

Poster Art Contest

The Poster Art Program gives 4-H members an opportunity to use the visual medium of poster fine art to promote public understanding and support of the 4-H program. 4-H'ers are encouraged to develop their visual communication skills by also identifying locations to display posters as a means to communicate to external audiences about 4-H.

Participation Criteria:

- Junior 4-H'ers must be 8-10 years old by September 1 of the current program year.
- Intermediate 4-H'ers must be 11-13 years old by September 1 of the current program year.
- Senior 4-H'ers must be 14-18 years old by September 1 of the current program year.

Theme:

Poster submissions can fall into one of three themes: *Healthy Lifestyles*, *SET (Science, Engineering and Technology)*, and *Citizenship*. The themes are based upon the nationwide 4-H mission mandated established through the leadership of 4-H National Headquarters, USDA and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Visit the National 4-H website to learn more about the mission mandates at http://4-h.org/programs_mission_mandates.html

Examples on how to apply one of the themes to a poster include:

Illustrations of 4-H youth preparing healthy meals, 4-H curriculum icons, people speaking about 4-H at a county commission meeting, 4-H'ers working with the rocketry curriculum, anti-smoking themes, youth in a leadership role, such as the State Council, or exploring beekeeping as a hobby.

Description of Classes

4-H members can submit only one poster and apply any one of the mission mandate themes to their poster art design. The primary art medium to creating the poster fine art must fall into one of the following classes:

CLASSES:	DESCRIPTIONS:
Watercolor	This class includes paints and pencils that use water as a solvent.
Pen and Ink	Ink pens, including gel and ink paints, come in an array of colors including metallic, fluorescent, glow-in-the-dark and more.
Pencil	This class includes both colored and graphite pencils.
Marker	Markers contain a reservoir of soluble ink that is wicked onto a drawing or writing surface through a felt or nylon tip.
Crayon	This class includes chalk, conté crayons, grease crayon, charcoal, wax crayon, pastels, and litho.
Acrylic	This class includes all techniques applied to acrylic paints.
Special Effects	This class includes collages, varnishes, gouache paint, oil paints, and other fine art mediums.
Computer Enhanced	This class include computer or machine drawn images, scrapbooking, stencil letters, and foam letters.

RESOURCES:

Although enrolling in the Visual Arts project book is not required to participate in the state poster contest, it is highly recommended.

Adv. Visual Arts 1 – Sketch book Crossroads (Available at National 4-H Supply)
Adv Visual Arts 2 – Portfolio Pathways (Available at National 4-H Supply)

Additional resources, including the certification statement and judging rubric and other materials are available on the state 4-H Web site.

Guidelines & Requirements:

- A 4-H member can submit only one poster.
- All posters must be designed on or affixed to poster board whose dimensions are no larger than 14" X 22".
- Posters must be the original artwork of one 4-H member only.
- Posters may be horizontal or vertical.
- Poster Depth: Posters cannot exceed a depth of .25 inches or it will be disqualified.
- Posters incorporating copyrighted material (i.e. Snoopy, Garfield, company logos like Disney, etc.) will be disqualified, unless proof of permission is furnished.
- Posters using computer assistance to create components of the poster or the poster itself should affix a statement of one paragraph explaining how the computer assistance affected the poster's composition and visual presentation.
- The 4-H Poster Contest Certification Statement Form must be signed by the contestant and securely attached to the back of the poster board in the upper right hand corner.
- Use of the 4-H Emblem: Use of the 4-H Emblem must be in accordance to the graphic standards set by the USDA. Those standards can be found at: <http://www.national4-headquarters.gov/library/4-Hguidelines-v4-26-04.pdf>
- County 4-H agents can submit all Blue Ribbon posters to the state poster contest.
- Previous Winners: Previous Best In Show winners are eligible to compete again, but not in the same division. For example, a Best In Show Senior winner in the Agricultural category can compete again by submitting a poster in another division.

AWARDS:

Junior, Intermediate and Senior entries will be judged separately. Blue, Red, and White quality awards will be given to entries based on the score sheet criteria. All decisions by the judges are final. One Best of Show Award will be presented to one poster in each class for each age division (Junior, Intermediate and Senior).

DISQUALIFICATIONS OF ENTRIES:

- Use of Photos: Since this is a fine arts poster competition, the use of photos is prohibited and will automatically disqualify an entry.
- Inappropriate size and/or mounted material.
- Use of copyrighted materials, without written permission.
- Three-dimensional posters that exceed .25" inch thickness. Do not attach any material to posters that is more than .25" thick.
- Use of computer-generated components without a statement regarding this effect.
- Posters containing inappropriate content.

APPROPRIATE USE OF 4-H EMBLEM

Proper use of the 4-H Emblem is required. Inappropriate use can disqualify an entry. The most common problems that result in a disqualified poster due to the emblem include: the stem on emblem turned in the wrong direction, the words "18 USC 707" not written next to the emblem, an item is drawn on top of an emblem, the emblem is colored in some other color than green,

white or black or one of the four “H’s” is missing and something else is drawn in its place. For a complete guide to proper use of the 4-H emblem, visit: <http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/library/4-Hguidelines-v4-26-04.pdf>

County Submissions:

County 4-H Agents can submit all Blue ribbon placed posters into the State 4-H Poster Contest. However, each youth cannot submit more than one entry. Entries must be submitted to the State 4-H Office no later than close of business on June 1 of the current program year to be eligible for judging and exhibition at Florida 4-H Congress. Previous year’s entry may not be resubmitted to the state contest. Previous Best In Show winners are not eligible to participate in the same class that they won, in a previous year.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Judging Criteria: Posters will be judged on the following criteria:

- a) Required Elements
- b) Message/Creativity
- c) Art Design
- d) Construction
- e) Effort

Criteria	Definition	Standard
Required Elements	Elements in the photo release/label statement that is attached to the back of the submitted work	No Copyright or Trademarked materials. 4-H Clover used according to regulations. If poster is 3-D, it is no more than ¼” or .25 inch depth.
Message/Creativity	The use of design principles such as unity, contrast, balance, movement, direction, emphasis, and center of interest as it relates to the art medium (pen, crayon, markers etc).	Emphasis on most important element - use of line, shape, texture, space, change of color, change of letter style, size
Art Design	The poster’s presentation, appropriate use for age, poster is proof-read for errors.	Clean, neatness, correct spelling graphics appropriate for the age level and use of art medium.
Construction	The visual effort into the quality of the project or assignment.	Poster should reflect youth’s ability and age appropriate efforts. No spelling or grammar errors.
Effort	The visual effort into the quality of the project or assignment.	Poster should reflect youth’s ability and age appropriate efforts.

