



Summer 2023

Expectations for 4-H Families Helping 4-H Exhibitors During the Fair

For new and experienced 4-H families alike

The purpose of the 4-H Program is to promote Positive Youth Development in a safe and nurturing environment while teaching children life skills. As a part of this educational environment, 4-H families, youth members, volunteers and Extension staff need to work together to keep the fair experience a fun and positive one for all participants. Included below are some ways that you can help.

- **Be a positive role model and a team player**
Work with others as a team to focus on education, safety, good sportsmanship, herdsmanship, and what is best for all 4-H members and the positive image of our local 4-H Youth Development Program.
- **Know what is going on, as far in advance as possible**
It is your responsibility to know relevant information in advance. In addition to online news and calendar resources, feel free to ask questions of 4-H leaders, other 4-H families, 4-H superintendents, and Extension staff ... sometimes this means asking someone who to ask.
- **Understand the purpose of fair events in the 4-H Youth Development Program**
The events that take place during the fair provide opportunities for each exhibitor to showcase his/her project and to receive recognition for the efforts of working all year with their club and their project. This is also an opportunity to educate the public about the positive value of 4-H that focuses on developing competent, confident, and caring youth.
- **Focus on having “blue ribbon kids” not “blue ribbon projects”**
It is more important to focus on each 4-H member and his/her feelings of confidence and competence rather than the color of the ribbon he/she receives for the 4-H project or activity.
- **Support your child**
Remember to ensure that youth get plenty of your encouragement, recognition, and celebration along with plenty of sleep, food, and fun!
- **Provide support to all 4-H leaders**
These individuals are volunteers, and are oftentimes 4-H parents who are sharing long hours and need relief time. Ask what you can do to be of support.
- **Share perspectives respectfully**
While suggestions for ways to improve the process are welcome, complaining and criticism are not helpful.

Thank you for all that your family does to support Positive Youth Development in our community!

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