

## County Fair Exhibit Ideas

The county fair . . . what a great time it is! Every summer, families flock to county fairs to see the latest 4-H project exhibits. Exhibiting is a fun way for you to showcase your project work. The following list of exhibit ideas is based on the latest 4-H curriculum. Use it to generate project entries for your next county fair. If you're a county fair superintendent, use this list to enhance your county fair premium book.

### Level 1: Booting Up - Interacting With Computers

1. Poster: computers in our lives
2. Poster: computers on the job
3. Display: computer parts, their functions
4. Display: computer software
5. Diagram: using a keyboard
6. Poster: using a mouse
7. Display: using a word processing software
8. Display: developing a file structure
9. Poster: caring for computers
10. Report: how to use the Internet
11. Computer presentation using presentation software
12. Online safety guide
13. Display: Internet safety
14. Display: computer ethics
15. Price comparison of computers
16. Computer-generated graphic illustration
17. Computer-generated letter
18. Computer-generated birthday sign
19. Computer-generated greeting card
20. Computer-generated photograph series
21. Computer-generated scrapbook
22. Computer-generated storybook
23. Completed member guide (BU7509)

### Level 2: Adding On - Hardware and Software Magic

1. Exhibit: using the Internet for research
2. Display: dismantled computer
3. Completed "System Inventory Worksheet"
4. Exhibit: computer database
5. Display: using e-mail or chat room
6. Computer-generated magazine or newspaper
7. Animated computer presentation
8. Computer-generated T-shirt design
9. Computer-generated photograph
10. Computer-manipulated photograph
11. Completed member guide (BU7510)

### Level 3: Reaching Beyond - The Advanced User

1. Report: using the Internet to predict future of technology
2. Exhibit: computer you have built
3. Exhibit: Web site you have designed

4. Exhibit: using spreadsheet to make graphs, charts
5. Multimedia computer presentation
6. Computer-generated animated presentation
7. Computer-generated magazine
8. Geographic Information System (GIS) map
9. Completed member guide (BU7511)

## Tips for County Fair Judges

If you want to be a county fair judge, the State 4-H Office and the Wisconsin Association of Fairs are developing a series of online training courses for county fair judges. For more information contact Wayne Brabender at [wayne.brabender@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:wayne.brabender@ces.uwex.edu).

### Following are some tips for judging county fair computer exhibits:

1. Judges can't make the world equal. Kids have access to different equipment, printers and help at home. Respect every child's efforts.
2. The 4-H computer materials (*Computer Mysteries*) are skill-based, not grade-based. So, age appropriateness is less important in these exhibits – although you would expect the work of a high school student to be more complete and sophisticated than the work of a fourth grader.
3. Exhibitors should indicate type of hardware and software that was used to create the exhibit. Youth should also indicate steps involved in creating the entry.
4. Any exhibit that shows something as “enhanced” with a computer should show at least a thumbnail picture of the original item.
5. When judging web sites, look for overall coherence. Does it flow from screen to screen, web page to web page? Do the pages look like they go together? Is the site easy to follow and easy to get around? Is the language appropriate? Did the exhibitor avoid garish colors, spelling errors, and links that don't work? Is the site free of inappropriate links: adult material, inappropriate advertising, etc? Are the images an appropriate size so they download quickly? Has the site been tested on various platforms before it was posted?
6. Copyright and trademark issues are necessary to address with any exhibitor at a county fair, but extremely important when it comes to web sites. Users can get into trouble with the law if they abuse the laws designed to protect the creative work of others. Users must receive permission to use copyrighted and trademarked graphics, logos and other materials first, and then must give credit where credit is due.
7. If the exhibitor has created an “official” 4-H web site, the clover must be used properly. Usage is protected under 18 U.S.C. 707, which requires correct color, size, clover stem, and statute statement. The U.S. Code also says the clover cannot be used as a watermark. If the exhibitor does not use the official 4-H clover (H's in the clovers), then the rules do not apply. Also check for use of the UW-Extension logo on the home page of official 4-H web sites.
8. Check for personal safety infractions on web sites. People's names, addresses, and phone numbers should not be used. Pictures of children should not be identified.
9. Programming exhibits (flow charts, diagrams) should show a portion of the program code used, objectives/goals of the program, type of software used, and whether or not the program now works. Ask the exhibitor: if you were to do this over, what would you do differently?
10. Spreadsheets, databases and reports should be readable, logical and easy to follow. Look for proper alignment of data and decimals. Any heads and subheads should be clear.

11. Graphics, banners, greeting cards and other computer-generated graphics: look for originality and creativity. Are the parts proportional? Will the exhibit work as it is intended? If the work is based on a copy, how much has the original been changed? Make sure the exhibitor lists the program used to make each item.
12. Word processing exhibits: check the design, formatting and readability of the finished pieces. Is the grammar correct?