

BLACKSMITHING

Superintendent: Bob Hunley (812-239-4767) and Tim Goldman (812-887-4497)

4-H Resources: Sullivan County 4-H Introduction to Blacksmithing information Sheet (Revised 2017)

Introduction to Blacksmithing is open to those in grades six (6) and above, due to the safety issues and physical demands of working with hot metal. 4-H'ers will learn basic blacksmithing skills and safety precautions the first year and build on those skills the subsequent years in the project. Due to lack of space in the blacksmith shop, Introduction to Blacksmithing will be limited to the first twenty (20) 4-H'ers who sign up for the project each year, so sign up early!

Terms and Conditions:

1. The judging of the Blacksmithing projects will be done during Exhibit Hall judging.
2. There is no State Fair entry for this project.
3. Each 4-H'er must have safety glasses, ear protection and leather gloves. NO OPEN TOED SHOES, leather boots or canvas tennis shoes are best. Long pants must be worn. Long sleeve cotton shirts are recommended. No polyester or fleece. (Synthetics can melt to skin!) It is recommended that Volunteers and observers follow these same safety guidelines.
4. Blacksmithing divisions are not based on grade level.
5. Every member must complete divisions in order before advancing to the next division.
6. Each 4-H'er who participates in Blacksmithing agrees to read the Blacksmithing Safety Manual and take, and pass, a short, written quiz prior to doing any blacksmithing activities.
7. Intro to Blacksmithing workshops will be held at Bob Hunley's residence at 258 N. Co. Rd. 800 E., just North of Dugger. There will be multiple workshops between March and the fair in July. A schedule of these workshops will be sent out in March or April. It is the 4-H'ers responsibility to attend enough workshops to complete his or her project.
8. Due to the fact that we have recently changed the projects, the older 4-H'ers are welcome to go back and complete the new projects that have been added.

Division Definition:

Division I:

Project: Make an "S" hook 6" long with a 1 ½ twist.

Make a 12"x12" solid backed wood display board demonstrating the basic skills. Your exhibit will have 5 pieces on it. A drawn out square point; a 1 ½ twist; a 90 degree bend; a scroll and your "S" hook project. Each piece must be labeled and attached to your board.

Division II:

Project: Make a key rack using flat stock, horseshoe nails and rivets. (stock, nails and rivets to be provided by the superintendent.) Flat stock must be hot slit on both ends using a slitting chisel and forged and shaped using your creativity. Three hooks will be made from horseshoe nails and riveted to the flat stock to form the key rack.

Division III

Projects: Make a round punch from 3/8" to ½" coil spring (coil spring to be provided by the superintendent). Make a candleholder with a riveted candle cup per supervisor's design.

Division IV:

Projects: Forge a bottle opener and a decorative leaf keychain. The bottle opener must be punched and drifted. Use your creativity to come up with your own designs. The leaf must be attached to a split ring for keys (to be provided by the superintendent).

Division V:

Project: Fire Tools: Make a fire poker and a coal shovel for use in a fireplace or campfire. You must attach the shovel to the handle using rivets.

Division VI: Fire Irons: Make a usable set of fire irons for cooking over a camp fire. Your fire irons can be in any form, for example: a spit or tripod and may incorporate a swing arm(s). Use your creativity to come up with your own design, or copy a classic design. Your fire irons must be able to support the weight of a cast iron pot. You will also need to provide some type of stand to allow your project to be displayed at the fair.

Division VII:

Project: Design and forge a unique project to be exhibited. The project should showcase your creativity and skills as a blacksmith. Designs must be approved by Blacksmithing Leaders prior to beginning this project.

Division VIII : Artistic Division:

This category has no division boundaries. However, you must have a division entry to be able to exhibit in this category.

Project: Use your creativity to make anything you want to be judged. Please get prior approval from your project leader before beginning your Artistic Division project. Depending on the demands of the project, the 4-Her may be required to provide the metal for the Artistic Division