

4-H Expressive Arts Projects

Arts, Crafts, and Pottery

Expressive Art has three divisions: **Original Art** is based on the entry being entirely original, **Crafts** that includes components that have been designed or created by others, and **Pottery**. In all divisions, the 4-H'er will be expected to create their work by applying the elements and principles of design.

Display

All artwork must be mounted for display, including jewelry.

1. All art must be mounted on board the thickness of mat board
 - a. 4-ply, 6-ply, or 8-ply is recommended
2. Matting, spray fixatives, and/or overwrap with plastic are acceptable for protection of the artwork.
3. All jewelry exhibits must be mounted in some way to a board or fabric-covered board for display and the explanation card must be folded and attached in a small plastic bag (bags will be available on judging day).
4. If an item is meant to hang, a hanger that will support the weight of the item must be securely attached. Adhesive plastic hangers are encouraged to protect other artwork. Two adhesive hangers per hanging art piece is suggested.
5. Exhibits 3" or smaller must be mounted on matboard no larger than 4" x 4". This must still be at least 4-ply to protect the art.
6. Framing: no frames. Exceptions include: work done with chinks, charcoals, or pastels that require protection.
 - Only lightweight frames with plastic can be used for protection during display
 - No glass or wood frames are allowed

Framing: Due to weight, most artwork must be matted, but not framed.

Only chinks, charcoals, and pastels may be framed.

Identification

- 4-H Exhibit tags must be attached to the lower right-hand corner of the exhibit.
- Each piece of an exhibit must be labeled on the back or bottom with the 4-H'er's name, county, and exhibit class number.

Exhibits that have more than one piece must be tied together or connected in some way so that the pieces can be considered as one exhibit.

Explanation Cards

- All entries must have a fully-completed 4-H Expressive Arts Exhibit Explanation card ([231-01](#)) to qualify for judging. These forms take the place of interview judging at State Fair, so be as thoughtful and comprehensive as possible when sharing the required information.

- The explanation must give the 4-H'er's name, county and class number, origin of design, intended use of the item, previous experience using this technique and a description of how it was made.
- Exhibits are entered and displayed at the risk of the exhibitor; see General 4-H Information – Eligibility.

Exhibits will be evaluated using the judging criteria outlined on the Art Project Evaluation sheet (231-02). All forms are available on the [State 4-H website](#).

Note: Each class number includes a blank at the end (), which must be filled with corresponding number for members age level:

1. Junior
2. Intermediate
3. Senior

ORIGINAL ART

Maximum entries: 4-H'ers may enter up to three original exhibits with no more than two per class number.

Eligibility: 4-H'er applies the elements and principles of design to create a work that is entirely their own. No kits or stencils must be included in these exhibits.

231 100 01() Drawing, any surface, using any of the following media: Graphite pencil, colored pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, markers, scratch board, wood burning, metal embossing

231 100 02() Painting, any surface, using the following media: watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastels

231 100 03() Print or Stencil: original work using print making or stenciling techniques with a design created by the 4-H'er. (Use of commercial stencils is not appropriate.)

231 100 04() Collage or Mosaic: original work using collage or mosaic techniques with a design created by the 4-H'er. Media might include paper, tile, wood, glass, seeds, etc. (Note: this class does not include scrapbooking.)

231 100 05() Dyeing and Marbling: original work using marbling or dyeing techniques such as batik or dye painting. *Note: Tie dye and pen dyeing are not allowed.*

231 100 06() Digital Art: original work using a digital art program or tool, with or without a photograph layer taken by exhibitor (using explanation card to clarify process). Should be entered as a (mounted/matted) printout at an appropriate resolution for judging.

231 100 07() Multiple Media – original work that incorporates two or more of the techniques described above and/or other medias such as resin or glue.

231 100 08() Carving: original three-dimensional work using subtractive techniques in wood, soap, etc.

231 100 09() Casting, Modeling and Assembling: original three-dimensional work using additive techniques. Examples might include metal welding, casting, paper maché, origami, pop-up structures.

231 100 10() Wearable Clothing or Accessory: clothing item demonstrating original artwork. Examples of accessories include jewelry, hats, purse, footwear, etc. Techniques might include painting, dyeing, sculpting, beading, enameling, etc.
Note: Tie Dye and pen dyeing are not allowed.

231 100 11() Functional Item: original work in any technique or media done to create a functional but non-wearable item such as bowls, vases, cups, lamps, or other items. Typical media might include metal, wood, or paper.

POTTERY

Maximum entries: up to two exhibits, no more than one per class number.

Evaluation: Pottery exhibits will be evaluated using the judging criteria outlined on the Pottery [Evaluation Sheet \(231-03\)](#).

Note: Slipcast ceramics are submitted under the “Crafts” section below.

231 200 01() Pottery or clay work, using a slab technique.

231 200 02() Pottery or clay work, using a pinch technique.

231 200 03() Pottery or clay work, using a coil technique.

231 200 04() Pottery or clay work, using a wheel-throwing technique.

231 200 05() Pottery or clay work, using a combination of two or more of the above techniques.

231 200 06() Pottery or clay work, featuring a glaze; fired or non-fired.

CRAFTS

Maximum entries: Each 4-H'er can submit up to two exhibits. These can both be in the same class.

Eligibility: Member applies the elements and principles of design to create work that may incorporate pieces that have been designed or created by others such as instructional patterns, pre-stamped or printed outlines, rubber stamps, commercial stencils, stickers, printed papers, etc. The explanation to the judge must explain how the 4-H'er made the decisions about how to incorporate these pieces into the total design. **The pre-designed component must not be the total design.**

Note: Fill in blank in class number () with corresponding number for Junior, Intermediate or Senior.

1. Junior
2. Intermediate
3. Senior

231 300 01() Painting on surfaces: decorative painting on any surface (wood, metal, glass, plastic, cement, fiber, plaster, paper) using any paint medium and the aid of a pre-designed instructional pattern. May also include techniques such as pour of fluid painting.

231 300 02() Stenciling / Printing / Stamping: work created using stenciling, etching, printing, or stamping techniques with the aid of stencils, forms, stamps or designs that the 4-H'er did not create themselves. In some cases, the exhibit may be up to five smaller items that use the same technique based around a theme. (example: five note cards using nature stamps).

231 300 03() Assemblage – Scrapbooking / Collage / Decoupage: Work must be assembled in a manner that maintains the form as a permanent structure. Scrapbooking exhibits may not be more than two scrapbook or memory book pages based on a single theme and protected by plastic sleeves. Exhibits with two items or pages must have them all labeled and securely attached to each other. May also include mosaics such as diamond art. No legos.

231 300 04() Cast Ceramics – Slip cast item: made from earthenware, stoneware, or porcelain.

231 300 05() Wearable Clothing or Accessory: clothing item demonstrating artwork done with the aid of pre-designed components. Techniques might include painting, dyeing, beading, etc.

4-H CAKE DECORATING

Eligibility: 4-H'ers may enter up to two classes (no more than one entry per class).

Cake decorating is limited to all icing work. All items on cake must be made from frosting, not fondant, candies, or any other shaped 3-dimensional items.

Exhibit Requirements

- Display your exhibit on a disposable plate or board.
- For ease of transport, package your exhibit in a box before turning it in. Cake boxes or other cardboard boxes must be close in size to the exhibit and be packed for stacking and handling.
- Exhibits not prepared for transport may be left behind at county staff discretion.
- To qualify for judging, a fully completed [4-H Expressive Arts Exhibit Explanation \(231-01\) card](#) must be attached.
- In addition to the exhibit tag, each piece of an exhibit must be labeled on the back or

bottom with the 4-H'er's name, county, and exhibit class number.

Judging criteria is outlined on the 4-H [Cake Decorating Evaluation Sheet \(236-11\)](#). All forms are available in county Extension offices and at the State 4-H website.

- Member applies the elements and principles of design to create work that is entirely their own.
- Public display of exhibits will be at the discretion of 4-H management.

Phase 1, demonstrate use of 3 tips.

236 101 010 Decorated Flat Cookie—a decorated 4"-6" cookie, any shape.

236 101 020 Decorated Flat Cake Design—decorate an 8"x12" design on a 9½"x13½" flat board wrapped in wax paper. Decorate this space as if it was the top of a cake. The design must include proper use of 3 different tips: writing tip, leaf tip, star tip, or drop flower tip.

Phase 2, demonstrate use of 4 tips.

236 102 010 Decorated Cupcake—a decorated cupcake

236 102 020 Decorated Flat Cake Design—decorate an 8"x12" design on a 9½"x13½" flat board wrapped in wax paper. Decorate this space as if it was the top of a cake. The design must include proper use of 4 different tips: writing tip, leaf tip, star tip, and petal tip.

Phase 3, demonstrate use of multiple tips.

236 103 010 Decorated 8" Layer Cake—a decorated 8" round Styrofoam cake form.

236 103 020 Decorated Flat Cake Design—decorate an 8"x12" design on a 9½"x13½" flat board wrapped in wax paper. Decorate this space as if it was the top of a cake. The design must include a minimum of 5 flowers, a border, and proper use of writing tip, leaf tip, star tip, petal tip, and other variety tips.