

Things to consider on all Home Environment Exhibits

Even though *supporting information* is not required for all Home Environment projects, if there is a special technique, a problem encountered or other pertinent information the member would like to share with the judge, that is encouraged and will be accepted.

What makes the difference between a white – red – blue – purple exhibit??

Use the criteria listed on the score sheets:

For *Workmanship and Techniques (40%)*, ask these types of questions: What is the quality of the workmanship on this exhibit? Is it durable? Were good quality materials used? Are the finishes applied neatly? Are the finishes appropriate? Are the materials used durable enough for the desired purpose? How difficult will it be to clean the item?

Things that could keep an exhibit from receiving a purple could include:

- *Painted finishes that show brush marks (when that isn't the intended effect), or some areas are not painted at all
- *Parts of the exhibit are not securely fastened together
- *Sloppy Work
- *Runs in paint or varnish
- *Rough surface when it should be smooth
- *Irregularities (for example, tin punch design where the design lines are not straight or punches are not the same depth)

For *Design/Creativity (50%)*, ask questions like these:

- Have the art principles been followed?
- Is the design balanced?
- Is the design in proportion to the whole item?
- Is there a part of the design that catches your attention?
- Does the design "hang together," does it look like it all belongs on the same exhibit?
- Is there movement throughout the design; does your eye move from one part of the design to another?

How were the *design elements* used:

- Are the *colors* pleasing with each other?
- Does *line* help move your eye through the design?
- Does *shape* contribute or detract from the exhibit?
Example: A clay pot exhibit had an interesting shape – but very small on the bottom and large on top. It could barely set by itself because the shape had literally become a detriment to balance!
- Is there a variety of *textures*? Are the textures pleasing to the design?

How is *Creativity* shown?

- Does the exhibit show originality?
- If items were made in a group project (Ex: at a project camp), is personal creativity evident?
- What makes this exhibit stand out above others?

Questions to ask to determine *Presentation of Exhibit (10%):*

- Is the exhibit an appropriate item for the home?
- Is it neatly done?
- Is it durable enough for the purpose intended?
- If it should hang, is it ready to be hung?
- Is the hanger sturdy enough for the exhibit?
- If it should set, is the bottom surface smooth so it won't damage a table top?

Scoresheets used in Home Environment projects:

- a. SF 200 – for most of home environment projects
- b. SF 201 – for judging posters, CD's, notebooks, etc – educational exhibits
- c. SF 202 – for community service entries (also give a certificate at SF)
- d. SF 203 – Wood furniture, opaque or clear finish
- e. SF 204 – NONE!!
- f. SF 205 – Refinished/restored furniture – Heirloom Treasures
- g. SF 206 – Trunks
- h. SF 207 – Recycled or remade furniture or accessory

Most Often Asked Questions-

A 4-H'er has made or wants to make....., where do we put it?

Too often, members decide what they want to make first, rather than working through a project and **then** deciding what to make! The benefit of a project (for example: learning about and applying the design elements and principles) is lost when all they are doing is "making something."

Please define "kits."

The definition we are using for "kits" is any pre-packaged project where the design and materials are predetermined by the manufacturer. We realize that with counted cross-stitch, for example, someone else has come up with the design, but the 4-H'er would have choices about colors and would have to transfer the design by counting the stitches. They would also have choices in how it is matted and framed.

For the most part, the use of kits is discouraged, but instead youth are encouraged to develop their own creativity and to learn how to apply design principles to their work.

Explanation of terms to consider when entering Home Environment Projects:

1. Fiber – where individual strands of a fiber are worked together to make an item.
Examples – weaving, needlework.
2. Clay – The item is made from some type of clay that is formed by the member. A commercially designed clay item that is painted is NOT considered a clay entry – it would be pigment.
3. Textiles – Using already-woven materials to make item for the home. Examples – quilted items, wall hanging, table runner.

4. Wood – The wood needs to be cut or shaped by the 4-H member. It then may be finished with a clear or opaque finish.
5. Glass – The glass needs to be manipulated in some way by the 4-H member. Examples – etching, mosaics, stained glass, molten.
6. Ceramic – Greenware may have been poured by someone else. Members should have cleaned the greenware and painted the glaze.
7. Tile – Needs to be changed in some way. Design made by tiles – not just painted on.
8. Paper – Paper needs to be manipulated to form design. Examples – Making paper then forming it for an accessory; cutting (scherenschnitte), folding (origami), or tearing paper to make a design; cotton linter.
9. Metal – Cut, shape, reassemble, or alter metal to form an item for the home. Examples – Metal sculpture, tin punch.
10. Chalk – Chalk should be the media used for the design – usually pictures/sketches/drawings.
11. Carbon/Ink – Carbon or ink should be the media used for the design – usually pictures.
12. Pigment/Water Color – Pigment (as in any type of paint) should be the media used for the design. Examples – Oil or acrylic pictures, painting on any number of surfaces, water color paintings.
13. Floral Design—Design should be made by arranging, manipulating, or combining natural &/or artificial plant materials into a centerpiece or other home accessory.
14. Recycled – Exhibit should be refurbished/repurposed to restore usefulness. Brief explanation of what was done is requested.

If you have further questions, contact your local Extension Staff or one of the State Fair co-superintendents.

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