

Tips for interview judging

All fairs are organized differently and the circumstances around interview judging vary. However, there are a few tips to help the process be smooth and educational.

Tips for Parent Interaction:

- This is the time for youth to show the judge what they have learned. When possible, ask youth to attend the interview without a parent or leader.
- If this is not possible or the culture of the fair, ensure this time belongs to the youth by putting the extra chairs away from the interview table.
- Immediately set the stage by explaining this time is for the youth and the judge. Adults are expected to refrain from involvement until after the interview.
- Tell adults there will be time for comments and questions they may have at the end of the interview. Until that time they should refrain from involvement in the interview.

Other tips:

- Interact with the member and discuss your observations and your judging philosophy. Discuss the standards you are using, the rationale for your standards, and how the standard you are using relates to real life. Explain the scoring system and the value placed on various aspects of the project and why those values vary.
- Refrain from asking the exhibitor what ribbon they think they deserve. However include them in the evaluation process by involving them in the above mentioned discussion.
- Refrain from sharing stories from one exhibitor to another.

Sample interview questions:

- Why are you involved in this project area?
- How long have you been in this project area?
- What did you learn this year? What new things did you learn this year?
- What do you like the most about this exhibit? What did you like the least?
- What was the most difficult part of the exhibit?
- What did you do for the first time when creating this exhibit?
- How did you decide what your exhibit would be?
- Did anyone help you with this exhibit?
- If you were to make this exhibit again what, if anything, would you do differently?
- How do you feel your exhibit could be improved?
- Did your exhibit turn out as you planned? If not, how did it differ?
- How much time did this exhibit take to create?
- How will you use what you learned for your next project?
- How do you plan to use what you made?
- What else did you do in this project area?
- What would you like to learn next year?

Developed by L. Black, 4-H Youth Development Program Specialist Reference from Wyoming Extension Service. January 2017

