given an armband that will allow free entry into the fair for the entire week. Enrolled 4-H volunteers who have provided 25 hours or more of service during the current 4-H year will also receive an armband. For all others, there is a charge for admission to enter the fair beginning Wednesday, July 25. Information about these costs is available in the fair book. There will also be a separate fee charged to enter the Grandstand Area during show times. Entry to the Grandstand is not included with your armband or daily pass.
- 4-H armbands and fair passes will be available for pick up on Monday, July 23 beginning at 3:00 p.m. through the end of 4-H project judging and on Tuesday, July 24 beginning at 3:00 p.m. through the end of 4-H project judging.

Judging Overview

- The building is divided into two zones. The front of the building is a waiting area for 4-H families. A majority of the rest of the building is reserved for judging stations. Each project area will have a designated area in which to be judged. Only 4-H'ers are allowed in the judging area. If a 4-H'er needs help getting their project(s) to a judging station, please ask someone in the office for assistance.
- When 4-H'ers arrive, they should sign a master sign-in sheet and wait in the waiting area. When judging starts, Extension staff or a superintendent will call about 20 4-H'ers in the order that they signed in. 4-H'ers will go to their project judging station and check-in with the superintendent. The 4-H'er will receive a claim ticket for their project and a number that indicates the order for that judging station. If a 4-H'er has additional projects, s/he should continue to the next judging station and repeat the process. Once all his/her projects are checked-in, 4-H'ers should return to the waiting area and wait to be called.
- A superintendent will call the 4-H'er when it is his/her turn to be judged. 4-H'ers will spend about 5-7 minutes with the judge, during which time they'll chat about his/her project while the judge fills out the score sheet.
- When judging is finished, the judge will let the 4-H'er know their ribbon rating. The 4-H'er should leave their project, score sheet and ribbon with the judge and superintendent.

Judging Process

- Conference Judging: All 4-H'ers are encouraged to take part in conference judging. Conference judging is a two-way conversation between a 4-H'er and the judge. During this conversation, the 4-H'er shares with the judge how the project was created, what was learned, etc. Conference judging is strongly encouraged, but not mandatory. However, if a child does not conference judge, he/she is responsible for providing written answers to three questions (see the general rules, rule number 9). A project will be lowered one rating if a child does not conference judge or provide written answers to the questions.
- Award Levels: 4-H has a multi-level awards program which includes non-competitive and competitive components. There are three levels to 4-H awards. There are requirements to advance through the different levels of the awards.

Level One – Project Standards

- The first level of awards is non-competitive and based purely on whether the 4-H'er met the standards for the project. At this level, projects are not compared against one another. 4-H'ers receive a rating expressed by a colored ribbon. A blue rating means the project meets the standards. A red rating means it needs improvement. A white rating means the project needs lots of improvement. A green rating is reserved for disqualified projects, but still honors their participation in the event. A project may be disqualified for a number of reasons. Extension staff will make that determination.

Level Two – Class Champions – exceeding project expectations

- The next level of awards is Class Champion which is awarded to projects that exceeded project standards. Any project that received a blue rating is eligible to also receive a class champion ribbon. Think of it like getting an A+ in school. You need to get an “A” for it to be possible to get an “A+.” Class Champion ribbons are purple. At this level, the competition begins because all the blue ribbon winners are compared against one another to decide which ones really stand out as going beyond the project standards.

Level Three – Champions and Reserve Champions

- The highest level of awards comes during the third part of the judging/award process. The Champion (think of it as the Grand Champion or the Best Overall) and the Reserve Champion (Second Best) are selected from among the class champions. This, of course, is highly competitive. So, to summarize, you need to get a blue to be eligible for a Class Champion Ribbon and you need to be a Class Champion to be eligible for a Champion or Reserve Champion Award.

Level Four - State Fair Delegates

- The final part of judging also includes selection of State Fair Delegates and Alternates. Delegates are 4-H’ers who have the first choice to take their project to the State Fair. If they decide not to go, an alternate may have an opportunity. In DuPage County, Champions and then Reserve Champions are given the opportunity to be delegates. Because the State 4-H Office determines how many delegates and alternates we can send for a given project area or class, we can sometimes send additional 4-H’ers. Delegates and Alternates also need to be 10 years of age by September 1, 2006 to be eligible for State Fair.

Assistance

- Please feel free to ask questions of the Extension office staff and superintendents. We would rather answer the question up front than try to comfort a disappointed child after it’s too late. Judge’s decisions are final.
- Parents should not make contact with a judge. If parents have problems, please contact Christine Birns or Christina Foster right away. This is the child’s opportunity, not the parents.

Check out

- 4-H exhibits will be released on Sunday, July 29 according to the following times. Please have claim ticket (distributed at check-in) for project pick up.
 - Beef, Dairy, Goat, Sheep, Swine, Rabbits, Poultry – 6:00 p.m.
 - All other 4-H exhibits – 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Any exhibits removed prior to these times will result in loss of premium. All food products will be disposed of by the superintendents. Canning jars will be available for pick up. Extension staff is not responsible for exhibits left after 9:00 p.m. Sunday.

Illinois State Fair

- Dates for the 2007 Illinois State Fair are **August 10-19, 2007** at the State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The Illinois State Fair will offer conference judging for the following projects on Saturday, August 11, 2007: Clothing Decisions; Intercultural (Club Display); Public Adventures (Club Display); Photography; Visual Arts – Paper; Visual Arts – Fiber; Leadership; Geology; and Sportfishing I & II.
- State Fair delegates in these project areas will have the choice to conference judge or to send their projects with the others from the county as was done last year. Details about conference judging will be available during the County Fair. Volunteers are needed to deliver state fair projects on Monday, August 6, 2007. Please call Christine Birns at 630-955-1123 ext. 17 if you can help.

Illinois State Fair Delegate

- Youth age 10 and above (as of September 1, 2006) may be selected to represent DuPage County in the 4-H portion of the 2007 Illinois State Fair. Delegates will be posted on Wednesday, July 25 on the State Fair Delegate Board in the 4-H building during the DuPage County Fair. 4-H'ers must check the State Fair Delegate Board. Delegates and alternates are encouraged to indicate their decision on the board as soon as possible. **Delegates must decide by 4:00 pm on Friday, July 27.** If we do not hear from you by this deadline, we will assume you are not planning to attend and open up the slot to an alternate. **Alternates must make their final decisions by 10:00 pm on Saturday, July 28.** If you will not be at the fairgrounds, you may call the Extension office at 630-955-1123 ext 17 and leave a message for Christine Birns by the deadline to indicate your decision. Those who decide to go to the State Fair can pick up their registration forms at the 4-H office at the fairgrounds during the fair. State Fair registration forms must be returned to Extension staff by 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 29, 2007. The Extension office must submit them to the State Fair on Monday morning, so no late forms will be accepted.

4-H Fairbook for Mini Fair and the County Fair can be found at
<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/dupage/downloads/6888.pdf>

Additional judging tips can be found at
<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/dupage/downloads/2439.pdf>

Questions regarding the 4-H show at the county fair should be directed to Christine Birns, 4-H Coordinator.