

# Poster Requirements

1. **All Posters** are to be 22 inches high X 28 inches wide. (Display like a dollar bill – horizontally.)
2. **All Posters** should be on a stiff backing such as thin plywood, foam board, peg board or VERY stiff cardboard. **Poster boards are available to purchase at the Extension Office.**
3. **Exception** photography Salon Prints—20 inches high X 16 inches wide salon mount.
4. MOST projects are required to be covered with a clear plastic, heavy acetate or other transparent material to protect the exhibit. Cellophane is not allowed. **Poster sleeves are available to purchase at the Extension Office.**
5. **Check your project rules carefully!** Some projects have specific topics for grade levels – others do not. Be sure to read your project rules carefully and if you are unsure – ask your 4-H Club leader or the 4-H Youth Educator at the Extension Office.

Things to consider in planning your poster project:

1. Stopping Power
  - ◆ Has effective title
  - ◆ Main idea is specific
  - ◆ Exhibit is well designed
2. Interesting
  - ◆ Attracts and hold interest
  - ◆ Makes effective use of line, shape, texture and color.
3. Convincing
  - ◆ Expresses idea well
  - ◆ Conveys message accurately.
4. Mechanics
  - ◆ Lettering is uniform and well done
  - ◆ Exhibit is neatly done
  - ◆ Exhibit meets objectives of division or project

Other Suggestions:

1. Decide what idea you want to tell people.
2. Do not use too many words. But make your poster or display board interesting. It should encourage the viewer to think.
3. Pictures, graphics and artwork are encouraged. Use illustrations to say the same thing that you would say with words in order to add emphasis.
4. Make one or several rough sketches of your poster or display board before you put it together.
5. After you decide on the idea of your poster or display board, you may want to get help designing it. Your parents, school art teacher, or 4-H leader might be able to help.

6. Choose colors well. They should go together well and have good contrast. Use only two or three colors. (Avoid using blue letters on an orange background, red on green, purple on yellow, or vice versa. For good contrast, use light letters on a dark background or dark letters on a light background.)
7. Be neat. Leave some space (margin) all around the sides of your poster or display board. Letters should be neat and easy to read.
8. Decide what materials you will use. Use cardboard, ink, crayons, cutouts, pictures, etc. that are durable. A stiff backing to help the poster stand without backing is required.
9. Check to see that your poster or display board does what you want it to do. Ask a parent or friend to look at your poster or display board design before you construct it. See if he or she can read it at a glance and understand your message clearly.
10. Attach/mount your poster board onto a piece of plywood or heavy cardboard. You may use the same backing year after year with this method.
11. Neatness is very important. Keep your poster clean and neat by washing your hands with soap and water before beginning.
12. Use rubber cement instead of glue. It provides a nice seal and can be “rubbed off” if there is an error. Double faced tape or a thin layer of spray glue will NOT hold up in high heat and humidity.
13. Information printed directly off the web will not be accepted.
14. Materials included in the poster need to be educational, both for the youth and the audience, and should demonstrate that the youth was able to take what he or she learned from their project to create the poster.

