FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES GENERAL GUIDELINES

2026

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1. Suggested age categories for projects – age is not the only determiner of the appropriateness of a project when determining what level of project difficulty, a member should consider. The advisor should discuss the skills and past of the member. Project books should be reviewed for their difficulty level as well.

   General guidelines:
   The **beginner** category is 8-11 as of Jan. 1, current year.
   The **intermediate** category is 12-13 as of Jan. 1, current year.
   The **advanced** category is 14 and over as of Jan. 1, current year.

2. To be considered a completed project, all projects must be evaluated, either on the date set in the schedule for judging or at another arranged time by contacting the Extension Educator, for Family & Consumer Sciences. The member must attend a minimum of six 4-H meetings. They must also meet all other requirements of each club and the county. Meetings can include workshops, 4-H camp, judging, officers and advisors conference or other countywide activities only if occurring on the same date as a club meeting.

3. To be considered for awards, members must be evaluated by the judge sometime within the judging schedule, either during the assigned time for the project or another pre-arranged time during the judging day.

Members who are eligible but cannot participate in the state fair must notify the Extension office within two weeks of the state fair competition. Failure to inform may make the member ineligible for state fair participation the following year.

1. Not all Family and Consumer Sciences Projects can be repeated. Check project books for specific guidelines.
2. All members in foods, equipment, family life, consumer education, management, home environment and other family consumer sciences projects are encouraged to participate in the scheduled awards ceremony.
3. Participation ribbons will be given to all members who exhibit at the fair. Outstanding awards will be given in beginners Family and Consumer Sciences projects. Placing rosettes or awards will be given in intermediate and advanced projects where number enrolled permits and where quality deserves.
4. A club member may be a first place winner in clothing, food and nutrition or special Family and Consumer Sciences projects as often as the project quality justifies.

Advisors should assist members with understanding judging requirements and knowing judging dates and times.

1. See Junior Fair Rules for additional rules.

Project Books

4-H Project books provide information and instructions that serve as a guide for learning in any particular project and are to be used at club meetings. Project books are to be turned in to the advisor before judging for evaluation. Bring the completed project book to judging.

Evaluation

Advisors should let the Extension Office staff know **in writing** if they feel a 4-H member should not be considered for any special placings (based on club attendance, attitude, lack of interest, not doing own work, etc.)

Philosophy

4-H clothing projects are designed to give 4-H members experience in construction, selection, coordination and maintenance of their clothing and to help them create a *"Total Look."* Refer to the project book for *"Total Look"* guidelines.

Notification

The Style Revue, Clothing Awards, Foods & Nutrition Awards & General Awards Presentations will be held together with the 4-H Scholarship Recognition, Awards Recognition and the Queen Recognition on Sunday during the fair.
Please check the Junior Fair Schedule and the project guidelines for specific line up and awards presentation times.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
SPECIAL EMPHASIS PROJECTS

- **Judging - Wednesday, July 8, 11 a.m., Clinton County Fairground, Expo Building**
- **Awards – Sunday, July 12, 6:30 p.m., Peterson Building & Line up at 6:15 p.m., Junior Fair Building**
- **Project must be put on display prior to fair during the Junior Fair Set Up, July 8, 4-7:00 p.m.**
- **Project can be removed on the last Saturday, July 18, 9-11:00 a.m.**

Home Living

The Laundry Project (405-B) (State Competition) May be repeated
Project Requirement - Follow project guide on page 4. Have project book completed and full record of activities of project. New December 2014.
Judging - Bring completed project book to judging along with any records and project activity to demonstrate member's project knowledge.
Exhibit Requirements – Select one project activity for fair display such as a poster/science board.

It's My Home (491-B) *(State Competition) (Revised 2017)*
Age range - 8- to 14-year-old
Project Requirement - Read Section 1 thoroughly. Do 2 or 3 of the items listed under "Learn to Do." Complete Section 2 and 4 and selected activities in Section 3. Bring items to judging made for the home or pictures of the completed items if they cannot be brought.
Judging - Bring completed project book to judging along with any records and project activity to demonstrate member's project knowledge and members may participate in an interview.
Exhibit Requirements - Display items made or poster of pictures of completed activities. Members may use science boards.

Makeover My Space (Designing Interiors) (494-I) *(State Competition)* May be repeated
Project Requirement - Follow project completion requirements on page 3. Have project book completed and full record of activities of project including "before" and "after" pictures.
Judging - Bring completed project book to judging along with any records and project activity to demonstrate member's project knowledge.
Exhibit Requirements - Display poster of pictures.

Money Management

Becoming Money Wise (445-B)
Age range – 10 – 13 years
Multi-year project – 1 – 2 years

Project Requirement - This **beginner level** project is designed to help members monitor cash flow and see where money goes by developing a budget and good records to become a responsible consumer. Complete all Money Sense and Money Talk requirements for first year project member and Resource Sense and Resource Talk requirements for second year project members.
Judging: Bring completed project book to judging along with any records and project activity to demonstrate member's project knowledge and participate in an interview.
Exhibit Requirements – Select one project activity for fair display such as a poster/science board.

Teens on the Road to Financial Success (448-A)
Age range – 14 – 19 years old
Multi-year project – 1 – 2 years

Project Requirement - This **advanced level** project will assist teens in organizing their financial life by analyzing spending, obtaining, and managing banking services, making consumer decisions, and exploring financial careers. Follow and complete the project guidelines on pages 2 or 3 depending on if it is your first or second year in the project.
Judging: Bring completed project book to judging along with any records and project activity to demonstrate member's project knowledge and participate in an interview.
Exhibit Requirements – Select one project activity for fair display such as a poster/science board.