



2026 New Mexico State Fair

4-H Project Exhibits Rules

**Superintendent: Marissa Morgan
Division 40**



Announcements

Entries:

Tuesday, September 8, 2026
From 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Releases:

Monday, September 21, 2026
From 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Special Rules

**** Please see Junior Livestock Division General Rules.**

****Read these rules carefully - they apply to all entries for the NMSF 4-H indoor exhibits!**

1. The New Mexico State Fair and 4-H Department shall not be held responsible for damage, loss, or theft of exhibits. All items are entered at your own risk. While we do our best to handle each item carefully and respectfully, there is always some risk of damage.
 2. **Rule Update:** County Extension Agents, State 4-H staff, and New Mexico State Fair staff are not responsible for damage, loss, or theft of exhibits at any stage of the process, including transport, judging, storage, or display. Exhibits are entered and displayed at the exhibitor's own risk.
 3. County Extension Agents or their designated representative are responsible for county exhibits. Individual entries will not be taken without explicit permission from the County Extension Office. There will be no early drop-off entries. Entries received with **incorrect numbers OR tags will be returned to that County for renumbering.**
 4. Each county may bring only the first-place exhibits from county fairs or achievement days in each class. Therefore, each county may enter only **one exhibit per class, per section (novice, junior, senior).**
 5. Items must be entered in the appropriate age category: all ages are as of January 1st of the current 4-H year.
 - a. Novice - 8 years old and in the 3rd grade or 9 - 11 years old
 - b. Junior - 11 years old and in the 6th grade or 12 - 13 years old
 - c. Senior - 13 years old and in the 8th grade or 14 - 18 years old
- * Cloverbuds - according to NM 4-H Policy, Cloverbuds are not eligible for competition and therefore cannot be qualified at the county level. No Cloverbud entries are taken at the State Fair.
6. 4-H'ers must be enrolled in Z-Suites **and** in the appropriate project to compete in that class.
 7. Judging will be based on the standards listed including any size guidelines in the 4- H project book. Judges determine the merit of each exhibit. If multiple qualified items are in a class, they will be placed 1st-3rd, however, a judge may determine that no item meets the standard for 1st and choose not to award one. No more than one of each placing may be awarded in each class. **If an item is the only entry in a class, judges will judge the item against the standard and may choose to award a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place or no placing at all.**
 8. Tape or sew a label giving the exhibitor's name, county, and year of project on each article. This is in addition to the fair exhibitor label which must be placed on the front of the item and attached securely.
 9. All exhibits must be the work of the exhibitor and completed during the current 4-H year.

10. At the close of the fair, the exhibit must be claimed by the County Extension agent or an official representative of the exhibitor.
11. All items are displayed to the best of our ability. Cases will not be opened to move items, the exception being if items are upside down or mislabeled.
12. All entries **must have an entry tag** attached. Tags are color coded by age level: pink for Novice, yellow for Junior and green for Senior. Tags should contain the class number, project item description, member's name and county. Tags must be securely attached to the front of the item to allow for judging and display.
13. All Self-Determined entries must be accompanied by a completed Self-Determined Project Record Form 100.SD-1 (R-03). Self-Determined items that do not have a sheet will be disqualified - be sure the sheet is securely attached.
14. Exhibit sizing guidelines:
 - a. **Posters:** Posters may be no larger than 14 x 22 inches (this is half of a standard sheet of poster board). Posters are defined as any flat paper, foam board, cardboard, or other backing appropriate for hanging on the wall for display. Flat items placed on stands or with stands attached will be considered posters and the stands will not be utilized for display.
 - b. **Display Boards:** Display boards may be no larger than 18 x 48 inches (this is a small size display board or half of a standard display board). Display boards are defined as scored, freestanding science boards that may be purchased at any school supply store. These are boards made freestanding by the sides being folded in slightly.
 - c. **Other Exhibit Boards:** Exhibit bases for three dimensional vertical displays may be no larger than 24x24 inches. A vertical display is defined as an exhibit with a solid base where the exhibit itself rises up. This would apply to small engines, self-determined, or any other appropriate 3-D Display.
 - d. **Project Specific Boards:** Some project boards are given specific measurements within the project. For example, leather craft and braiding have guidelines in the project book. If an exhibit is defined by the project book that is the rule members must follow.
 - e. **Oversized Exhibits:** Because of security and space limitations, extremely large/heavy project exhibits may not be accepted for display in the 4-H Department; call (505) 646-1166 or prior approval on large woods, welding or other large project displays. This only applies to actual items - posters, display boards, and vertical displays may not be over-sized. We cannot guarantee that oversized items will be placed behind glass.
 - f. **Photography Exhibits:** See specific sizing guidelines under the photography section. Photos may be mounted or matted with material strong enough to withstand transport and display (cardboard, mat board, poster board, etc.). We are not responsible for lost or damaged photos - please keep a copy of all prints submitted.

- g. **LEGO KIT EXHIBITS:** Entry must have a sturdy base other than the one included with Legos. Fair will not provide material for bases. Secure Legos to a based to prevent Legos from coming apart or falling off when moved.

Entries no larger than 12" wide and 18" long x 16" high. Entries will not be accepted if larger than specified size, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

4-H Project Exhibit Listings

4-H BEST OF SHOW AWARDS

Rosettes will be awarded to Best of Division in **ten (10) areas** as selected by the judges:

- Animal Science
- Horticulture & Agronomy
- Natural Sciences
- Personal Growth & Development
- Creative Arts and Arts & Crafts
- Family and Consumer Science (*Home Economics*)
- Consumer & Home and Family Life
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (*STEAM*)
- **Baked Goods**
- **Food and Nutrition**

From the **ten (10) Best of Division winners**, one overall Best of Show and one overall Reserve Best of Show will be selected. Youth must complete a W-9 form before payment is issued.

- Best of Show will receive a Rosette and \$500
 - Reserve Best of Show will receive a Rosette and \$250
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