

County Fair Exhibit Ideas - Woodworking



The county fair . . . what a great time it is! Every summer, families flock to county fairs to see the latest 4-H project exhibits. Exhibiting is a fun way for you to showcase your project work. The following list of exhibit ideas is based on the latest 4-H curriculum. Use it to generate project entries for your next county fair. If you're a county fair superintendent, use this list to enhance your county fair premium book.

Unit 1: Measuring Up

1. Sandpaper block
2. Poster of common woodworking tools
3. Poster of important woodworking safety practices
4. Display of different nails and screws
5. Rabbit puzzle
6. Airplane
7. Wooden box
8. Letter holder
9. Picture frame
10. Completed member guide (06875)

Unit 2: Making the Cut

1. Display of different species of wood
2. Plan for a wooden item drawn to scale
3. Display of different finishes
4. Whistle
5. Sawhorse
6. Birdhouse
7. Tool box
8. Foot stool
9. Completed member guide (06876)

Unit 3: Nailing it Together

1. Poster of woodworking careers
2. Display of different wood fasteners
3. Poster of different types of wood clamps
4. Display of different types of wood stains
5. Boomerang
6. Belt buckle
7. Puzzle

8. Bookshelf
9. Completed member guide (06877)

Unit 4: Finishing Up

1. Poster of advanced woodworking tools
2. Plans of current and ideal woodworking shop
3. Display of different adhesives
4. Poster of important safety practices when working with chemicals
5. Toy car
6. Table-top hockey board
7. Step stool/chair
8. Toy dog
9. Door knocker
10. Completed member guide (06878)

Tips for County Fair Exhibitors

When you enter a woodworking exhibit at the county fair, you'll be showing the public, and the judge, what you've learned in the project. Make your exhibit the best it can be. Here are some tips.

1. Construction
 - a. Should be constructed of the proper kind of wood for the intended use of the item.
 - b. Article should be sturdy for intended use.
2. Workmanship
 - a. Pieces should be cut and assembled accurately. Saw cuts should be square.
 - b. Joints should be strong and fit properly. Exposed joints should be sealed with wood sealer before finish coat is applied.
 - c. Nails and screws (especially on indoor articles) should be properly countersunk and the holes filled with wood filler. Other wood fasteners should be used properly.
 - d. Wood filler used to fill nail or screw holes or end joints should be colored to match the wood. Wood should be free of hammer marks.
 - e. Drawers should be sanded smooth, with a minimum of one coat of finish. (Makes it easier to keep drawer clean and helps prevent splinters or snagging.) Drawer glides should be waxed so they slide freely.
 - f. Hardware, such as hinges and fasteners, should fit and work smoothly.
3. Finish
 - a. Surface should be prepared for type of finish applied. Articles should be properly cured and dried. Articles with wet paint or tacky finishes may be disqualified (varies with the county fair).
 - b. Finish should be suited to the particular item.
 - If intended for indoor use, item should have a smooth-hard finish (varnish or shellac) or smooth-soft finish (wax). These items should be smooth to the touch.
 - Utility and outdoor items should have durable finish for preservation of the wood.
 - c. Any finishes (varnish, shellac, stain, linseed oil, sealant, wax or paint) should be properly applied. The item could be left natural as well.
4. General Characteristics
 - a. Should be attractive and well proportioned.
 - b. Should serve purpose for which intended.
 - c. "Creative" use of wood should be more than stamping of a pattern on wood, or building a shelf or similar item without a pattern.