

The 4-H Judging Process

At county or local exhibitions, most 4-H exhibits are evaluated as part of an interview about the project. The 4-H member visits with the judge about the exhibit and how the item was made and what was learned through the process and in the project during the past year.

The exhibit on display is only one part of the project study; it's an item created or a display sharing what was learned through the project. All of this – the item exhibited, the interview skills and the knowledge shared – contribute to the final ribbon placing at the county or local exhibition. Exhibits earning a blue ribbon through this process are invited to the North Dakota State Fair.

At the North Dakota State fair, these exhibits are considered a static display. Only the exhibit as displayed and information on the exhibit tag are available for evaluation by the judges. The workmanship and design are evaluated and in some classes, additional information is provided on an attached notecard. A notecard with basic information about the project can be attached and sent to state fair with all exhibits.

The judge does not have the benefit of an interview with the exhibitor, and that is one reason some projects receiving a blue ribbon at the county fair may receive a different ribbon at the State Fair.



What the Ribbons Mean

* A category may be a class, age group in a class (8-12 or 13-18), or a lot or group of lots in a class as determined by the type of exhibit or number of exhibits entered in a class.

Champion Rosette (Purple)

- The top exhibit as determined by the judges in a category.*

Reserve Champion Rosette (Pink)

- The second-place exhibit as determined by the judges in a category.

Award of Excellence (Turquoise)

- These are outstanding exhibits in a category * that were in consideration for the champion rosettes.

Blue

- The exhibit meets standards and expectations of the project. The exhibit shows high-quality work and needs little or no improvements. Excellent exhibit.

Red

- The exhibit meets most standards and expectations of the project. The exhibit shows high-quality work; however, some improvements can be made in workmanship, design or expression of what was learned in the project. Good exhibit.

White

- The exhibit meets few standards and expectations of the project. The exhibit can be improved in workmanship, design or knowledge shared about the project.