



## MEEKER COUNTY

# 4-H DEMONSTRATION GUIDELINES

### INDIVIDUAL DEMONSTRATION:

- Focus is on doing. A demonstration to show and tell something a 4-H member has made or done.
- Show how to make something using ingredients and equipment.
- Audience can see, feel, taste, touch or test a finished product.
- Your goal is to encourage your audience to go and do what you have shown.
- Grades Kindergarten - 5: 3-5 minutes in Length
- Grades 6 and older: Not to exceed 15 minutes in length.
- Example Topic: "How to Make A Rabbit Nest Box"

### TEAM DEMONSTRATION:

- Topic selected may be related to the project in which the 4-H'er is enrolled or to any area of interest or expertise the 4-H'er has.
- Not to exceed 25 minutes in length.

### ILLUSTRATED PRESENTATION:

- Focus is on talking.
- You tell how something is done using models, real objects, photos, posters, animals, chalkboard, etc.
- There is no finished product for the audience.
- Your goal is to share knowledge for your audience to improve.
- Individual presentations should not exceed 15 minutes in length.
- Team presentations should not exceed 25 minutes in length.
- Example topic: "Keeping Your Rabbit Healthy"

### YOUTH-IN-ACTION DEMONSTRATION:

- Focus is on involving the audience in the process and constitutes a major portion of the evaluation results.
- May be given in any project or activity of interest to the 4-H'er.
- This interactive presentation is continuous for approximately 25-30 minutes. Presentations may be 45-50 minutes in length at State Fair.

### PARTS OF A DEMONSTRATION:

1. Introduction/"Attention Getter"
2. Transition
3. Body
4. Summary
5. Questions
6. Conclusion (Relates to Introduction)

## DEMONSTRATION TIPS:

- Choose your topic carefully. Demonstrate something that you are knowledgeable about and that you feel comfortable doing. Make sure it's age appropriate.
- SMILE! Have a cheerful expression on your face. Try to relax. Enjoy yourself, and your audience will enjoy listening to you. Relate to your audience.
- Speak clearly and loudly. Do not have long "silences" during your demonstration. Use correct grammar and enunciate properly. Do not talk fast.
- Dress appropriately for your demonstration. Be creative!!!
- Have your hair pulled back away from your face. We want to see you! Don't touch your hair with your hand during your demonstration (especially when working with foods).
- BANG! Get everyone's attention with an interesting introduction! A joke, famous quote, a poem, song, a question, an exaggerated statement regarding your subject, etc.
- Research your topic well so that you know as much about it as possible. The amount of knowledge that the judge will expect you to have regarding your topic will depend on your age.
- Let the audience see what you are doing. Keep the space in front of you uncluttered. Use clear containers as much as possible.
- Use posters that are neat and easy to read at a distance of 10-15 feet away. Colors add "Jazz". All posters should be the same size if they are all on the same easel. You may use more than one easel if you wish.
- Use note cards if you wish, but DO NOT READ THEM. Know your material well enough so you do not have to be constantly checking your notes.
- Work from right to left (unless you are left handed and that is awkward.) This gives you a smooth, organized effect to your demonstration and makes it easier for you to see at a glance what is left on your tray. Use trays to hold your supplies. Leave the trays on your supply table during your introduction and put them back on the supply table before your summary. Begin and end with a clean area, keep your working surface clean. If you are making something messy, lay down a piece of wax paper. Have a damp dishcloth on your tray.
- Use proper equipment and techniques in presenting your demonstration. Use standard measuring cups. Measure the "right" way.
- Show your finished product to the audience. Tell the audience what makes a desirable product and what causes flaws that the product may have (such as tunnels in muffins).
- Before the summary, tell your audience where you obtained your information.
- Briefly summarize the main points of your demonstration.
- Ask for questions. When a question is asked, repeat the question asked, then answer it for the audience. Answer all questions as completely as you can. If you do not know the answer, say so. After all, no one knows everything.
- After questions, give a short conclusion to your demonstration. The introduction and conclusion should relate to one another - use the same train of thought. You might challenge the audience to try your product.
- After the conclusion to your demonstration, sit down with the judge and discuss your demonstration. If the finished product is edible, give the judge a taste.
- You may give samples to the audience or handouts that pertain to your demonstration.
- Practice your demonstration many, many times so that it goes smoothly and naturally for you. Don't panic if something goes wrong. Handle the situation as best you can. Keep your cool! Nearly everyone has a mishap at some time or other.
- HAVE FUN! Demonstrating is FUN! And remember, it gets easier every year!

# 4-H DEMONSTRATION PLANNING SHEET

Project\_\_\_\_\_ Topic\_\_\_\_\_

- 
- I. Introduction - What is the topic, why it is important, etc.
- a. "Attention Getter":
  - b. Information about topic:
  - c. Related information about demonstrator:

- 
- II. Body - Description, explanation and information of topic:

What to do:

What to say:

What visuals are needed:

- 
- III. Conclusion - What was accomplished, what did it mean, etc.:

- a. Summary - Most important points of steps, "big ideas":
  - i.
  - ii.
  - iii.
- b. Think about possible questions (from the audience and evaluator):
- c. Closing Statement:

