

State Fair Demonstration Contest Pointers

Time Limits: time limits must be strictly followed.

Terminology: terminology specific to an area must be correctly pronounced.

Notes: note cards should not be visible. You should not need to use them much, if at all.

Dress: professional or subject specific dress should be worn. Because the curtain at the State Fair contest is black, it is good to select a color that contrasts against that. Be prepared for them to place a headset on you backstage. If you are giving a food demonstration, wear an apron and be sure to start with washing your hands with sanitizer. Those with long hair for a food presentation should have it pulled back in a ponytail. Don't wear distracting jewelry or accessories.

Poise: practice your presentation with people moving and talking throughout the room as that will happen at the State Fair as you are in an exhibit hall.

Personality: practice your demonstration in different personalities so you can smile and look like you are enjoying what you are doing.

Props: plan your props so they are portable as you may have to carry them a mile at the State Fair.

Introduction: at the beginning of your demonstration, introduce yourself and what year you have completed in 4-H, along with your county.

Research: at the high school level, you should indicate a certain amount of research with your demonstration that reflects your knowledge of the subject matter at hand.

Rules: carefully review the rules for the contest. Follow all of them.

Tablecloth: presentations should have a solid color tablecloth.

Visual Aids:

- **Handheld** – make every effort to include one visual aid that is oversized and can easily be seen on the stage at the state fair. Small visual aids will get marked down as they cannot be seen.
- **Posters** – posters (if used) should be a bright color that contrasts easily against the black stage curtain. Print should be at least 3 inches high, with as few words as possible. If you use posters, have a title poster for your presentation. If you use posters, have them on cardboard backing (without plastic sheeting) that you have practiced switching posters so it is not distracting.
- **Slideshow presentations** – do NOT use graphics. Start with a title slide for your presentation. Bring your presentation with a solid color white background and black text and also a solid color black background and white text. There are huge visibility issues with slideshows because of the auditorium windows. You should arrive early at the State Fair before your designated time to do a visual check to see which of the 2 will be more effective that day. If you use graphics or color, they will not be visible, and you will get docked points. If you use a presentation, bring it in a portable format and be prepared for it to be shown on a Macbook where you will be on stage with a remote control. You must be prepared to use the remote control and give your presentation without assistance.