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GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION AND ORIENTATION OF JUDGES V.P.I. & S.U. LIBRARY  
FOR DEMONSTRATION/ILLUSTRATED TALKS

SEP 5 1978

Selection

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

Individuals conducting and scoring contests have a major responsibility to make the event a good learning experience for each 4-H'er participating. A judge should have a genuine interest in young people and their development. They should have some basic understanding of why we have demonstrations and illustrated talks and what is involved on the part of the 4-H'er in planning and giving a demonstration. This understanding might have been acquired through former involvement in 4-H as well as through discussion at the time the individual is asked to serve as a judge. Additional information on demonstrations and illustrated talks should be provided judges prior to the contest. Training programs well in advance, as well as orientation the day of or shortly before the contest, is desirable.

In selecting judges, consider using school teachers, professionals in the subject-matter area of the contest, adult 4-H leaders, teen 4-H leaders, and former 4-H members. You may also want to consider having the 4-H'ers in the contest score each other.

Two and preferably three persons should score the contest (more than three could participate). One judge might be better qualified in subject matter while another judge would have more understanding on what is involved in giving a demonstration/illustrated talk.

Orientation

Everyone involved--judges, 4-H'ers participating, and those in charge of the contest--should have similar understanding of the learning experiences provided by demonstration/illustrated talks and the scoring aid. The general learning experiences which 4-H'ers have include:

1. Developing poise, confidence, self-assurance, and the ability to express themselves in front of a group.
2. Gaining new and additional knowledge in a specific subject.
3. Developing methods for planning and organizing what they want to show and tell.
4. Acquiring skill and techniques in good judgement, good speech, and good actions to effectively present the information to an audience.
5. Teaching and showing others improved methods and practices learned in 4-H.

The judges as well as the 4-H members in the contest should receive a copy of "4-H Member Demonstration and/or Illustrated Talk Scoring Aid", Extension Form 62, prior to the day of the contest. Points to consider in scoring the contest are listed on the back of this form. Judges should be asked to study the information in advance. At the orientation for judges, (preferably the day of the contest) the points for scoring should be discussed and judges should have an opportunity to ask questions. Be sure to remind them that the length of a demonstration/illustrated talk varies according to the topic. Four-H'ers should choose a topic which can be done in the time allotted, thus, a demonstration/illustrated talk that is extremely long or short would affect the score. It would not eliminate the contestant.

During the contest, the judges are to score each demonstration/illustrated talk following Form 62. Judges may ask questions of the contestant if more information is needed to clarify the demonstration/illustrated talk. Questions should be on the material covered and should not be asked to confuse or "stump" the contestant. The person in charge of each contest should be certain the contestants and judges understand this. Note: Spectators should not ask questions during the contest nor should contestants quiz each other. They should be so advised before the contest begins. If they have questions, they can ask them after the judges make their decisions.

Each judge should rate every demonstration/illustrated talk on its own merit before comparing scores with other judges. The Danish system of awards is used for most contests. Each participant receives a blue, red, or white award. The top few participants should be placed in rank order in cases where 4-H'ers will be competing in additional contests (such as district).

Since the major objective of demonstration/illustrated talks is to help 4-H'ers in their development, constructive suggestions should be given by one of the judges following the contest. This is usually done in a group situation. Judges should review good points and compliment the presentators and then make general suggestions for improvement. If they single out any demonstrator when reviewing good points, care should be taken to compliment each demonstrator.

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