Preparing for the 4-H Shows

Creating Posters

As 4-H Fair season rolls around, you may be getting ready to prepare posters about some of the work you have done in one or more of your projects. If so, you will want to do all you can to make sure that your poster looks good. Here are some tips:

- Make sure your poster is attention-getting. Remember you want people to take the time to read about what you have done.
- Include information that is brief and easy to read.
- Make it neat! Even if you have really great information on your poster, no one is going to take time to read it if it is messy!
- Watch out for clutter!
- Include pictures or charts if they help explain your project work.
- Check your spelling and then check it again. Misspelled words can be very distracting.
- Use intense colors. Try dark lettering against a light background. This is usually easiest for people to read.

Before you begin designing your poster, make sure that you read through the exhibit guidelines for your project found in the program book. Pay special attention to any size requirements. Make sure that you understand what they are asking for. Often the guidelines suggest that you report on an activity or experiment that you completed as part of your project. If that is the case, consider what is most important from that particular activity and what people are likely to want to know.
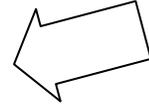
Begin work on your poster by sketching out a few rough drafts on plain paper. Ask your family, which draft they like best and then begin work on your poster.

On the reverse side of this page you will find a small version of a poster with some additional tips.

POSTER

(The title of your poster should be in larger print. People should be able to read it from a distance.)

Posters should attract attention and get an idea across quickly. You don't need to be an artist to create a great poster. They key to a good poster is simplicity. Simple Words -- Simple Message -- Simple Design.

Use horizontal letters they are easier to read. Vertical lettering can be hard to read.

Read

Read

Allow for fairly large areas of unused or open space (sometimes referred to as "white space"). A design begins to look crowded when the open space falls below 20 percent of the total area.

Consider using dark letters on light backgrounds or light letters on a dark background.

letters

letters

Illustrations or pictures should relate to what you are saying in your poster and should be easy to understand.

My kitten likes computers.

Use a letter style that's easy to read. Fancy letters are neat, but they can be hard to read.

Sample   **Sample**   SAMPLE

Neatness does count. Watch out for fingerprints and smudges.

Spelling counts too.

This is my drawing of an eletric circuit borad.

Watch out for clutter. Sometimes it is tempting to include all of the information we know about a topic. Remember if your poster doesn't look easy to read people aren't going to read it.