



4-H ACTION EXHIBITS

WHAT IS AN ACTION EXHIBIT?

Action Exhibits features one to three 4-H'ers showing a process; making/doing something while explaining it to an audience and answering their questions. Other types of exhibits may just sit there to be looked at ("static"), while Action Exhibits engage the viewer through interaction ("dynamic"). 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.

- 1-3 participants who take an equal role in planning and exhibiting
- If a product is made, step one to finished product needs to be accomplished in the allotted timeframe. Samples may show different steps.
- Exhibits are set up on tables (provided). Easels are provided , if requested in advance.
- Participants must provide all materials and equipment needed.
- Scoring is done by roving observers during the presentation. Score sheets will be returned so participants will continue to learn and improve their skills.

PREPARATION:

1. Choose a topic: What have you done or learned that you want to show to others?
2. Will you be working by yourself or with others? 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 materials (such as comparing sweater made with wool to a sweater made with acrylic yarn)?
4. Create a short and eye-catching title. Tell the most important point. Make a poster with the title and any other posters that will help show or explain your exhibit.
5. Make a checklist of necessary supplies and equipment, including table/floor protection if needed. Paper, cloth or another material work well to cover or skirt the front of the table, making your exhibit area appear neater and hiding cords and extra supplies under the table. You also need materials to attach your posters, secure your background and table coverings (if being used).
6. Practicing multiple times will make your presentation smoother. Check the time limits, and keep your working area neat, clean and free from clutter. Reflect on ways to improve your exhibit.
7. Decide on ways you might involve the audience. Ask questions to capture the audience's attention: "Have you ever tried to make or do this?", "Would you like to try making one of these?" Engage audience in "hands-on" process of your exhibit.

SETTING UP:

Choose a focal point for your exhibit

- Consider using somewhere other than the middle of the table as the center of your exhibit.
- The viewer's eye should naturally go from the title poster to the most important part.
- If several objects are involved, vary the sizes, shapes, colors and heights.

Arrange your exhibit

- The eye tends to travel left to right. Place large or bright objects on the left side of your display.
- Determine the type of balance that you want to achieve. Symmetrical means both sides are the same. Asymmetrical means one side is "weighted" different than the other side. Circle balance means the display is arranged around a central focal point.
- Decide on an overall color scheme. Choose your colors with care. Cool colors (grays, greens and blues) are often good for backgrounds, promoting a sense of calm and restfulness. Warm colors (red, yellow, and orange) "advance" or draw attention. What is the theme of your exhibit - exciting or restful?
- Organize your workspace so your audience can see what you are doing. Avoid clutter.
- Be aware of copyright laws. If you are using a recipe from a copyrighted cookbook or directions for a craft from a publication or website, you must cite the source using the appropriate format.
www.library.unh.edu/research-support/citation-styles
- If your Action Exhibit requires the use of electricity or something out of the ordinary, always check with your county 4-H Program Manager to make sure you will have what you need.
- Use labels if multiple items are displayed. Lettering should be neat and well spaced. Check spelling and grammar, and erase any pencil guidelines you use.
- Stability of your exhibit is important. Expect that your exhibit will be bumped at some point. Ensure everything is secure and try not to use fragile items.

DELIVERY:

- Practice your activity ahead of time and make sure you can complete it in approximately 3-5 minutes. Try to incorporate actions that will engage judges and other interested people passing by. You will have 50 minutes to engage with the audience, so bring enough supplies to perform your activity multiple times.
- Firearms may not be included in 4-H presentations. Please use printed representations in presentations related to firearms.
- Food Safety - If your Action Exhibit involves the preparation and or serving of food, be sure you are following all current food safety guidelines. In fact, you should talk about how you are following safe food preparation practices as part of your exhibit. You wouldn't want to serve food prepared in an unsafe manner to your audience and risk them getting sick. You should check with your 4-H Leader or County 4-H Program Manager if you have questions about safe food handling for your Action Exhibit.
- Your audience should know you are a 4-H member. You can be creative in how you accomplish this. Use a 4-H tablecloth, display the 4-H flag on your table, wear a 4-H shirt, etc.