

Explore, Inquire, Innovate, Create at the Columbia County 4-H EXPO



For more information or questions:

Contact Pat Wagner at
pat.wagner@co.columbia.wi.us or (608) 742-9685

[EXPO Registration Form](#)

[Electronic copy of EXPO booklet](#)

[More EXPO Information](#)



This booklet will help you prepare,
plan and create your Inquiry,
Innovation and Creativity EXPO
Exhibit.



What is the Inquiry, Innovation and Creativity EXPO?

Unlike traditional science fairs which feature experiment after experiment; Inquiry, Innovation and Creativity EXPO participants are encouraged to find something that interests them within their 4-H project area(s) and explore it using their 21st Century Skills like critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. By selecting a 4-H project area of interest, participants are able to take their EXPO exhibit, one step further, to the Columbia County Fair.

Whether it's analyzing the different foods that are available to dairy cows, conducting an experiment, or creating an innovation that fulfills a need in your life, the focus of the project is completely up to you!

The first step is to think about a 4-H project that you are interested in exploring.



EXPO SELF-ASSESSMENT

This is the self-assessment form you will use to evaluate yourself at the EXPO event. Follow along with the "GOALS" listed below to help you evaluate your experience. This form can also be found at: <https://counties.uwex.edu/columbia/files/2010/10/Expo-Self-Evaluation-Form-1.pdf>

<p>GOAL: Youth participate in a project learning discovery process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected a the 4-H project(s) that your exhibit relates to. Identified one question to explore. Found and sited sources of information used to learn about the project. 	<p>What I did well:</p> <p>What could have been improved:</p>
<p>GOAL: Youth develop a plan for answering their question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created a method to share your information. Developed a plan to learn about your question. 	<p>What I did well:</p> <p>What could have been improved:</p>
<p>GOAL: Youth complete a creative project that meaningfully answers their question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibit has a neat appearance and is well organized. The exhibit shows self expression through creativity and innovation. The main idea and concepts are easily identified or taught. The exhibit is developed, created and displayed in an age appropriate manner. 	<p>What I did well:</p> <p>What could have been improved:</p>
<p>GOAL: Youth demonstrate effective communication skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared my plan and process. Displayed professionalism such as eye contact during the verbal presentation. Demonstrated poise and comfort when speaking in front of group. Answered any questions clearly and completely. 	<p>What I did well:</p> <p>What could have been improved:</p>

Life skills that I learned/practiced/applied: _____

USING YOUR RECORD BOOK AS A RESOURCE

Included on this page is a Columbia County 4-H record book page. This form may be helpful when planning your EXPO exhibit. You should also fill this out for your yearly record book. This form can be found at: <https://counties.uwex.edu/columbia/files/2010/10/Record-Book-Page-for-EXPO-Project.pdf>

Record for _____ Project
of Years in Project: _____

1a. What do I already know about this project?

1b. What do I want to know, learn, try and/or discover about this project this year? These are my project goals.

1c. Who can help me learn what I want to know?

1d. Where can I find more information about what I want to know?

(List 2 – 3 specific sources.)

1e. I am enrolled as a Junior Leader in this project. ___ Yes ___ No

If yes: This is what I plan to accomplish as a Junior Leader this year.

EXPO PLANNING STEPS

1. Choose one of your 4-H Projects
(i.e. Photography, Foods, Beef, Woodworking)
2. Select a question, related to the topic you chose to focus on
3. Gather sources of information that will help you answer your questions
4. Create a plan for your exhibit (set goals and work to complete them)
5. Develop a method of displaying your exhibit
6. Prepare a short verbal presentation to share information about your exhibit
7. Ask if anyone has questions
8. Practice for success
9. Identify the Life Skills that you learned/practiced/applied

1. CHOOSE A PROJECT

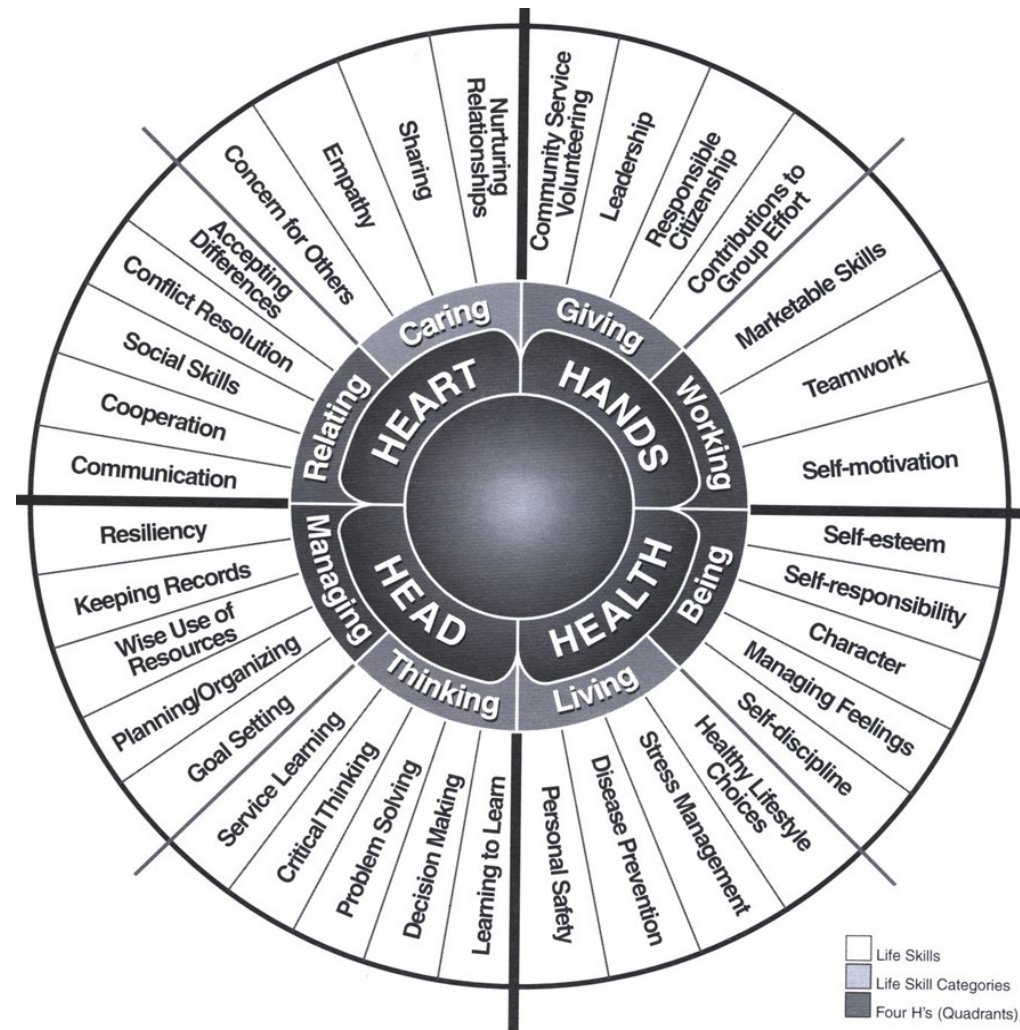
Think about the different 4-H projects that you are involved in. Which ones interest you the most? Do you have a favorite? Choose your favorite project area; this will be your "Topic of Interest."

4-H Project of Interest: _____

2. SELECT A QUESTION

Next, you should come up with a question that you have about your "4-H Project of Interest." Use the Crazy Question Challenge!! to help you develop a question for the EXPO.

9. WHICH LIFE SKILLS HAVE YOU LEARNED/PRACTICED/APPLIED WHILE WORKING ON YOUR EXPO EXHIBIT?



Life Skills Model

7. ASK IF ANYONE HAS QUESTIONS

Questions are something you should expect.

HINTS . . .

- It is best to restate the question so everyone can hear it before responding.
- Speak loudly and clearly in response to any questions.



8. PRACTICE FOR SUCCESS

Practice is essential to presenting an effective speech. With practice the confidence of the presenter will be evident and the audience will enjoy your short verbal presentation.

EQUIPMENT AND VISUALS

Your EXPO exhibit/presentation should:

- Attract attention
- Be neat and organized
- Serve a real purpose
- Be easy to use
- Be easily seen
- Fit smoothly into the presentation

Crazy Question Challenge!

Use the boxes on the next 4 pages to **BRAINSTORM** a variety of questions about your 4-H Project of Interest! You may not even realize how curious you are about some of the **CRAZY** questions you'll come up with until you actually put them on paper and think about them a little while. Ultimately, the **MOST** intriguing questions are the ones you should consider exploring more deeply— both for **FUN** and **KNOWLEDGE!**



EXPLORING YOUR 4-H PROJECT

Brainstorm a bunch of ***silly*** questions you have about your 4-H Project of Interest. Write them in this box.



SAMPLE TALKING POINTS

- What 4-H project area(s) does your exhibit most relate to?
- Why did you choose to focus on this project?
- What question were you trying to answer?
- What else do you want to learn, try and/or discover about this project now?
- Who/what helped you learn more about your project?
- What resources did you use to help create your project (i.e. people, books, businesses)?
- What was the most interesting thing you discovered while creating your exhibit?
- Would you do anything differently if you recreated your project?
- What were your steps?
- What was the answer to your question?
- Why did you choose to display your information this way?

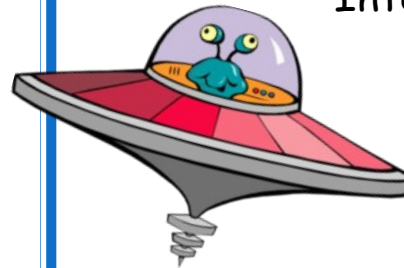
6. PREPARE A SHORT VERBAL PRESENTATION TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR EXHIBIT AT THE EXPO EVENT

The EXPO is not a judged event, however, each participant will be asked to set up their display and provide a short presentation about the discovery process used to design and create their exhibit. Sample talking points that may be helpful in crafting your short presentation are listed on the next page.

You do not have to present all of the talking points listed, but it's a good idea to focus on the ones that are most meaningful to you. Feel free to talk about other information that is related to your exhibit. Presentations should range from 3-5 minutes. The presentations will *not* be timed.

EXPLORING YOUR 4-H PROJECT

Brainstorm a bunch of weird questions you have about your 4-H Project of Interest. Write them in this box.



EXPLORING YOUR 4-H PROJECT

Brainstorm a bunch of **intellectual thinking** questions you have about your 4-H Project of Interest. Write them in this box.



5. DEVELOP A METHOD OF DISPLAYING YOUR EXHIBIT

This step depends on the question you are exploring as well as your creativity. How do you think the information you learned could be displayed in the best way for others to understand and learn from it?

There are no restrictions* on the method you choose to display your exhibit. Are you interested in displaying it as a book? What about setting out the invention that you made? Did you think about making a movie or using technology? The possibilities are endless! Use your creativity and come up with something that interests you!

All exhibits should:

- Have a neat appearance and be well organized.
- Show self expression through creativity and innovation.
- Showcase the main idea and concepts so they are easily identified or taught.
- Be developed, created and displayed in an age appropriate manner.

* Participants are allotted a card table sized area to display their finished exhibit. Additional decorations may be used as long as the size does not exceed a card table display.

4. CREATE A PLAN FOR YOUR EXHIBIT (*SET GOALS AND WORK TO COMPLETE THEM*)

After gathering information, formulate a plan for the presentation. Follow these guidelines:

- List the important steps and processes.
- Arrange the steps in logical order.
- Outline the main thoughts or ideas about each step.
- List the materials and equipment needed for each step.
- Adjust your plan as your ideas change.

EXPLORING YOUR 4-H PROJECT

Brainstorm a bunch of scientific questions you have about your 4-H Project of Interest. Write them in this box.





FINALIZING YOUR QUESTION

Now that you've gone through the Crazy Question Challenge!! you should have quite a few questions to select from. Choose *ONE* of your questions and write it in the box below.

Question to Explore:



3. GATHERING SOURCES

After you have selected your 4-H Project and chosen a question to focus on you can start to gather sources of information that will help you answer your question.

There are many different ways to find sources of information to answer your question. Think about all the people and places you could visit to learn more about your project. Where can you get what you need to know about your question?

Could you ask people you know, maybe an adult who specializes in the area you are interested in? How about taking a trip to the library (with your parent/guardian) to read about your project area in the books they have? Do you think you could find information on the internet?

Did you say that you couldn't find enough information on the question you are asking? And you've talked to everyone you think could help? If that's the case, you may want to select another question.

