

COUNTY FAIR – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
**Helpful Hints for Your Fair Non-Animal
Judging Experience!**

CHECKING IN YOUR EXHIBITS AT THE FAIR

**Monday, July 9 from 2-7PM at the
Commercial Building on the Fairgrounds**

Here are a few things to remember as you are checking in your items at the Fair:

1. All exhibits MUST be brought to the Commercial Building on the Sauk County Fairgrounds, between 2PM and 6:30 PM. If you are unable to bring your exhibits at these times, please ask someone else in your club to bring them for you. Please see a note below if you are not able to personally bring your items to the fair.
2. Make sure that all of your exhibits follow exhibit guidelines from the Fair Book.
3. When you and your exhibits arrive at the Fair you will check-in at the registration table where you will pick up your exhibit/entry tags, back tags (for animal projects later in week) and pre-purchased parking passes.
4. Once you have picked up your exhibit/entry tags, you will proceed to the “labeling tables.” These tables will have tape, string, and other various items for attaching your exhibit/entry tags to your exhibits.
5. Once you have attached all of your exhibit/entry tags to your exhibits, you will pick up numbers from the Main Number Board, which will be next to the “labeling tables.”

THE NUMBER BOARD

The Number Board is a tool to help you know when you and your exhibits will be called for judging. It is similar to picking up a number at a deli counter to be able to place your order.

- Take a number off of the main number board for every department that you have exhibits in.
- Take a seat near the department in which your number is closest to being called, or your lowest number.
- When your number is called, hand it to the department number board attendant and have your exhibits judged.
- Proceed to the next department in which your number is closest to being called.
- If you miss the call for your number, return to the department as soon as possible and **notify the department number board attendant.** They will ensure you maintain the next spot in line.
- If you have questions or concerns, ask a department number board attendant or Fair staff member.

COUNTY FAIR – FAQ CONTINUED...

EXHIBIT JUDGING – THROUGH FACE TO FACE OR CONFERENCE JUDGING

All non-animal projects are judged in face-to-face or Conference Judging. Conference judging gives a judge and Junior Fair Exhibitor a chance to discuss the Junior Fair Exhibitor’s exhibit, and provide an educational experience for the 4-H member. More important than the exhibit itself is the growth and development of the Junior Fair Exhibitor. The judge wants to know what the Junior Fair Exhibitor has learned from their project. This is an opportunity to build your self-confidence as an exhibitor. Junior Fair Exhibitor will have a chance to point out the positive aspects of their exhibit(s) as well as ways they can improve. Conference judging is another way for the Junior Fair Exhibitor to share their exhibit(s) development experience or tell their exhibit(s) story. It is also an opportunity for Junior Fair Exhibitor’s to share some of the mishaps and challenges they may have had while working on their exhibit(s).

It is important to note that each person carrying the project is expected to be present during conference judging. The exhibitor is expected to answer some questions from the judge, and also has the opportunity to ask questions to learn ways to improve his/her skill or knowledge base.

Exhibitors bring all their exhibits in that department to be judged at one time and talk to the judge about each of their exhibits. Exhibits are not compared with other exhibits in the same lot number, but are judged on their own merit. The judge may award the ribbon and premium which he/she believes is appropriate

without regard to the other exhibits entered in the same department.

General Questions Junior Fair Exhibitor's May be Asked During Conference Judging

- *What do you like most/least about this project?
- *What have you learned in this project?
- *What would you like to learn more about in this project?
- *Where did you get the idea for this exhibit?
- *Where/how did you learn to make this exhibit? Who helped you?
- *What was the easiest/most difficult part of making this exhibit?
- *What would you do differently if you were to make a similar exhibit again?

Tips for Exhibitors During Conference Judging

- ❖ When talking with the judge, sit up straight and speak with confidence. You are talking about yourself and your exhibit, so you should know your stuff!
- ❖ Look the judge in the eye when talking to him/her. Eye contact is a very important part of effective communication.
- ❖ If you don't know the answer to a judge's question, it's better to admit it than to make up an answer.

Tips for Exhibitors During Conference Judging cont.

- ❖ Face-to-face judging is meant to be an education experience, so don't be afraid to ask the judge some questions about the exhibit or project if you want.
- ❖ Be courteous and polite at all times. At the end of your discussion with the judge, be sure to thank him/her for their comments.

How long does it take to get our non-animal projects judged during pre-fair judging?

It all depends on how many exhibits you have and how many other people are there getting their projects judged. The Number Board system makes the wait a lot shorter for everyone...but if you come at a busy time and have lots of exhibits, it may still take you **one to two hours** to get all of your exhibits judged. There are lots of people around to answer your questions and help you through the judging process. Judging goes until 7:00 p.m., but **please arrive by 6:00PM so that judging can be completed by 7:00PM.**

What if an exhibitor can't be present at the face-to-face judging?

Exhibitors who cannot be present for their judging must contact the Sauk County Fair office ahead of time. It is preferred that another Junior Fair Exhibitor sit in for that person's discussion with the judge; however, a leader or parent may sit in if necessary. The absent exhibitor needs to write up a description of how they made the object and also answer 2-3 of the general questions asked during face-to-face judging (listed in the column to the left) for the judge to read. There is no automatic penalty for exhibitors who are not present for their judging. It is up to each judge to determine how the exhibitor's absence will affect the placing awarded.

AFTER JUDGING

What happens to the exhibits after they are judged?

Junior Fair Exhibitors are expected to take all projects to the project buildings after judging, with the exception of exhibits held back for potential extra awards. After recorded take your exhibits to the project buildings. All exhibits remain at the fair after pre-fair judging so that the building display team can prepare and arrange the exhibits prior to when the building opens to the public on Wednesday or fair week. Food and Lego exhibits will be photographed and taken home by the exhibitor. Pick up is Sunday of fair week, at 4pm sharp.

When are Merit Award & State Fair selections made?

During pre-fair judging, judges will set aside some of the blue ribbon exhibits for further consideration. After all exhibits have been judged, the judges will select the State Fair and Merit winners from those exhibits that have been set aside. If you receive one of these awards, you will find out when you find your exhibit in the youth buildings when they open to the public on the Wednesday of the Fair. State Fair award winners will

be asked to take their exhibits home after the fair **then bring their exhibits to the Sauk County Fair Office starting Monday, July 23 from 10:00AM-5:30PM and Tuesday, July 24 from 10:00 AM-5:30PM.** If these times do not work, please call to make arrangements. We ask that all exhibits be packed in a box or something to protect your exhibit, as we transport it to the State Fair.

When do I need to pick up my exhibits?

ALL fair exhibits MUST be picked up on the last day of the fair (Sunday, July 15) between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. NO exhibits will be released prior to 4:00 p.m. and they MUST be picked up by 5:00 p.m. If you are not able to pick up your exhibits during this time, you'll need to make arrangements with someone else to pick up your projects for you (try asking a member of your 4-H club or FFA Chapter).