

2008 TEXAS 4-H CLOTHING AND TEXTILES PACKET

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT 4-H CLOTHING PROJECTS AND CONTESTS AT TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP

If a 4-H enters a contest at the district level for which he or she won at the state level the previous year, is she/he eligible to go on to state in that division/category.

NO. This allows more 4-H'ers to be eligible to enter and win in subsequent years.

Can he/she change divisions/categories even though she/he won at district in order to be eligible?

NO. A contestant must enter in the SAME category he/she won in at District, and County. The local CEA and regional 4-H Program Specialist need to double check the winners to be sure there are no changes, and that the contestant was not a winner at state in the previous year in the same division.

How are the entries from District shows judged?

Entries for Fashion Show are judged only on the paper entry prior to Roundup by a group of CEAs. In 2007 a section of the paper entry was judged because of the large number of Fabric and Fashion Design entries. This process may be repeated in 2008 as it helped alleviate the length of time needed for entry judging during the Roundup. This judging of paper work is important to allow adequate time for fair and consistent judging. There is a fixed amount of time allotted to contests at Roundup each day. Thus the more time required for judging paperwork the less time available for contestant interviews.

Why are the interviews at state show no longer than 5-6 minutes?

Interview times are determined by the number of entries and the allotted time for the contest, for example, 8-12 or 4 hours, divided by the number of entries and number of judging categories. We must also allot time for judges to record their comments, for changes as the contestants come in, for breaks, and for tabulation of the final results. Fashion Show contest is particularly challenging because of the potential number of entrants (12 per category x 12 categories= 144 potential contestants. That's a LOT to handle in 4 hours!

Can parents/leaders/agents be in the auditorium while judging is taking place?

No. Everyone, except the staff, helpers with the contest, board members with specific responsibilities, judges and contestants, must wait outside in the hall. No exception!

Why do 4-H'ers have to bring their 'donor thank you notes' to the contest?

Based on experience, many contestants forget their cards in the haste of preparing for and getting to Roundup and then we never receive them. Donors DO read these cards. The financial support of Roundup Clothing contests depends heavily on whether our donors sense appreciation and value of the contests.

What happens to the cards once they're turned in at Roundup?

They are checked by the Contest Superintendent to be sure the card is complete and then sealed and mailed directly to the donor's address.

Are all cards written appropriately by 4-H'ers?

Though the majority of cards are well written, last year we had several that were just the signature of the 4-H'er, or a simple "Thanks". These are NOT appropriate. Please be sure to cover in your trainings, for county, district and state contest donors, how

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to write a good 'thank you note'. A donor is interested in reading how the 4-H'er benefitted from the project, the value of the project to their future plans, and how they plan to use the award. Be sure to check spelling and grammar and to write legibly

Is it OK if I prepare my thank you note on the computer then print it off?

The preference is to handwrite the note. Donors receive MANY form letters from individuals and organizations. Your THANK YOU note would be more noticeable and likely more greatly appreciated and remembered if it were in your own legible handwriting. This makes it more personal than a 'typed' note.

Where can I find the curriculum for clothing projects?

The Fabric and Fashion Design curriculum is located on the FCS AGENT-ONLY website under clothing. If you are a leader or 4-Her, contact your County Extension Agent for a copy. Part of the curriculum (the forms) were updated in 2007.

The 4-H Clothing Curriculum, Clothing Capers and Clothes that Click, are located on the Texas 4-H web site.

National 4-H curriculum on Sewing is located on the national 4-H web site, under project guides. There are printed guides and web resources. The web resources are free for use. <http://n4hccs.org>

Are there other materials I can use?

Yes. The more ideas you have to bring to leaders the better the experience of the leader and the 4-H'er. Gather ideas from other agents/leaders/advisory board/4-h'ers/other educational organizations. Check the Internet for more ideas.

Where can I find the rules for the clothing contests?

Rules for Fabric and Fashion Design and Fashion and Natural Fibers contests can be found on the Texas 4-H web site. Look for 2008 Contest Guidelines. All the rules that govern what happens, what qualifies, ties, eligibility, etc. are explained in this guideline. Any questions on the guidelines should be directed to Angela McCorkle, Extension Assistant, Family Development and Resource Management ARMcCorkle@ag.tamu.edu. The 4-H Clothing Advisory Board develops, amends these guidelines annually. Any member of the Advisory Board would be able to help answer questions related to contests.

What's the best way to train 4-H leaders?

Provide the materials, how to use the materials (demonstrate and involve the leader), teach by example, provide ideas, observe, provide feedback and be supportive, encourage parents.

I don't know anything about sewing or clothing or textiles, where can I go for help?

1. Use the curriculum as a learning reference for yourself. There are many resources in the Educational Resource Center. Check these out and review these.
2. Ask other 4-H leaders if they know how to sew. Use the expertise of these individuals to help 4-H'ers.
3. Go to the Master Clothing Volunteer web site on FCS, enroll in the course (so far it's free) and work through the modules to learn basics of sewing and textiles. Family and Consumer Sciences website: <http://fcs.tamu.edu/clothing/> You will need to contact Angela McCorkle about the location of the online course on the FCS web page. ARMcCorkle@ag.tamu.edu

What if I don't want to learn to sew and train leaders?

You don't necessarily have to be able to sew. However, you will need to identify or have other CEAs and leaders identify possible clothing leaders for your county. Some possible sources include: Older 4-Hers who have entered the District/State

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Contest previously, State teen advisory Board members, retail clothing business owners or employees, TEEA members, American Sewing Guild members, Master Sewing Volunteers in select counties, and others.

What makes up a clothing project?

Six experiential learning sessions or meetings that are age appropriate. Each of the 4-H Clothing Project guides has complete lesson outlines, activities, evaluations, workbooks, and resources for leader use.

How does a 4-H District Wool winner receive their award?

There is a form which District 4-H Program specialists and RPDs-4-H receive in the spring from FDRM office that requests the name of the winner from the District for the Wool Construction Contest. In 2005 - 2007 the amount of the award has been \$100 per district for ONLY the Wool Construction winner. The form should be sent to Angela McCorkle, Extension Assistant, FDRM. These forms are forwarded to the 4-H Foundation office for disbursement. The amount of the award depends on the amount of contributions. For several years the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Auxiliary has faithfully supported the wool contest for the District and state winners. The amount of the award at state has been at least \$400 for Wool construction and \$400 for Wool buying. This amount may vary yearly depending on the donation amount.

Are all the clothing contests well funded by donors?

No; but you can surely help with this. If you have names, address, phone number or email addresses of business owners who might be interested in supporting the contests as a donor, please email Dr. Toby Lepley with the contact information. It takes about \$4,000 to fund all the clothing contests costs and awards. We would like to increase the award pool!

Who all receives awards at each of clothing related contests?

All contestants receive a participation certificate.

Fashion Show: the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in EACH of the categories receives a cash award and pin. Natural Fiber division: 1st place winner in each of the categories of construction and buying for Cotton and Wool receives a cash award.

Fabric and Fashion Design: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners in each of the three categories receive a pin and cash award.

Clothing Method Demonstration: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners each receive a pin and cash award or product award.

Where can I find information on the State contest for clothing?

Go to the Texas 4-H web site <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/> Deadline for district winning entries to be received by the State 4-H office (Dr. Toby Lepley) is May 5...no entries will be accepted past that date. Judging will take place for the written entries the following week. Make certain that this information is given to who ever is responsible to send in the entry.. There will be no exceptions to this rule in 2008. Communication among those responsible for District shows and the 4-H entry is imperative. If a county is going to mail the entry, make sure the county personnel responsible understands the deadline. If it's a parent, make sure the parent understands the deadline. Even at registration on the day of the contest, no exception will be made for late entries. And participants must have a confirmed registration for Roundup as well.

How are ties handled at the state contest?

Please refer to the State 4-H Clothing Packet where tie breaks rules are explained in detail.

Will I find out all rankings of my 4-H'ers at Roundup?

Rankings are submitted to the 4-H office immediately after the contest. Then the rankings are posted outside the Roundup Office on the display board. Scorecards are sent each District 4-H Extension Program Specialist following Roundup. The actual scores are removed before mailing so that 4-H'ers, leaders can focus on the judges comments/suggestions rather than the score.

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How many places are ranked?

10 places (this is new for 2008)

How many copies of entries should a district send to the state office?

ONLY send the number stated on the 4-H Clothing Guideline pages. Make sure to have the 4-H'er make an extra set of the entry with all information and attachments and KEEP THIS. If two entries are required, then send ONLY TWO. If one entry is required, then please send ONLY ONE entry.