

4-H Project Demonstration Planning Steps

1. Planning

- Choose one simple and specific idea that you are comfortable teaching.
- First, plan the **Body** by listing the steps involved in the demonstration. Write an explanation to go with each step. Plan how to show or demonstrate each step.
- Plan the **Conclusion** next, restating the main points. Be sure to show the finished product if you have one and give the source of your information.
- Then, plan the **Introduction**. *This should introduce your topic, not you.* Select a catchy title. Think of an opening statement that lets your audience know what you are demonstrating and the purpose of your presentation.
- If your demonstration has a number of steps that require some “waiting time” in between the steps, plan to bring examples of the project at each stage in the process. This is often the case with crafts or food, and will require more materials. This is how you can show the whole project within the time limit.

2. Preparation

- Make a list of materials and equipment needed. Gather these supplies.
- Make a **minimum of three 14”-22” posters (Not tri-fold boards) OR three PowerPoint or Google slides** for your demonstration.
 1. Title Poster/ Slide
 2. Supplies Poster/ Slide- or list of ingredients or materials
 3. Directions Poster/ Slide- or steps to follow
- Letters and pictures should be large enough to be seen across the classroom.
- Letters on the title poster/slide should be at least 2-3 inches high. Letters on the posters/ slides should be around 1-2 inches high.
- Block letters are easiest to read. All letters on one poster/slide should be the same color for ease of reading.
- Posters/slides may be on white or colored poster board. Digital Slides need to be clean and crisp and **no animation**. Use dark colors on light backgrounds and light colors on dark backgrounds for contrast.
- Prepare demonstration according to your plans.
- Make sure your information is correct and that you include your source (can be on the back of a poster).
- Remember **time limit: 3-5 minutes**
- Practice! Practice! Practice!

3. Presentation

- Check and re-check to make sure you have everything you need.
- *Don't introduce yourself: just start with your topic introduction.*
- Remember to speak slowly and clearly. Be yourself!
- Smile! Look at your audience (eye contact) whenever possible.
- Keep your working area neat and clean. Remember to keep all bowls, boxes etc. to side of you and “work” in the center. Have towel ready for any messes.
- Tell your source of information and show a finished product if you have one. **6th-12th grade contestants need to provide at least (2) sources.**

4-H Demonstration Guidelines

4-H Demonstration Do's & Don'ts

1. In a demonstration, you should both **show** and **tell how to** do something. You may show how to make something or how something works. Topics should be related to a 4-H project.
2. A good presentation has three main parts: **Introduction, Body, and Conclusion.**
3. **Posters** (3-5 posters, size 14" x 22") or power point/google slides* (3-5 slides only) and **project materials** (props) should be used in a demonstration along with the **spoken script** (speech). **Digital slides do not replace props.*
4. **Time:** demonstrations should be between 3-5 minutes long.
5. All 4-H members must do individual demonstrations. No partners allowed.
6. Do Not use live animals or babies, audience participation, videos, or DVD's. Do Not use tri-fold boards instead of 14"-22" posters. Do not bring any items that are prohibited at school.
7. Do not demonstrate volcanoes, lava lamps, "gak" or "goop", slime, simple sandwiches, slice and bake cookies, or paper folding (origami) crafts. They are too simple or too messy.
8. Keep in mind that you are preparing your demonstration to explain how to do a specific task or explain a specific process. Pick something specific enough that you can be thorough in the time allowed.
9. Once you have completed your demonstration in the contest, you will have the opportunity to record it and submit it to be judged as a digital submission. Winning demonstration videos will be uploaded to the Williamson County Extension YouTube Channel. The video submission will be an additional contest and will have its own awards.
10. Market your project/topic! One of the goals of this project is to share your project topic/area and market it to your audience.

4-H Projects:

Beef, Computers & Technology,
Consumer Education/ Economics,
Citizenship, Clothing & Textiles,
Communications and Public Speaking,
Companion Animals, Dairy, Electric,
Engineering/ Safety Science, Entomology,
Environmental Science/Conservation,
Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries, Food
Science (Food Safety & Meat Sci.), Goat,
Horse, Horticulture/ Garden, Leadership/
Outdoor Rec and Shooting Sports,
Energy, Healthy Living,
Creative Arts & Design,
Entrepreneurship,
Performing Arts/ Recreation, Photography,
Plant Science, Poultry, Sheep, Swine,
Veterinary Science, STEM

The Williamson County 4-H Demonstration Contest will be Monday, March 23, 2026 at The Williamson County Ag Expo Park. Once you register, a time will be assigned for you to present your demonstration.

Tennessee 4-H Demonstration Judging Scorecard

Project: _____ Name: _____		Comments
A. Demonstrator		
1. Appearance– neat, well groomed. Good posture	(5)	
2. Voice– pleasing, clear, distinct, correct English	(10)	
3. Shows poise and enthusiasm	(5)	
Possible Points	20	
B. Presentation		
1. Introduction– attention getting & gives purpose of demonstration	(10)	
2. Main points are clearly stated	(10)	
3. Summary– interesting, short, but complete	(10)	
4. Demonstration given convincingly and within time limits	(5)	
5. Equipment– well selected and organized	(10)	
6. Visuals– neat, clear, well-illustrated	(10)	
7. Work area left neat	(5)	
Possible Points	60	
C. Subject Matter		
1. Well organized and selected; 4-H project related	(10)	
2. Source of information accurate and up –to-date	(5)	
3. Practical questions– answered accurately	(5)	
Possible Points	20	
TOTAL POINTS	100	

Explanation of Scorecard

A. Demonstrator

1. **Appearance:** Is he/she neat, clean, well-groomed; has good posture; no distracting jewelry; hair out of eyes; no chewing gum; or is he/she just the opposite of the answer to each of these questions? Scores may range from 0 to 5 in this category.
2. **Voice:** Is it pleasing, clear and distinct with correct grammar? Scores may vary between 0 to 10 on this category.
3. **Poise and enthusiasm:** Does he/she project his/her voice so it is easily heard; look at the audience and judges; smile and appear at ease? Scores may range from 0 to 5 points.

B. Presentation

1. **Introduction:** Is it attention-getting, giving the purpose of the demonstration; brief and important; telling what is to be done; or is it just the opposite or merely repetition of the presenter's name and club when he/she has already been introduced? The range of scores for this section is 0 to 10.
2. **Main points clearly stated:** Are all steps clearly presented to the audience; easily distinguished points? Points may vary from 0 to 10 on this.
3. **Summary:** Is it interesting and short, but complete; key points re-emphasized; no new material introduced; purpose met? If gestures are used, are they natural? Scores for the summary may range from 0 to 10 points.
4. **Demonstration given convincingly:** Does it seem the 4-H'er has knowledge of the subject and does not read his/her information? Also within the time limits. Points between 0 and 5.
5. **Equipment:** Is it well-selected and organized; work area clearly seen; suitable and effective equipment for the job; equipment handled with ease; arranged for efficient use; used as needed; without name brands or labels? Point range between 0-10 points
6. **Visuals:** Are they neat, clear, well-illustrated; used to amplify, not duplicate methods shown; charts not too crowded; simple designs; only needed charts used; charts handled smoothly? Scores for visuals category may range from 0 to 10. *Note:* Some demonstrations show and therefore use equipment to demonstrate; others tell or illustrate and use graphics. Both are equally acceptable. If the demonstration conveys the information, a demonstrator should not be penalized for using either graphics, equipment or both.
7. **Work area:** Is it left neat or as it was before the demonstration? From 0 to 5 points may be earned in this category.

C. Subject Matter

1. **Selection and organization:** Is it presented in logical sequence with only one theme or idea presented; subject narrow enough to be covered adequately? Is topic related to the 4-H project? Scores may vary between 0 and 10 points.
2. **Source of information:** Is it accurate and up-to-date; selected from reliable information from USDA or UT Extension recommended practices followed; personal experience can be cited; source of information can be cited; suited to age, interest and experience of the demonstrator? Scores in this category may range from 0 to 5 points.
3. **Practical questions:** Are they answered accurately; 4-H'er admits not knowing answer instead of guessing; subject adequately covered enough for no questions to be needed? Point scores may vary from 0 to 5 here.



TO: 3rd - 12th grade 4-H'er's

RE: Williamson County 4-H Project Demonstration Contest

You are invited to participate in our **2026 Williamson County 4-H Demonstration Contest**, which will be held at The Williamson County Ag Expo Park, **Monday night, March 31st**. Once you have registered for the contest, you will be assigned a designated time between 6:00 -7:30 PM to present your Demonstration. Once you have presented, you may leave. Results of the contest will be emailed following the contest. Contest details and check-in information will be emailed to the email address you provide when you register for the contest. Remember to practice your demonstration so you will do well. You will compete with 4-H'ers from across the county. **Park in the Ag Park Front parking lot and come in the main front doors.**

DATE OF CONTEST: Monday, March 23, 2026, **TIME:** 6:00 -7:30 p.m. Specific times assigned.

LOCATION: Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, TN, 37064

PRE-REGISTRATION: Now through March 17, 2026. Complete the registration form online. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Williamson County 4-H Demonstration Contest on Monday, March 31st. If you have any questions, please call us at 615-790-5721.

Pre-registration is required! - <https://tiny.utk.edu/Demonstration>

Prizes!! Winners in each project receive a PRIZE! These will be awarded after the competition. If you are a County Winner, 1st or 2nd in your project, you will be given the opportunity to compete again at the Area Project Fair. More details will be given to winners at the contest.

DEMONSTRATION TIME LIMIT: 3 – 5 minutes.

Project Demonstration Registration Form - Deadline is March 17, 2026 so don't delay!

PRE-REGISTRATION: Now through March 17th. To pre-register complete the form at:

<https://tiny.utk.edu/Demonstration>

Doug Berny, 4-H Extension Agent

Kaitlyn Boughton, 4-H Extension Agent

4-H Projects

Beef Cattle
Citizenship
Clothing and Textiles
Communication / Public Speaking
Companion Animal (Pets – cats, dogs, etc.)
Computers and Technology
Consumer Education / Economics
Creative Arts and Design,
Culinary, Dairy Cattle,
Energy
Environmental/Ag Engineering (EASE)
Entomology/Beekeeping
Entrepreneurship
Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries
Food Science (Food Safety, Meat Science)
Goat
Healthy Living
Horse
Horticulture / Garden
Leadership / Personal Development
Creative Arts and Design
Mechanics/Safety Sciences,
Outdoor Education/Shooting Sports
Performing Arts (dance, music, etc.)
Photography and Digital Media
Poultry
STEM
Sheep
Swine
Veterinary Science

**Pre-registration is required.
Registration deadline is March 17, 2026.**



Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

4-H Demonstration

Name: _____

How to: _____

Introduction:

Material Needed:

Steps:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

***Use as many steps as you need.**

Conclusion:

Remember:

**Demonstration must be
Completed in 3-5 minutes.**