



## 2020-2022 4-H TEXTILES AND CLOTHING JUDGING GUIDE

Judging Contests are designed to support the learning that is taking place in a project area. 4-H members learn to compare and become familiar with project equipment and terminology. Judging teaches critical thinking and decision-making skills. These skills are valuable to young people as well as adults as they must make decisions every day.

There are two divisions for this contest: junior and senior. Junior participants must be between the ages of 8-12 in 4-H age. Individuals 13 and older must complete the senior contest. If a junior chooses to participate in both divisions, they must complete the senior level contest first. The top ten senior participants from each county are eligible to participate in the state contest. Should ten seniors not be available, juniors may be asked to participate in the state event.

**Participants should come to the judging contest with a clipboard (to write on) and blank paper (to take notes for reasons). No talking should take place in the contest area between participants. Questions and concerns should be directed to the adult(s) in charge of the contest.**

### The 2020-2022 Textiles and Clothing Contest will include:

**JUNIOR:**       **Tools of the Trade - Sewing Equipment**  
                      **Parts of a Sewing Machine**  
                      **Quality Judging – Evaluation of Hand Sewn Item**  
                      **Demonstration of Clothing Textile Activity**

**SENIOR:**       **Tools of the Trade-Sewing Equipment**  
                      **Parts of a Sewing Machine/Function of the parts**  
                      **Symbols on the Pattern Pieces/How they are used in sewing**  
                      **Quality Judging – Evaluation of Hand Sewn Item**  
                      **Fabric Sample Identification/Usage and Characteristics**  
                      **Pattern Envelope Information**  
                      **Demonstration of Clothing Textile Activity**

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### **JUNIOR: Tools of the Trade- Sewing Equipment**

4-H'ers will identify sewing tools in **Let's Sew, pages 3-8** and in the **Under Construction project manual**. Beginners will identify the equipment matching the appropriate tool with its name. Juniors will be responsible for knowing the following tools in the contest:

shears, scissors, tape measure, ruler or hem gauge, marking pens, tracing paper and tracing wheel, needles, pins, pin cushion, seam ripper, thread, iron, and ironing board.

**SENIORS:** 4-H'ers will identify **ALL** sewing tools and identify their functions as listed in **Let's Sew, pages 3-8 and in the Under Construction project manual, Level 1 Tools of the Trade pages 6-9.** If a tool has various types shown in these references, seniors will be responsible for knowing all types (i.e. for pins, seniors will need to know flower head, glass or plastic head, silk pins, and ballpoint pins).

**Training Ideas:**

- Collect the sewing tools and have a quiz bowl. Members will identify the tool and receive a bonus point if they can tell the use of the tool. (Pages 12 & 13 Sewing Helpers Guide.)
- Play the Sewing Matching game page 6 Under Construction project manual.

**JUNIOR AND SENIOR: Parts of a Sewing Machine**

Junior and Senior participants will each be asked to identify parts of a sewing machine. Juniors will identify 5 parts and Seniors will identify 10 parts. Review pages 8 and 10 in Level One – Under Construction. The following parts may be included in the contest: power switch, presser foot, presser foot lifter, throat plate, feed dogs, needle, throat take-up, upper tension regulator, thread guides, spool pin, bobbin winder, balance wheel, stitch length regulator, stitch width regulator, and bobbin case. Junior participants will be provided a Word Bank to use. Senior participants should be familiar with the function of these sewing machine parts and what they are used for in sewing.

**Training Idea:** Quiz the 4-H group in a Jeopardy style format. Give the definition of a part of the sewing machine and have a member name it. The member can then locate the same part on an actual machine, and identify the function of the part.

**SENIOR: Symbols on the Pattern Pieces and how they are used in sewing**

In order to follow the instructions for your pattern, you must understand the pattern symbols for cutting and sewing. Some compare pattern symbols on a pattern to symbols to “landmarks” found on a map or “road signs” seen as you drive a car. Review page 23, **Let's Sew** for the necessary symbols.

Symbols include: cutting line, stitching line, grain line arrow, place on fold line, notches, circles and squares, lengthen and shorten lines, hemline, center front and back fold line, dart, pocket, buttons, and buttonholes.

**Training Idea:** Lay a large piece of pattern out on a table and review the symbols with the 4-H group. Test their knowledge by placing small slips of paper with the symbol names in a cup. Have each 4-H'er draw a slip of paper and then identify the symbol selected on the pattern.

### **JUNIOR AND SENIOR: Evaluation of Sewn Items – Quality Judging**

Junior and Senior participants will each be asked to rank one or more class of sewn items. Seniors will be required to present written reasons for at least one class.

The following standards should be considered when evaluating a sewn item:

1. Appropriate fabric and notions for garment
2. Accurate cutting and marking
3. Seams appropriately finished
4. Accurate hand stitching, stitch selected appropriate for situation
5. Accurate machine stitching and appropriate construction techniques
6. Construction detail appropriate to fabric and style of garment/item
7. Closures are appropriate for the situation and applied appropriately and neatly
8. Clean and well pressed

### **Guidelines for Developing Written Reasons (Seniors Only):**

- Your reasons should be logical and easy to follow.
- Use accurate information. Do not use a “canned” presentation.
- Use proper terms and expressions that relate to the items being judged and compared.
- You should have an introduction and a conclusion where the class is identified completely and correctly.
  - Introduction: I placed this class of geraniums 3-2-1-4.
  - Conclusion: For these reasons, I placed this class of geraniums 3-2-1-4.
- Make comparisons of items in the class throughout. Use comparative terms such as “more” or “less” (i.e. more focused, less sturdy) or words ending in “er” (i.e. better, clearer).
  - I placed 3 over 2 because.....
  - I placed 2 over 1 because.....
  - I placed 1 over 4 because.....

Additional information on how to prepare written or oral reasons can be found on the State 4-H website at the following link:

<https://cdn.extension.udel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/13120814/reasons-information.pdf>

**Training Idea:** Think of the above list of 8 items as a scorecard used to evaluate a sewn item. These criteria should also be used in evaluating any project sewn by the 4-H member before submitting it for the Clothing Showcase or the State Fair. Areas that need improvement may be improved, redone or practiced by sewing another garment/item.

Begin the judging process by introducing one garment to evaluate. After discussing the one garment, introduce a second one for evaluation. Compare the two garments so the 4-H'ers understand the process of judging- comparing each to a standard and then to each other. Work up to comparing a class of four garments.

**SENIOR: Fabric Sample Identification**

Participants will be asked to view and identify commonly used fabric samples based on the appearance and texture.

*Possible Fabrics to identify include:*

- Fleece
- Cotton
- Denim
- Satin
- Seersucker
- Silk
- Spandex
- Velvet
- Poplin

**Training Idea:** Visit a fabric store as a club and lay out many different types of fabrics to view and touch. Discuss tips to help identify a variety of fabrics.

**SENIOR: Pattern Envelope Information**

Participants will be provided a pattern envelope and will be asked questions related to the measurements, different views, type and amount of fabric, notions, and other information provided on the pattern envelope that provides instructions and guidelines on how to construct the garment being made. Member will also be asked questions to regarding sewing information and guidelines presented on the **Instruction Sheet** contained in the pattern envelope.

**Training Idea:** Have 4-H'ers review various pattern envelopes to identify what type and amount of fabric is necessary to construct the garment, the notions required, different views offered on the pattern, and other information that is presented on the pattern that is provided to help sew the garment. Participants should also review the Instruction Sheet to identify what type of information and guidelines are provided to construct the garment.

### **JUNIOR AND SENIOR: Demonstration of Clothing Textile Activity**

Based on the list provided below by contest age category, participants will be asked to identify the proper sewing tools that should be utilized in performing a specified sewing function, perform various demonstrations of sewing tools or operations of a sewing machine or use of fabric or patterns.

#### Juniors:

- Demonstrating the use of various sewing equipment identified in in the Beginner Tools of the Trade section of this document
- Choosing the correct sewing equipment to use for the function to be completed
- How to properly sort laundry

#### Seniors:

- Operation of a sewing machine or various parts on a sewing machine
- Choosing correct sewing equipment to use for the function to be completed
- Pinning and cutting out a pattern piece
- How to properly sort laundry and remove stains

**Training Idea:** Have 4-H members select various sewing equipment and review how and when to use each one properly. Work with a sewing machine to develop skills and knowledge of how various parts operate and are used when sewing items. In addition, review the process of purchasing fabric, preparing it to be used with a pattern, and cutting out a pattern piece. Refer to guidelines on the proper steps in sorting and removing stains.