

# State 4-H Judging Contest

**Location:** Wellman Hall Lounge

*No pre-registration required.*

**Time:** 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM

**Judging Contest Coordinator:** Mary Ann Smith, (760) 344-4048 or [maryann.smith@imperial.edu](mailto:maryann.smith@imperial.edu)

The objective of judging in the 4-H program is to help members grow in their ability to think, reason, and make logical and scientific judgments. Judging is about making choices and decisions. Judging is an everyday activity. In 4-H, judging is essentially a matter of comparing four items. If 4-H members know what factors make up an ideal animal, plant, or situation, they are more able to recognize quality products, know good standards, and make wise decisions based on facts.

## Why have judging in 4-H?

Judging teaches 4-H members to:

- Observe carefully.
- Recognize good products, articles, and animals.
- Improve their own work.
- Make wise selections.
- Make their own decisions.
- Appreciate the opinions of others.

Ways that 4-H'ers can study standards:

- Read project materials.
- Study pictures.
- Attend exhibit days.
- Take tours and trips.

## Guidelines for Judging

- Pre-registration is not required. This is a walk-in basis event - doors will be open between 10:30 – 2:00 PM.
- Before attempting to begin judging, study the scoring sheet. This is the sheet where you will mark your placing. Becoming familiar with the scoring sheet will prevent lower scores. Be sure to fill out the top part of your scoring sheet completely.
- There will be three potpourri Judging Divisions: Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. Each division will consist of ten classes, each class having four items labeled A,B,C,D. The classes will represent a variety of 4-H projects and program areas.

## Judging Etiquette

- Whispering and/or talking to other contestants is not allowed. Keep your eyes on your own scoring sheet.
- Judging is a comparative process; examine and compare. Check each item individually. Placing may be confirmed or changed upon closer examination.
- Observe. Get an overall feeling of the class. Look for something that stands out – an easy top or bottom. This helps narrow the class and gives a mental picture.
- Decide. Make a final decision on placing the items in order of rank on your scoring sheet using each letter once. A duplicated letter will result in a score of zero for the class.

## Awards

This contest is scored using the Alphabetic Hornel Judging System.

In each division: Top 20% - Medal and Gold Seal, Top 30 – 40% - Blue Seal, Remaining % - Red Seal

Every participant will receive a certificate of participation.

## Primary Members

There will be a small non-competitive primary division for primaries to get judging experience. They will receive a certificate of participation and a participation ribbon.