



# 2026 LA County 4-H Judging Day

## SCHEDULE

Registration .....	8:15 AM
Judging Orientation and Information.....	8:45 AM
All Judging starts 9am	
Oral Reasons ***Set times for Jr/Int/Sr TBD But will close at 11:30	
ALL OTHER JUDGING .....	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Introduction to judging category* .....	9:00 am - 9:30 am
4-H primary member judging category** .....	9:00 am - 11:30 am
** Primary is age 5-8 please RSVP approximate numbers from your club for planning to <a href="mailto:clmnotary1@att.net">clmnotary1@att.net</a>	
ALL OTHER JUDGING ENDS .....	12:00
Judging critique in rooms .....	12:00 pm -12:30 pm

Do you wonder what the correct placings were? Return to the rooms from 12:00-12:30 pm. Remember to keep a record of your placings of each class in each category on the form provided in the judging packet.

\* Helpful for first time 4-H members and parents. Includes judging technique and procedure.

\*\* For 4-H primary members ages 5-8 years of age as of Dec 31st of this program year. Primary members may only judge in this category.



## LA County 4-H Judging Day

### JUDGING GUIDE

1. All categories are open to 4-H members. 9-19
2. 4-H Primary Members can only judge Primary Member Classes (will not compete for county medals or awards).
3. All categories will have a junior, intermediate and senior contest with different classes in each contest, reflecting age, skills and ability of contestants.
4. Juniors are 9 through 10 years old; intermediates are 11 through 13 years old, and seniors are 14 and over as of Dec 31st , (4-H Primary Members are 5 to 8 years of age). Age as of Dec 31st of program year.
5. Reasons should be written for a designated class in each category in order to compete for a certificate or medal. The reasons score will be added to the total numerical score. This total score will be used to determine medal and certificate recipients.
6. County gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the top winners in junior, intermediate, and advanced categories; certificates to the next 20% in each contest (example: 53 contestants, three will win medals, then 20% of 50 contestants will be awarded certificates). **Primary Members will not compete for county medals.**
7. Classes for each contest are attached to this Los Angeles Judging Guide. Judging categories may be subject to content change on day of judging.
8. A scoring system will be used for scoring classes judged by 4-H members.
9. In case of ties, a duplicate award will be given.
10. Each contestant must bring pencil and writing board or clipboard.
11. **Talking among contestants while judging is not permitted and will result in disqualification.**
12. Parents, non 4-H members, and leaders are not permitted in or around the judging areas during judging, unless they are authorized to supervise contestants.

L.A. COUNTY 4-H JUDGING DAY  
Individual Member's Check Sheet



**LA County 4-H Judging Day**

**CATEGORY CLASS PLACING**

CATEGORY	CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3	CLASS 4	CLASS 5
Large Livestock					
Small Livestock					
Horse					
Dog Care					
Plant Science					
Mechanical Sci.					
Creative Arts					
Natural Science					
Foods & Nutrition					
Clothing & Textiles					
Family/Consumer Sci.					
Leisure Education					
Oral Reasons					

Write your placing on the top line under the Category Class shown. After judging is over, return to the different rooms and write the official placing on the line under your answer. You can compare the two placings and see how you did. If your answer is different from the official placing, read the written reasons posted with the placing in the room to see why the class was placed in that way.



## Judging Teaches Decision Making

Judging is an everyday activity. You use your judgment every time you make a decision. When you judge, you compare, select, and tell why.

### JUDGING TEACHES 4-H MEMBERS TO:

- Observe carefully
- Recognize good products, articles, animals
- Improve their own work
- Make wise selections
- Be better buyers
- Make their own decisions
- Express themselves clearly
- Appreciate opinions of others

### JUDGING—A GOOD TEACHING METHOD

The 4-H club meeting is one of the good places to use judging as a teaching method. Junior leaders, older members, and parents can help provide materials, animals, or crops to judge: or you can use items made at club meetings.

With beginners, judging can first be done on an informal basis. Have members examine one article. Discuss its good and bad points. Help your members visualize an ideal animal or article. Discuss why the good points are desirable and why the bad points are objectionable. Then compare two items and decide which is best and why. Then compare three or four items and rate them 1-2-3-4. As the group decides how the articles should be ranked or placed, have them give their reasons. After working as a group, members will be ready to make decisions on their own. Judging is a fun way to learn.

The four important steps in the judging process are:

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| (1) Observe | (3) Decide   |
| (2) Compare | (4) Tell Why |

### A STANDARD CLASS

A standard class has four items of different quality (two or three will do for practice at club meetings). Number items 1, 2, 3, 4.

When preparing a class, select items of different quality. It is good to have a fairly obvious top or bottom or a fairly wide division between the two top and the two bottom items.

Have your members write and submit their placings before any reasons are given. This requires

them to make up their minds and arrive at their own decisions. Small, 2x4 inch slips of paper are adequate:

Morgan Green Cookies 2-4-1-3
------------------------------------

Members are usually given five to ten minutes to judge a class and about one minute for oral reasons. They will need a little more time to write reasons.

### REASONS

Telling why a class is placed a certain way is more important than the actual placing. Giving reasons helps 4-H members organize their thoughts and express themselves in a logical, convincing manner. Reasons separate the good judges from lucky guessers.

When giving reasons, divide the class into three pairs for comparison. If the placing is 3-1-2-4, the pairing will look like this:

Top Pair	Middle Pair	Bottom Pair
3 .....	1 .....	2 .....
1	2	4

Reasons may be given orally, written, or both. Members learn to speak when giving oral reasons. Written reasons help them learn to write and spell.

When giving reasons, the members could start by saying, "I placed this class of \_\_\_ 3-1-2-4. No. 3 is first and above 1 because \_\_\_. I placed 1 over 2 because \_\_\_. I placed 2 over 4 and 4 is last because \_\_\_." For these reasons, I placed these 3-1-2-4."

Members should use descriptive terms: deeper body, sweeter taste, even hem. Better and best are not descriptive and should seldom be used when giving reasons. Members giving reasons should look at the people they are talking to, not at the animals or the articles.

Written reasons may be in outline or sentence form. For example:

Top Pair	Middle Pair	Bottom Pair
3 above 1	1 over 2	2 above 4
why	why	why

### CORRECT PLACING

After your 4-H members have placed the class and have given their reasons, someone must make the official or "correct" placing and give his reasons. The "official" judge may be an experienced junior leader or you might do this yourself. With guidance, your members may arrive at their own official placing through discussion and consensus. This is a good teaching technique.