



*A Guide for Rapides 4-H members
"Entering exhibits in the Fair"*



2013 Rapides Parish Fair 4-H Division Exhibit Information



Any youth wishing to exhibit at the Fair must follow these guidelines:

- belong to 4-H (ages 9-19) or they may be FFA or FCCLA members if they are high school age although we prefer they belong to 4-H.
- (4-H membership makes everything just run easier!) Proof of membership in these organizations may be requested in order to exhibit.
- **Remember- -4-H dues *MUST be paid in order to receive premium winnings from the Fair.***

To prepare for the Fair:



1. Obtain Parish Fair books.
2. Obtain entry number and tags.
3. Fill out tags properly and attach to each exhibit.
4. Save the bottom portion of the entry tag as this allows the exhibitor into the building on the Sunday (the closing day of the Fair) to pick up exhibits.

Notes:

- Each exhibitor only needs one entry number (no matter how many exhibits one has, a person needs only **one entry number**) and each exhibit needs to be tagged. These things are available at the 4-H Office. We are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- While it is easy to obtain exhibitor numbers for an entire 4-H club, this creates a logistics problem. 4-H members only need an exhibitor number if they are going to exhibit an item at the Fair, inside the Exhibit Building. **Please do NOT assign Fair exhibitor numbers to the entire club.**
- If a club asks for a sheet of numbers in order to assign exhibitor numbers to 4-H'ers, then that filled out sheet **MUST BE RETURNED** to the entry table on the day exhibits are due. Or, better yet, that sheet can be faxed to our office so we can record it in the official book.
- It is best to get the tags early and fill them out at home or school and attach to the exhibit before you get to the fair.

For entering and picking exhibits:

- You may wish to have computer labels made that lists the **child's name, age and school**. These can easily be affixed to the entry tags. We don't need their home address if they are in 4-H. **REMEMBER- -NAME, AGE AND SCHOOL CLUB!!!**

EXAMPLE: Amy Nelson Age 9 *Phoenix Magnet 4th

(It is important to put the grade when the school has more than one 4-H club!!)

- If a 4-H club is transporting exhibits for their members, please remember that they must be picked up on Sunday evening when the Fair closes (between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.). Someone from the club can pick all exhibits up or you will need to inform each member that they need to pick them up themselves.
- If one person from a school club is picking up all of that club's exhibits, please let your club members/parents know that information. Also, please let the fair officials know.

“Rules” to keep in mind when preparing for the fair-



- Only items made since the previous fair may be entered. We **DO DISQUALIFY items that have “passed through” before!**
- Each child should keep a list of the items they entered even if the school club transported the items to the Fair. They should know each item they entered too! Many times, a child will ask us to help find their exhibit on display, but has no idea what it is! This usually indicates that the child did not make the item!
- Remind EVERYONE that items **cannot be picked up early for any reason!** If we let one child pick up early, then how can we say "no" to the 499 other exhibitors? All exhibits must remain on exhibit until 4:00 p.m. Sunday with pick-up at 5:00 p.m. We use that one-hour time frame to sort over 1000 items by exhibitor in order for it to be picked up easier, so you cannot pick things up at 4:00! The pick-up time is 5:00 p.m.
- We will no longer store items left from the fair. If they are not picked up beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, then there is no guarantee they can be stored anywhere. We simply do not have the ability to transport or store anything! The parish 4-H Office is located near LSU-A and lacks ample storage; we need your help in making sure we have no “left-over fair items” to store. We simply CANNOT be responsible for your exhibit after the FAIR is over.

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Special Note- -ALL exhibits must remain INTACT and on display until Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

Some have asked: “why do we have to wait until **Sunday at 5:00 pm** to take our exhibits home from the Fair?”

From the public’s point of view, the objective of a Fair is to be able to view, acknowledge, and give credit to the exhibitors for all their hard work. The public comes to the Exhibit Building and the Livestock Barn to see what great work 4-H youth are producing.

If Sunday afternoon is the only opportunity for a fair goer to attend and the exhibits have already been released, it can be pretty disappointing for the fair goer and they may not come back next year. Or worse, they may not support 4-H anymore!

The check-out time is set by the Fair Association. Since 4-H is a big part of the Fair experience, it is important for us to show respect for the rules and follow them.

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Tips for Exhibiting Baked Goods at the Fair



4-H Baking Contest Tips

- The 4-H Baking contest entries are due on Thursday of the Fair.
- **Please do not bring them in any earlier-** -we cannot store them and they will not be of the same quality as fresh baked!
- 4-H'ers who have already received an entry number and wish to enter baking **do NOT need another entry number.** They are issued ONE EXHIBITOR NUMBER which is to be used for all exhibits.
- Any 4-H'er who has not already submitted an entry should get a number when entering baking.

Special Information on entering the baking division

- a. all baked goods should be cooked or baked thoroughly.
- b. cookies, brownies, candies, etc., should be placed on a paper plate and then in a zip-type storage bag. The fair tag should be taped to the outside of the bag.
- c. cakes should be exhibited uncut; please use disposable cake platters and cover the cake.
- d. all items should be home-made by the 4-H'er.
- e. Please do not bring baked goods on platters, plates, etc., that are not disposable. All baked goods should be wrapped.
- f. Baked goods not claimed by 5:00 pm on the Friday of judging will be discarded; ribbons will be placed in the Fair Office

Special information on Photography exhibits- -check the book for new rules for 2013!!

- a. Only digital photos will advance to State Fair provided there is a category.
- b. All photos are required to be placed into a protective sleeve and **NOT MOUNTED (a new rule for 2013). NO MATTING and NO FRAMES.**
- c. Only one photo per category, please.



General tips to help a 4-H'er achieve success

- Items should be made by the child, but keep in mind that the judges are also looking at the overall appearance of an exhibit. In other words, don't let the work be sloppy.
- Have the item completely finished which may include framing, hangers (especially paintings/pictures), threads clipped, etc. The back/bottom of the item is looked at and should be finished as well.
- Needlecraft items/latch hook should be matted/framed, stitched into pillows, etc.
- Be sure you check out the rules for photographs entered in the Fair.
- If a club is allowing children to work on projects at school in special workshops, please keep in mind they should not all complete the same projects. Many times, 20 club members from one club will all have the EXACT SAME item made (example: 20 pencil cups made from potato chip containers).
- Have the kids work on different projects that compete in different categories.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact one of the 4-H agents at the parish 4-H Office at 767-3968.

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