

SELF-DETERMINED PROJECT DAY

Lausche Youth Exploration Space

Sunday, August 9, 2026

CHRISTY MILLHOUSE, Assistant Superintendent

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Age of Participants:
 - Junior (4-H age 13 and under -on January 1 of current year)
 - Senior (4-H age 14 and older – on January 1 of current year)

2. Participation Rules:
 - The winner of any one class in 2025 is not eligible to participate in the same class for 2026.
 - Members must be enrolled in a 4-H 365 project for the 2026 program year and be selected at the county level to participate in this event.
 - Counties may send only one participant per class.

3. Type of Evaluation:
 - Participant will have a personal interview evaluation which will consist of an oral interview with a judge along with a review of the participant's project book and tabletop display that shows project work.
 - Judge will evaluate participants on the following basis (see sample score sheet):
 - 40% Knowledge (Basic concepts learned in the project)
 - 20% Communication (Interview – presentation of the project)
 - 20% Project Book (Book is complete & provides accurate record of project activities)
 - 20% Project Display (Quality)

4. Participant Requirements:
 - Check in at the registration desk in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space.
 - Bring the completed 4-H 365 project recordbook.
 - Members should also bring a tabletop exhibit (e.g. poster, scrapbook, etc.) illustrating highlights of their project experience and accomplishments.
 - The display does not need to be a tri-fold display board; however, it must be limited in size to what the participant can handle/maneuver on their own.
 - Electrical connections and additional exhibit space are not available to exhibitors, nor are exhibitors allowed to bring an electric generator.

CLASSES

J-01 Self-Determined, Jr

J-02 Self-Determined, Sr

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 designated registration desk in the Lausche 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. Two Outstanding of the Day recipients in J-1 and J-2 will be selected to receive a clock trophy. In 2025, the trophies were sponsored by **Judge Frederick D. & Dr. Kathryn C. Pepple, Matthew and Steven Edgington-Fu, and Dr. Kameron S. Rinehart.**
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 Self-Determined, Jr	Samuel Haslinger, Sandusky
J-01 Self-Determined, Jr	Josie McNary, Richland
J-02 Self-Determined, Sr	Anthony Mathews, Clark
J-02 Self-Determined, Sr	Cryleigh Quinn, Mercer

4-H State Fair Project Evaluation Sheet
(sample evaluation sheet for Self-Determined Project Day)

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:				