



ACTION EXHIBITS



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Action Exhibit

Try it, you'll like it! Everything you ever wanted to know about Action Exhibits in 4-H and then some...

WHAT IS AN ACTION EXHIBIT?

An Action Exhibit features one to three 4-Hers showing a process; making or doing something while explaining it to the audience and answering the audience's questions.

Action Exhibits are different from Fair Exhibits. In the Fair Exhibits, the display just sits there to be looked at, while in the Action Exhibit, everything comes alive, the 4-Hers are actually involved in doing something. Action Exhibits are different from 4-H demonstrations in that constant talk is not necessary, more people may be involved and more time is allowed.

- ▶ Action Exhibits have one to three participants.
- ▶ All participants take an equal role in planning and doing the action exhibit.
- ▶ The exhibit is organized so that each person has a given time to work.
- ▶ If a product is made, it needs to be made in the allotted time from step one to the finished product. Samples may be used to show different steps.
- ▶ Action Exhibits should be planned for 40 minutes of "on stage time", with 5 minutes for set up and cleanup for State Activities Day. Action Exhibits may be longer for Eastern States Exposition or for special presentations in the county.
- ▶ Action Exhibits are set up on the tables and booths that are provided. Sometimes easels are provided. 4-Hers should check on these.
- ▶ All materials and equipment needs must be provided by participants.
- ▶ Scoring is done by roving observers during the presentation. Score sheets will be returned so that the participants will continue to learn by doing through 4-H.
- ▶ Ribbons will be given on the county and state level.
- ▶ To participate at state, all members of the team must be at least 12 years old.

HOW DO I PLAN AN ACTION EXHIBIT?

1. Choose a topic: What have you done or learned that you want to show others.
2. Choose your action: Do you want to do an action exhibit by yourself or work with others in planning and doing an action exhibit? What action will you be doing?
3. Choose your goal: Do you want to teach others something? Do you want to show others how to do something? Do you want to promote something or compare different processes (such as comparing well knitted sweaters to poorly knitted sweaters?)
4. Choose a title: Make it short, catchy, have a one-idea theme, tell the most important point and be original. Then make a poster with the title and make any other posters that will help show or explain your topic.

5. Choose your support materials: What materials, equipment, ingredients, will you need to make your exhibit active? Write it down on an index card and double check to make sure you have all you need before going to do your action exhibit. A plastic tablecloth or a suitable table cover should be used to protect the table and don't forget a drop cloth or newspaper for the floor to catch any harmful drips.
6. Practice, Practice: Practice your action exhibit doing all the necessary steps of the process. Your action exhibit is smoother when you've done it several times and when you're experienced in making or doing your topic. Check the time limits. Remember to keep working area neat, clean and free from clutter. After practicing, decide if there are ways to improve your action display.
7. Decide how you can interest the audience:
Decide on a series of questions you can use to capture the audience's attention. "Have you ever tried to make or do....?" "Would you like to try making a.....?" "Want to taste or try your hand at....?" "Do you know how to?"

HOW DO I SET UP MY ACTION EXHIBIT?

Choose a center of interest or focal point for your exhibit

- ▶ Try to avoid always using the middle of the table as the center of your exhibit.
- ▶ Evaluate what is seen as the most interesting thing in your display. Is that what you want? The viewer's eye should go from the title poster to the most important thing.
- ▶ If several objects are involved, vary size, shapes, colors, and heights. You may want to use covered boxes or storage containers to vary heights of objects.

Arrange your action exhibit

- ▶ Left to right is the way the eye usually travels. Place heavy, large, or bright objects on the left.
- ▶ Decide on the type of balance. Formal or symmetrical has both sides the same. Informal or asymmetrical has the left side different from the right side. Circle balance has the display arranged around a focal point.
- ▶ Decide on an overall color scheme.
- ▶ Be sure visitors/audience can see what you're doing.
- ▶ Use labels if you have several items on display.
- ▶ Avoid clutter. Make sure everything is really needed and leave out anything that doesn't fit the one-idea theme.
- ▶ Make all lettering easy to read, simple, neat and well-spaced.

HOW WILL MY ACTION EXHIBIT BE EVALUATED?

Does it attract attention?

- ▶ Short, well-worded, TITLE SIGN with one idea
- ▶ Uses color, motion, design, or other means to draw attention
- ▶ Participants start talking with visitors

Does it hold attention?

- ▶ Tells “one idea” quickly
- ▶ Has continuous action
- ▶ Participants demonstrate and converse with visitors easily and skillfully
- ▶ People stop, look and ask questions

Does it have educational value?

- ▶ Poster gives accurate information
- ▶ Included product of quality
- ▶ Participants give accurate information

Does it use explanatory materials well?

- ▶ Adequate charts, maps, or other supporting material
- ▶ Signs neat, brief, easy to read and understood

DOUBLE CHECK YOUR ACTION EXHIBIT ON THESE KEY POINTS

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| <i>Visible</i> | Can the action exhibit be seen? Is the lettering easy to read? Did you use colors to aid visibility? |
| <i>Interesting</i> | Does your action exhibit attract and hold attention? Is your enthusiasm for the topic showing? |
| <i>Structure</i> | Are the steps in logical order? |
| <i>Useful</i> | Can it be given more than once? Is it practical....portable? |
| <i>Appropriate</i> | Is your action exhibit appropriate to...time, place, subject, audience? |
| <i>Legitimate</i> | Is the material factual and believable? |
| <i>Informative</i> | Is it informative? Was audience/viewer involved in talking about the action exhibit? |
| <i>Economical</i> | Is your action exhibit economical...as to cost and use of materials? |
| <i>Down to Earth</i> | Is it simple, with one idea and uncomplicated? |