

Display Hints and Tips

Display boards are the only display boards that can be used for 4-H projects.

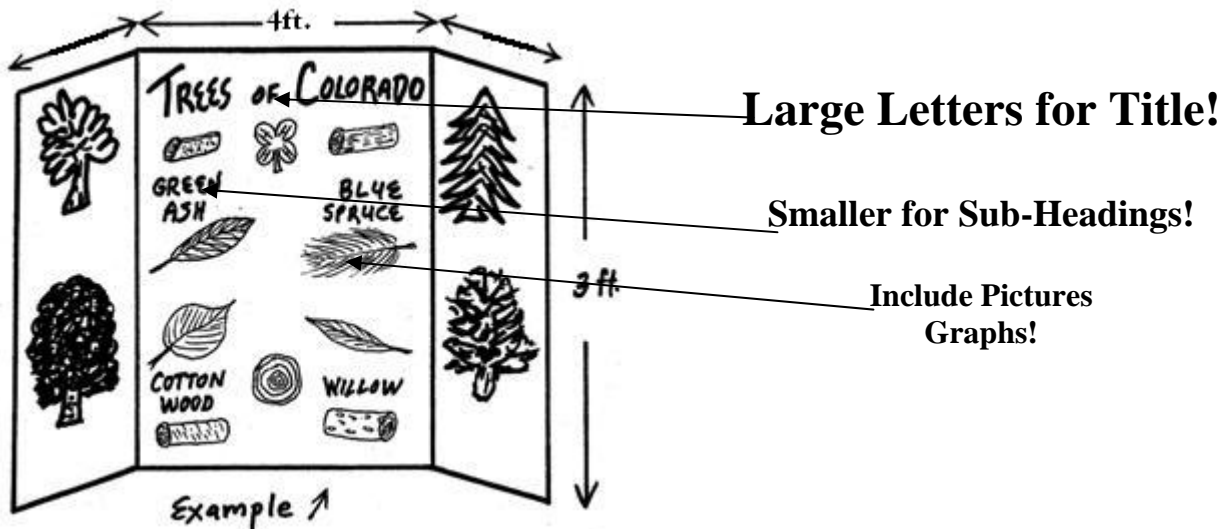
Display boards are made of lightweight cardboard and are sturdy, attractive, inexpensive and available at most local stores. They come in several colors. 4-H projects are to use the standardized showboard (display board) size of 4ft. x 3ft. (See example below).

Tips for making a display:

- Use large, bold letters for exhibit title, captions, etc. Boards must be easily read from a distance of three-to-five feet. Use large bold letters (at least 3" high) for exhibit title or captions.
- Design the exhibit by keeping in mind the size and shape of the open display (three surfaces including the wings).

Example: display board dimensions
4ft. x 3 ft.

Example: display board lettering



- When mounting items on the showboard avoid things that are bulky or heavy which could cause the showboard to collapse. Mount items securely so they won't fall off. Tape will not work.
- You have 60-90 seconds for the message to be read; be concise.
- Tell your story with visuals.
- Avoid putting too much in the exhibit. It should never have a crowded look.
- Dark lettering on a light background is most visible.
- Do not use headers or attachments on your display board.

Binder: (For e-records, supplements, additional materials and manuals)

- Binder or notebooks as appropriate for the project should be used.
- Stacks easily and lies flat.
- Do not use the slide binders as the e-record, manuals, supplements and other materials will not stay secure in these types of binders.

Tips for an overall outstanding exhibit:

- 1) Follows unit requirements and rules in the fair book
- 2) Attractive
- 3) Relatively simple
- 4) Colorful and/or showing strong contrast
- 5) Creative or artistic
- 6) Sturdy (won't fall apart in transit)
- 7) Educational
- 8) Intriguing
- 9) Gives viewer the impression that you enjoyed this project
- 10) Makes the viewer remark "wow" or "nicely done".

Those who evaluate exhibits like to see:

- 1) Complete, neat records indicating the 4-Her learned & had fun.
- 2) A good story with interesting experiences explained.
- 3) Several photos with at least one action shot of the member doing something with their project. Photos showing processes, growth, change and action are always interesting. Years later, this will be the first page a 4-H member will turn to and reminisce.
- 4) Optional reports, experiments, etc. that are allowed.
- 5) An exhibit that has the 10 qualities listed above.

Judging Elements for Displays:

Educational Merit---does the exhibit show knowledge and/or accomplishments that were met in the project?

Accuracy of Information---does the exhibit contain accuracies and current information on the topic.

Shows Creativity---does the exhibit show originality, freshness and imagination?

Neatness---is the exhibit tidy and easy to follow—words spelled correctly and orderly.

Readable---is the exhibit clear, legible and understandable.

Quality---is the exhibit outstanding---first rate---exceptional---does it exhibit the highest standards according to the exhibit requirements.

Relates to Project Entered---does the exhibit relate to the project---it is connected through the skills and knowledge learned in the project.