

FAMILY LIFE DAY – Family History Treasure Hunt
Lausche Youth Exploration Space
Tuesday, August 4, 2026
LuAnn Duncan and Melinda Hill, Assistant Superintendent

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Age of Participants:
 - Junior (age 13 or under) as of January 1 of the current year.
 - Senior (age 14 or over) as of January 1 of the current year.

1. Participation Guidelines:
 - The winner of any one class in 2025 is not eligible to participate in the same class for 2026.
 - Registration begins 15 minutes before the time indicated for each county.
 - No more than one participant in any one class will be allowed per county
 - Individuals may participate in **one** Family Life Day Class
 - Participants in classes J-1 to J-4 use the 4-H State Fair Project Evaluation Sheet.
 - Participants in classes J-5 to J-7 use the Family History Treasure Hunt Evaluation Sheet.

Type of Evaluation for classes J-01 to J-04:

- Participants will have a personal interview evaluation with a judge.
- Judge will evaluate participant on knowledge, skills and understanding (also see sample score sheet).

Participant to bring for classes J-01 to J-04:

- Registration information given to you by your County 4-H Educator.
- Participants bring a pencil, their completed project books and other project records to show the results of their work and to help explain their project accomplishments to the judge.
- In addition to the project book, participants bring a display that may be a (one) photo album (maximum size 12"x18"x5") OR a (one) portfolio/box (maximum size 24"x24"x24"). In addition, delegates bring one poster, maximum size 24" x 36", not to exceed a standard sized science fair, tri-fold. Your goal is communicate to judges what you learned from the project.
- Please do not bring big displays/exhibits and excessive amounts of toys or play items.

Participants in classes J-05 to J-07 Family History should bring:

- Registration information mailed to you by your County 4-H Educator.
- A pencil
- Completed project book
- Research Journal (1st and 2nd year participants only)
 - Treasure Hunter's Kit (1st and 2nd year participants only)
 - One 3-ring notebook (items applicable to present year's project only) including the following:
 - a. Annual essay
 - b. Pedigree Chart
 - c. Individual Data Sheets
 - d. Family Group Sheets
 - e. Correspondence Log (may be included in Research Journal for 1st and 2nd year participants)
 - f. Research Log (may be included in Research Journal for 1st and 2nd year participants)

- g. Research Plan
- h. Copies or scanned images of supporting documents (birth, marriage, death records, obituaries, church records, military records, court records). Supporting documents should include source citations.
- i.

Participants in classes J-05 to J-07 Family History should not bring the following:

- Computers, tablets, cell phones, other electronic devices
- Displays, exhibit, posters, e-posters
- Videos/DVD/movies
- Tape/digital recorder
- Framed photos, photo albums, scrapbooks
- Family heirlooms, artifacts, knick-knacks
- File box/drawer (most everything should be included in 3-ring notebook)

This is the primary notice. There will be a “friendly reminder” at registration so none of these are taken to the judging area. Thereafter, if necessary, a “warning” and disqualification may be issued.

Type of Evaluation for Family History Classes:

- Participants will have a personal 5–7-minute interview evaluation with a judge. The time should be devoted to what you have done THIS year and what you have learned. The minimum expectations for each year are outlined in the project book.
- Participants may also complete a worksheet activity based on project book and general research experiences.
- Judges will evaluate your knowledge of genealogy, your abilities in conducting genealogical searches, understanding of sources, the overall appearance and organization of your work, other activities related to your project, and the interview with the judge.

CLASSES

- J-01 Babysitting
- J-02 4-H Around the Globe
- J-03 Exploring Personal Finance
- J-04 Empowering Personal Finance
- J-05 Family History Treasure Hunt (1st yr only)
- J-06 Family History Treasure Hunt (2nd yr only)
- J-07 Family History Treasure Hunt (3+ years)

County Judging, Local Fair and State Fair

Judging expectations and displays may be different at the county fair than the state fair. Please follow the guidelines for displays and judging at the county level when participating at the local level. If your project is selected for judging at the state fair, please follow the state fair guidelines.

Photo albums and family keepsakes are personally rewarding. Although these are important items when researching your family, please **do not** bring these to the State fair to share with the judges. Also, please **do not** bring your personal electronic devices containing your family information to the state fair.

JUDGING SCHEDULE

The exact schedule of participation will depend on the number reporting at any one time. Members should bring registration information provided by their County 4-H Professional to the registration desk in the Youth Exploration Space.

9:30 a.m.	Ashland, Clark, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Pickaway
10:00 a.m.	Allen, Champaign, Franklin, Logan, Marion
10:30 a.m.	Coshocton, Crawford, Greene, Licking, Madison, Muskingum
11:00 a.m.	Hardin, Hocking, Holmes, Knox, Morrow, Richland, Union
11:30 a.m.	Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Ottawa, Perry, Ross, Wyandot
1:00 p.m.	Athens, Auglaize, Clinton, Guernsey, Morgan, Shelby, Vinton
1:30 p.m.	Highland, Huron, Jackson, Medina, Meigs, Pike, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Williams
2:00 p.m.	Belmont, Hancock, Mahoning, Tuscarawas, Wayne, Wood
2:30 p.m.	Butler, Carroll, Clermont, Darke, Defiance, Erie, Hamilton, Harrison, Lorain, Lucas, Warren
3:00 p.m.	Jefferson, Monroe, Noble, Paulding, Portage, Preble, Putnam, Sandusky, Scioto, Van Wert
3:30 p.m.	Adams, Ashtabula, Brown, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Fulton, Gallia, Geauga, Henry, Lake, Lawrence, Trumbull, Washington

AWARDS AND SPONSORS

1. All participants will receive a participation ribbon sponsored by The Ohio State Fair.
2. “Outstanding of the Day” ribbons, sponsored by The Ohio State Fair, will be awarded to the top 20% of the class.
3. One overall clock trophy will be presented in each class. In 2025 awards were provided by: **Allison Rushley Stecker, Matthew and Steven Edgington-Fu, Morgan Domokos, and Tim & Karen Corcoran, and The Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society.**
4. Awards will be presented at 5:00 pm (subject to postponement if additional judging time is needed).
5. Those not present for the awards ceremony may pick up their awards, or arrange for another to do so, from the 4-H state fair office located in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space until the conclusion of the fair. Unclaimed awards will be sent to county extension offices after the fair.
6. Results will be posted online at <https://ohio4h.org/ohiostatefair>.

2025 CLASS WINNERS

J-01 Babysitting	Lucy Thorne, Muskingum
J-02 4-H Around the Globe	Kaelynn Mishne, Franklin
J-03 Becoming Money Wise	Magnus Kvamme, Muskingum
J-04 Teens On the Road to Financial Success	Renna Frankart, Hancock
J-05 Family History Treasure Hunt (1st yr only)	Nicholas Bornhorst, Auglaize
J-06 Family History Treasure Hunt (2nd yr only)	Emma Helsel, Perry
J-07 Family History Treasure Hunt (3rd yr +)	Lillian Kimball, Sandusky

4-H State Fair Sample Project Evaluation Sheet (Family Life J-1 to J-4)

Name: _____ Exhibitor number: _____

County: _____ Age as of January 1 (current year): _____

Project name: _____ Number of years in project: _____

Please provide a brief description of what you brought today to display your project (i.e., poster, equipment, etc.):

Keep this sheet with you until the judge calls your exhibitor number.

Judges—Please place an “x” in the column that most closely describes this entry.

Judging Guidelines	Excellent Outstanding work that exceeds expectations	Very Good Well done, with few minor if any errors	Good Appropriate for member's age and experience	Average Solid grasp of fundamentals
Knowledge (40%) Member demonstrates knowledge of basic concepts, skills, safety protocols (if applicable), and other project information.				
Communication (20%) Member communicates effectively with a positive attitude and with appropriate personal appearance.				
Project Book (20%) Project book is completed appropriately and provides an accurate record of project activities.			(book is complete)	(book needs some work)
Display (20%) Content is accurate, complete and displayed in a way that is neat and creative. It showcases knowledge and skills gained through project work.				
Strengths:				
Areas for improvement:				

White copy – 4-H member, Yellow copy - Judge

4-H FAMILY LIFE DAY (FAMILY LIFE J5 TO J7)

Family History Treasure Hunt Evaluation Sheet

NAME: _____ EXHIBITOR NUMBER: _____

COUNTY: _____ CLASS: _____

AGE AS OF JAN. 1 (OF CURRENT YEAR): _____ YEARS IN 4-H: _____ YEARS IN PROJECT: _____

Family Names Researched (list) _____

Check how much of the work you are exhibiting is your personal original work:

- _____ I did all of the work exhibited.
- _____ I did most of the work exhibited, with a little help from others.
- _____ I did about half of the work, and others did about half.
- _____ Most of the work was done by others, and I've added some.

*Note to interviewer: This project is designed for multiple years with 3 classes at the State Fair

Area of Evaluation	Points						Comments - Strengths & Suggestions
	No Evidence	Needs Improvement	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations			
Completeness of Project	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Organization of Project (ease to find items, table of contents)	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Presentation of Project (neatness, physical appearance)	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Original Research	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Source Citations	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Annual Essay	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Sharing Information	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Leadership/Citizenship Activity	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Interview with Judge	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Supporting Materials:							
Project records/worksheets (pedigree chart, family group sheets, individual data sheets)	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Sample scans/copies of documents (correspondence/research logs, comparison charts, lists of sources)	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Quiz Score:	%	60	70	80	90	100	

Note to Judges: Half points may be used in the evaluation

Total Score: _____