



Sanders County 4-H Demonstrations

A Member and Leader Guide

Why do we do demonstrations, and why are they a very important part of the Sanders County 4-H Program? The value of “demonstrating” goes far beyond showing an audience how to properly prepare a food item or vaccinate a 4-H lamb.

Pause for a moment and think about remarks heard from teachers and administrators in Sanders County School Districts. They commonly mention they can tell who has a 4-H background in their classes, especially when it involves making class presentations. 4-H youth typically show poise in speaking and are able to organize material and thoughts, while learning more about the subject for themselves.

This doesn't mean that 4-H kids are better than their classmates, but it does mean that that by gaining experience in public speaking, youth are developing skills that will benefit them and their communities. 4-H Demonstration programs provide the resources for all members to polish their skills by “Learning by Doing.”



*4-H Demonstrations Committee
Sanders County 4-H Organizational Council*

1. DEMONSTRATION STRUCTURE:

- a. County-wide Demonstrations (March) with make-up demonstrations scheduled prior to events.
- b. Demonstration Finals (3 judges/platform)
 - i. Juniors (ages 8-13 between Oct 1-Sept 30 of current 4-H year)
 1. Top 4 demonstrators receive scholarships to Multi-County 4-H Camp
 - ii. Seniors (age 14+) Used to determine State Congress eligibility
 1. 4 members in Demonstration/Illustrated Talk
- c. Scoring – Judges retain score sheets until end of the event, to identify Finals qualifiers for each division.
 - i. Blue (Excellent)
 - ii. Red (Good)
 - iii. White (Needs Improving)
- d. In depth Demonstration Judges Orientation conducted prior to county-wide event each year.

2. DEMONSTRATION/ILLUSTRATED TALK POLICY (General)

- a. Time limit: 7-10 minutes, according to 4-H Congress Guidelines. Beginning members may be briefer.
- b. Brand names: 4-H does not endorse any commercial products, so all brand names need to be covered.
- c. Encourage younger members to give a Demonstration vs. Illustrated Talk
 - i. Demonstration: show how, tell how and tell why – show a finished product
 - ii. Illustrated talk: talking telling how, use visuals
- d. Team demonstrations must share equally in speaking and doing. A team consisting of a junior and a senior member is not eligible to compete at Montana State 4-H Congress, as the event is limited to senior members. Junior/Senior teams will be judged on a senior platform.
- e. No note cards allowed.

Myths and Facts Regarding Sanders County 4-H Demonstrations

Myth

All ingredients must be measured.

Judges prefer pointers.



You must show sources of information.

You can only use two posters maximum.

You will be penalized for any mishap (dropped equipment, fallen chart, etc).

Nobody is allowed in the room except the demonstrator and judge.



If you can't answer a question, say "I'll find out and get back to you."

Demonstrations are very serious business.

Always thank the audience for their time and attention (This translated to "Thanks for suffering through this with me.")

Fact

Measure one ingredient to show method.

Pointers can distract from your demonstration.

Use credible, factual information.

Use one chart for each main idea, keeping wording to a minimum.

Accidents happen; as a poised demonstrator, don't be distracted and the judges won't be. Don't apologize.

Audiences are encouraged. The purpose of your presentation is to teach others what you have learned and to gain experience speaking in front of an audience.

Simply say "I don't know." Based upon your knowledge, you may choose to offer an answer.

You are allowed to smile and enjoy yourself. The audience and you are much more comfortable in a relaxed setting.

Close with a comment that will encourage your audience to do what you presented.



Choosing Your Subject

The first thing to decide upon is your demonstration subject matter. The following suggestions would make your selection easier.

- 🌿 Demonstrate something you can do easily and well and that you like to do. Your demonstration should be from a project you are now enrolled in. Choose something you think others will be interested in.
- 🌿 Limit your presentations to one main idea or process.
- 🌿 Select a demonstration you can do in a few minutes.
- 🌿 Once you've settled on a subject, learn all you can about it. The more you know about the subject, the easier it will be to talk about it. Make sure that your information is correct and complete.

Demonstration Suggestions

Use your imagination!

FOODS

Microwave sandwiches
Packing a lunch
Edible centerpieces/garnishes,
Relish tray
Orange Julius
Making muffins
Quick breads
Tossed salad
How to clean vegetables
Kitchen safety

MARKET ANIMALS

Caring & grooming
Fitting & showing
Parts of an animal
Diseases
Equipping a tack box
Conformation
Giving an injection
Entropian eye (sheep)
Judging animals

HORSE

How to saddle
How to make a rope halter
The foot
Safety around horses

RABBIT

Clipping a rabbit's nails
Cleaning a cage
Feeding & grooming

ROCKETS & ENGINES

Assembling a rocket
What makes it work?
Launching a rocket

SEWING

Sewing on a button
Picking a pattern
Different types of finishes
Using a steam iron
Selecting fabric for a project
Parts of a sewing machine
Care of a sewing machine
Making a sewing box (essentials)
Presenting yourself (tips and hints)
Safety

WOODWORKING

Different types of sandpaper
Types of finishes
Types of joints
Selecting wood for the project
Enlarging a pattern
How to use a drill bit
Safety

CLOVERBUDS

How to measure dry/liquid ingredients
Making a sandwich
Hair care
Brushing your teeth

PHOTOGRAPHY

How to load a camera
Parts of a camera
Types of lighting
Caring for photos & slides
Framing a picture
Making a camera
Developing your film safely
Understanding your digital camera
Selecting a digital camera
Digital photography terms