



# Elkhart County

## *4-H Performing Arts*



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# Performing Arts Project

County Only – No State Fair Exhibit

In this project you are encouraged to express yourself creatively through dance, music and drama in 4-H performing arts.

This project is designed to:

- Provide the opportunity for instruction and participation in the performing arts.
- Emphasize that skills in performing arts are valuable social and recreational tools which enrich our lives.
- Acknowledge that participation in performing arts contributes to the development of self-confidence.
- Recognize that performing arts can help with the demonstration of self-esteem and confidence.

To participate in the 4-H Performing Arts Project choose one or more of the following methods:

- a. Participate actively with any organized band, choir, etc. of which you are a member.
- b. Participate in a performing art with your 4-H club.
- c. Participate on your own, if the performing art you select is individual-centric.

## Benefits from Performing Arts Participation

Participation in performing arts is an education in itself. No other single activity today offers all of these benefits:

- *Developing creativity.* Imaginative play stimulates and challenges the brain and allows kids to be innovative and broad-minded.
- *Developing confidence.* Strategies to help you get up in front of an audience and present an idea are extraordinarily valuable.
- *Promoting self-discipline and self-motivation.* Because all performing arts are physical and individual like doing sports or athletics, achievements are also gained from including practice at home.
- *Exposed to art and culture.* The impact of a sophisticated cultural and artistic education is life-long, and adds enjoyment, depth and meaning to both personal lives and professional work as adults. Not everyone is lucky enough to have the opportunity.
- *Overcoming anxieties.* The triumph of going out of stage, performing a rehearsed piece successfully, and receiving feedback afterwards is one of the profound and tangible reassurances of worth and achievement you will ever get.
- *Learning memorizing skills.* Working on your ability to absorb and retain information is something many successful entrepreneurs recommend for the success of professional adults, and is important and fun to develop through performing arts.
- *Improving language and musical skills.* Like an exposure to culture and art, developing language and musical skills offer a significant advantage for any student.
- *Problem-solving.* Dealing with unexpected situations and working through to viable solution is a wonderful and perhaps surprising skill gained from performing arts, where creative challenges are set, self-generated work is encouraged, or problems encountered on stage are overcome if things go wrong or are forgotten.
- *Social interaction and cooperation.* Performing arts promote working as a team while also encouraging and developing individual talent: the best possible combination.

# Project Completion Requirements

1. Choose at least one performing art you enjoy.
2. Learn what the basic skills are for your chosen performing art.
3. List the resources you used – such as books, magazines, internet sites, newspapers, interviews, or personal knowledge – on the record sheet.
4. Do at least one performance in your chosen performing art for an audience (unrelated to you) and obtain a signature from a witness. Performing in the 4-H Performing Arts contest is strongly encouraged and will meet this criteria for your project.
5. Complete the record sheet, include your witness signature, and have it signed by your leader by the required date. Place a copy of the signed record sheet in your **three-ring notebook**. Your record sheet is for your benefit. If you have not improved a skill to your own satisfaction, be honest!
6. Your Fair exhibit is a **three-ring notebook** about the performing art you have participated in or researched.
7. Attach a program, flyer, publication, or any other primary document of the event you performed at to your **three-ring notebook**. (You may use that for the witness signature as well.)

## Suggestions & Tips

You may use any good resource books available through local libraries, bookstores, or the internet.

If you participated in more than one performing art, choose only one for your **three-ring notebook** exhibit. If you participate in multiple performing arts, you may choose a different one each year of participation.

Select a different performing art or topic each year.

You may include pictures in your **three-ring notebook**. These may be drawings, pictures from books, magazines, the internet or photographs of you or someone else participating in the performing art.

Some possible performing arts include but are not limited to: Acrobatics, Street Improvisation, Music, Comedy, Dance, Juggling, Magic, Band, Opera, Storytelling, Acting, Film, Theatre, Choir, Ballet, Mime, Disc Jockey, Clowning, etc.

**The performing art chosen cannot be anything that is offered in another 4-H project. For example, Sports.**

# Exhibit Requirements

This is a **three-ring notebook** project. **Three-ring notebooks** should include all previous years' work and records for your current level. Use a divider to separate each year's work. Only your work for the current year will be judged; however, the judge may choose to look at previous years' work for reference. **Three-ring notebooks** will be judged but not displayed at the fair.

## Beginner: Grades 3-5

If you are in this level for more than one year, you should select a different topic about your performing art or a different performing art each year.

Prepare (one) **three-ring notebook** that includes information and illustrations about your chosen topic. Be sure to list your resources. Be specific. More than text may be used to complete this project.

Include in your **three-ring notebook** one 8 inch by 10 inch photo in a plastic sleeve. This photo will be used for display at the fair. This can be a picture of you or another person participating in your chosen performing art, equipment needed for your chosen performing art or other illustration that explains the benefits of your performing art. The exhibit topic each year must be different than the previous year's exhibit.

Choose one of the following topics for your project:

1. "Important Tips For Starting In \_\_\_\_\_": (i.e. Theatre, Music, Comedy, etc.)
2. "Equipment Needed For \_\_\_\_\_"
3. "Basic Skills to Develop For \_\_\_\_\_"

## Intermediate: Grades 6-8

If you are in this level for more than one year, you should select a different topic about your performing art or a different performing art each year.

Prepare (one) **three-ring notebook** that includes information and illustrations about your chosen topic. Be sure to list your resources. Be specific. More than text may be used to complete this project.

Include in your **three-ring notebook** one 8 inch by 10 inch photo in a plastic sleeve. This photo will be used for display at the fair. This can be a picture of you or another person participating in your chosen performing art, equipment needed for your chosen performing art or other illustration that explains the benefits of your performing art. The exhibit topic each year must be different than the previous year's exhibit.

Choose one of the following topics for your project:

1. The history of a performing art. (e.g. History of Jazz)
2. Research an important person who has influenced a performing art. Tell how he/she has helped shape the performing art to be what it is now.
3. Research how a particular performing art was created. (e.g. The Origin of Magic)

### **Advanced: Grades 9-12**

If you are in this level for more than one year, you should select a different topic about your performing art or a different performing art each year.

Prepare (one) **three-ring notebook** that includes information and illustrations about your chosen topic. Be sure to list your resources. Be specific. More than text may be used to complete this project.

Include in your **three-ring notebook** one 8 inch x 10 inch photo in a plastic sleeve. This photo will be used for display at the fair. This can be a picture of you or another person participating in your chosen performing art, equipment needed for your chosen performing art or other illustration that explains the benefits of your performing art. The exhibit topic each year must be different than the previous year's exhibit.

Choose one of the following topics for your project:

- 1. Research a present or past performing art personality. Include a description of his/her career.**
- 2. Research the major changes of a particular performing art. From history to a present day.**