

**4-H WOODWORKING DAY**  
Lausche Youth Exploration Space  
Saturday, August 8, 2026  
ANDREW KLOPFENSTEIN, Assistant Superintendent

**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

1. Participation Guidelines:

- Counties may have a total of 8 participants No individual may participate in more than one class.
- Age of participants will be determined by 4-H age: Junior (age 13 or under) as of January 1 of the current year and Senior (age 14 or over) as of January 1 of the current year.
- Youth may continue in project classes J-1 to J-7 for up to three years before advancing to the next class.
- Clock trophy winner of any one class in 2025 is not eligible to participate in the same class for 2026.
- Exhibitors that use tools that are listed for higher project classes than what they took will be evaluated only and not considered for awards. This is a safety issue.
- Exhibitors may not use projects that were made for school credit.
- All woodworking exhibitors with afternoon judging times are strongly encouraged to check in their woodworking project in the Lausche Building by noon on the day of judging. This will help ensure parking on the fairgrounds and timeliness of project arrival for judging purposes.
- Removal of a project before final judging deliberation will disqualify the member from being awarded Outstanding of the Day and/or Clock Trophy.

2. Type of Evaluation:

- Participant will have a personal interview and evaluation of their “home” project with a judge.
- Judge will evaluate participant on the following basis (also see sample score sheet):

**Classes J-1 to J-4**

20% Skill project made at fair

50% Project knowledge and quality of “home” project

30% Personal interview

**Classes J-5 to J-8**

20% Knowledge and concepts learned in project

30% Skill project made at fair

30% Use of advanced skills and workmanship

20% Personal Interview

3. Participant to bring:

- **Completed project book** (based on number of years using same project book).
- **Optional Display of up to 12 photos** showing joinery and/or aspects of project that cannot be easily judged without taking apart the project.
- Exhibitors shall **display ONE item** (“home project”) made from their project book or an item requiring the same skills as contained in the project book (members may use any or all tools listed in their class and for lower classes, plus advanced joining techniques appropriate to project). Remember it is the demonstration of skills and not the size of the project that is judged.
- FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REASONS, we **require** you to wear eye protection (either **safety glasses or goggles**) when making your skill project at the fair. Please bring your own since there is a possibility of transmitting eye diseases by sharing. However, there will be goggles available for those who don’t have their own. Contestants should be **suitably dressed** for working with wood. No open toe shoes will be permitted in the working area.
- Refer to additional project requirements as listed in classes listed on the following pages.



## **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

## CLASSES

**For Classes J-1 – J-2**, the member is expected to do 90% or more of the project. The designated adult helper may dimension the lumber to the correct width.

**J-1 Measuring Up – Junior** (4-H age 13 years and under) – **Unit 1**

Participants must complete and exhibit one constructed project. The project may be based on plans from the 4-H project book or a project of similar size and scope from another plan. The project should show they have learned how to use a variety of hand tools including any or all non-power hand tools (hammers, saws, clamps, layout tools, chisels, etc.). The following power tools may be used only with proper safety instruction and under direct supervision of the adult designated helper: power hand sanders, oscillating belt sander, belt/disc bench sander, cordless power drills, jigsaw, scroll saw, hand wood burning tool and Dremel.. Decorative finishes are not acceptable and will not be evaluated in final woodworking skills judging for this class, e.g. CNC, wood burning, artificial flowers, etc. Projects constructed using kits, power tools outside of those listed or having professional spray finishing will be disqualified.

**J-2 Measuring Up – Senior** (4-H age 14 & older) – **Unit 1**

Same description as J-1 class.

**For Classes J-3-J-8**, the member is expected to do 100% of the work.

**J-3 Making the Cut – Junior** (4-H age 13 years and under) – **Unit 2**

Participants must complete and exhibit one constructed project. The project may be based on plans from the 4-H project book or a project of similar size and scope from another plan. Project should show youth have learned to use a variety of tools including tools listed in J-1/J-2 plus the following power tools may be used only with proper safety instruction and under direct supervision of the adult designated helper: power miter saw, radial arm saw, thickness planer, table saw, trim saw, circular saw, drill press, power nailing devices, power belt sander, band saw, biscuit joiner, domino joiner, jointer, pocket screw joints. Decorative finishes will not be evaluated in final woodworking skills judging for this class, Projects constructed using kits, power tools outside of those listed or having professional spray finishing will be disqualified.

**J-4 Making the Cut – Senior** (age 14 & older) – **Unit 2**

Same description as J-3 class.

**J-5 Nailing It Together – Junior** (age 13 years and under) – **Unit 3**

Participants must complete and exhibit one constructed project. The project may be based on plans from the 4-H project book or a project of similar size and scope from another plan. Project should show youth have learned to use a variety of tools including tools listed in J-1/J-2 and J-3/J-4 plus the following power tools may be used only with proper safety instruction and under direct supervision of the adult designated helper: router, and dovetail jig use of advanced joining techniques (mortise and tenon, pocket holes, dovetails, etc.) encouraged if matched to member skills. Projects should demonstrate the members have increased their knowledge and skills over previous projects. Decorative finishes will not be evaluated in final woodworking skills judging for this class. Projects constructed using kits, power tools outside of those listed or having professional spray finishing will be disqualified.

**J-6 Nailing It Together – Senior** (age 14 & older) – **Unit 3**

Same description as J-5 class.

**J-7 Finishing Up – Unit 4**

Participants must complete and exhibit one constructed project. The project may be based on plans from the 4-H project book or a project of similar size and scope from another plan. Project should show youth have learned to use a variety of tools including tools listed in J-1/J-2 , J-3/J-4, and J-5/J-6 plus the following power tools may be used only with proper safety instruction and under direct

supervision of the adult designated helper: lathe, shaper, and router table.. Project should demonstrate the member has increased their knowledge and skills over previous projects. Decorative finishes will not be evaluated in final woodworking skills judging for this class. Projects constructed using power tools outside of approved list or using kits will be disqualified. Professional spray finish is allowed in this class if member does 100% of the work following proper safety procedures and does not send out or hire someone to finish the project. Projects constructed using kits will be disqualified.

#### J-8 **Woodworking Master 560M**

Project should show creativity, proper joinery technique, good layout and design. Projects might include intarsia, carvings, marquetry, lathe work, original designs and antique furniture reproductions. Project should show youth have learned to use a variety of tools including tools listed in J-1/J-2 , J/-3/J-4, J-5/J-6 and J-7 plus the following power tools may be used only with proper safety instruction and under direct supervision of the adult designated helper: use of a CNC. Projects constructed using woodworking kits will be disqualified. Professional spray finish is allowed in this class if member does 100% of the work following proper safety procedures and does not send out or hire someone to finish the project.

### **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. A clock trophy will be awarded to the class winner. In 2024 the trophies were sponsored by **Jacqueline Stuts, Audrey Ervin, Judge Frederick D. & Dr. Kathryn C. Pepple, Doug Tenney, and Bob & Linda Joseph**
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**

(Are not eligible to participate in the same class in 2026)

J-01 Measuring Up, Jr	Lincoln Kahle, Putnam
J-02 Measuring Up, Sr	Ian Meer, Shelby
J-03 Making the Cut, Jr	Jackson Dean, Clinton
J-04 Making the Cut, Sr	Koby Bradley, Muskingum
J-05 Nailing it Together, Jr	Mason McKee, Putnam
J-06 Nailing it Together, Sr	Xander Stacey, Clark
J-07 Finishing Up	Molly Daniel, Seneca
J-08 Woodworking Master	Johnathan Fritsch, Williams

## **Criteria for Scoring Woodworking Projects**

4-H'ers can expect their state level projects to be evaluated in the following manner:

### **Knowledge, Skills and Use of Advanced Techniques**

**30 percent of grade for Classes J-5 to J-8**

Members should demonstrate their knowledge of woodworking techniques, skills developed and the use of advanced jointing techniques in their project. Judges should get a feel for the knowledge the member has developed through their project. A member should be able to explain what techniques they used and why they were used. Quality of workmanship and use of appropriate design is another important factor in judging.

### **Skill Project made at fair**

**20 percent of grade for Classes J-1 to J-4**

**20 percent of grade for Classes J-5 to J-8**

By making a skill project at the fair, 4-H'ers can demonstrate their proficiency with selected tools, cuts and measurements. This component of the evaluation is important to help judges understand the proficiency of skills possessed by the child. Time limits are given for each project so that 4-H'ers can keep moving through the judging process. (Reference the skill project descriptions for tools and materials used in each state fair class).

### **Home Project Brought to Judging**

**50 percent of grade for Classes J-1 to J-4**

**30 percent of grade for Classes J-5 to J-8**

The project built at home will be evaluated according to the skills and tools learned from the project book. Participants in higher classes should also show knowledge and the use of tools in previous levels. As always, it is important the participant shows proficiency and use of tools in the class they are enrolled; other tools used from higher project levels will not count towards project grade. Projects will be disqualified for use of tools outside of the respective class (i.e. J-1 class using tool from J-7) There is not a standard project that every participant is expected to make; youth should make a project that interests them and is of some use. However, participants will be graded against the same standards using similar tools and skills (as identified in their 4-H project), even though their projects will look different than other 4-H'ers in the same level.

### **Communication Skills**

**30 percent of grade for Classes J-1 to J-4**

**20 percent of grade for Classes J-5 to J-8**

The interview is an important component to the evaluation process. The 4-H program is not in the business of selecting the 4-H'ers who have the most tools in their toolbox, or who can build the best bird house. The 4-H program helps youth develop critical "life" skills that will help them in future experiences. The important part of the project completion is the youth's understanding of what he or she has achieved, and how well this information can be communicated to an adult volunteer. Building communication skills, learning how to interview, and speaking with a positive attitude helps youth build their self-esteem and become confident in their speaking abilities.

**Judging Procedure:**

Check in at the Registration Table.

Go to the center workshop area, you will be required to demonstrate your woodworking skill by completing the appropriate skill project for your class. We highly recommend that you practice making your skill project before you come to the fair. The descriptions for each class are included in this document. All materials and tools will be provided, and you will be supervised while you do the work yourself.

After leaving the workshop area you will then go to your interview judge with two wood projects: the skill project you have just completed, and the wood project you made at home. Again, we are asking all participants to display their home project in a secured area in the building until the conclusion of the awards program. Removal of your project before final judging is completed for the day will disqualify the project from getting Outstanding of the Day and/or Clock Trophy. All projects must be removed by 6:30pm. Large or heavy project displays may be hauled directly to the south door of the Lausche Youth Exploration Space using the Ohio State Fair Load/Unload pass, which is available through your county Extension Office.

When you have completed your judging events, you are free to enjoy the fair. At 5:00p.m. (subject to postponement if additional judging time is needed), awards will be presented on the stage in the 4-H Exhibit area in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space. You are encouraged to attend this presentation.

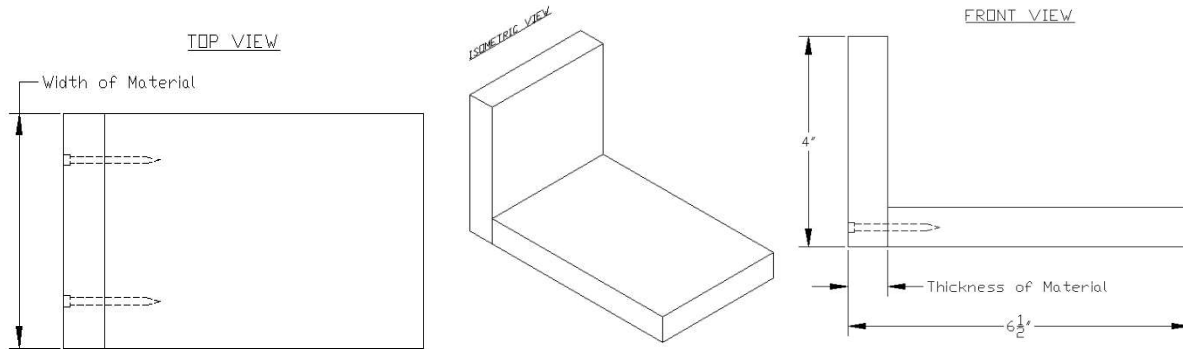
## Skill Project Descriptions

We highly recommend that you practice making your skill project before you come to the fair. The descriptions are:

### Project for participants in J-1 and J-2

Given: 1 x 4 stock, 1 workmate bench, 1 hammer, 1 nail set, nails, 1 rule, 1 combination square, 1 crosscut hand saw, 1 small drill bit and 1 cordless power drill will be available.

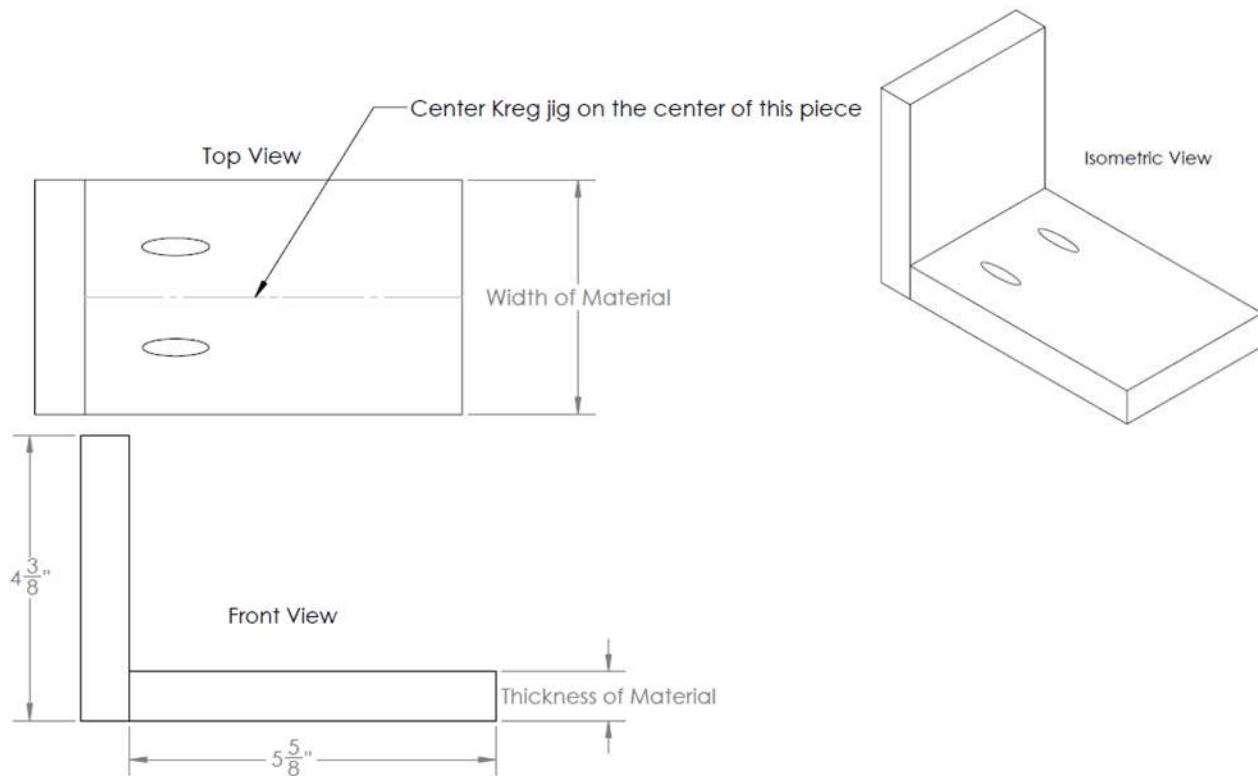
Cut and assemble two pieces with nails as shown in ten minutes.



### Project for participants in J-3 and J-4

Given: 1 x 4 stock, 1 workmate bench, 1 combination square, 1 crosscut hand saw, 1 steel tape measure, 1 Kreg Pocket-Hole Jig 320, 1 clamp, pocket hole screws, 1 cordless power drill will be available.

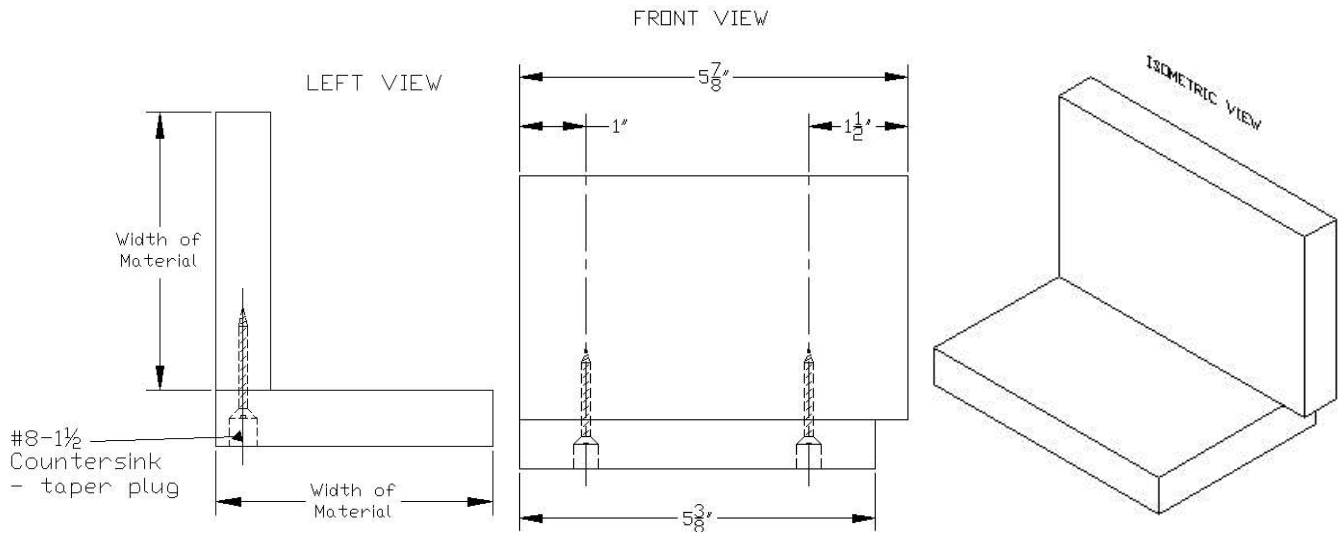
Cut and assemble two pieces as shown with screws, in ten minutes.



### Project for participants in J-5 and J-6

Given: 1 x 4 stock, 1 workmate bench, 1 steel tape measure, 1 combination square, 1 mallet, 1 crosscut hand saw, 1 screwdriver, 1 1/4" screws, a countersink bit, 3/8" spade bit, taper plugs, 1 cordless power drill will be available.

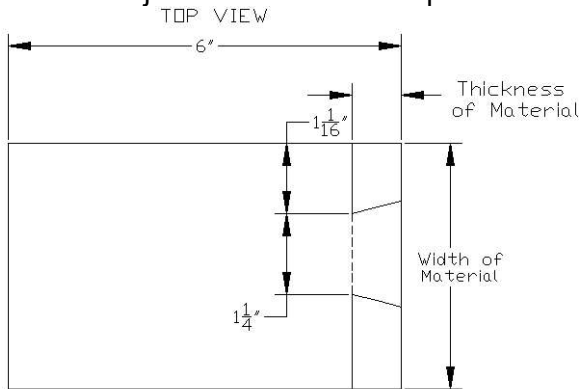
Cut and assemble two pieces as shown in ten minutes.



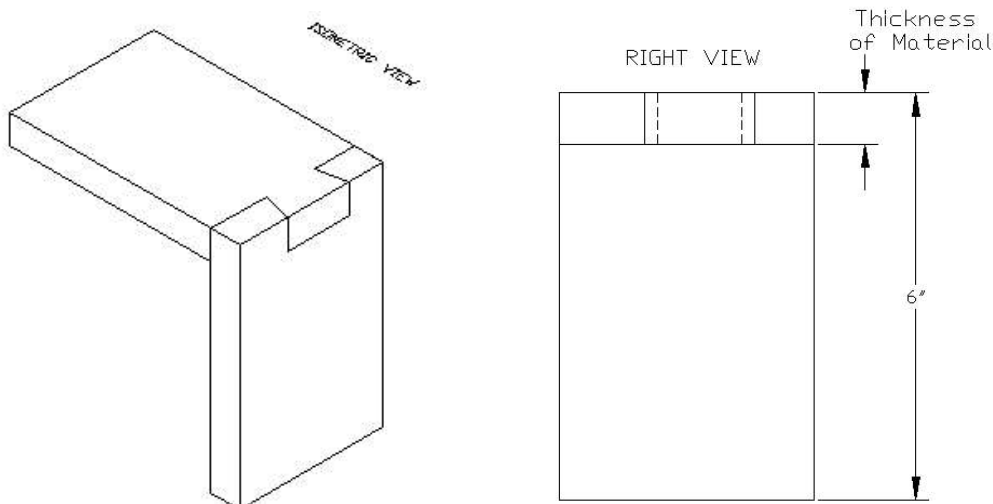
**Project for participants in J-7 and J-8**

Given: 1 x 4 stock pre-cut to size, 1 workmate bench, 1 steel tape measure, 1 combination square, 1 sliding T-bevel square, 1 dovetail saw, 1 mallet, and 1 coping saw.

Make a dovetail joint to assemble two pieces as shown in fifteen minutes.



The angle for the Pins and tails of the dovetail joint is 70-80 degrees.



**4-H Woodworking Day  
Evaluation Sheet (Classes J-1 through J-4)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibitor Number: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**SKILL PROJECT: 20%**

Skill project time (Minus 5 points if over time) \_\_\_\_\_ Time (J1/2 and J3/4 - 10 minutes allowed) \_\_\_\_\_

Skill Judge Points Awarded (1–15 points) _____	Average	Good	V. Good	Excellent
Proper and skillful use of tools	_____	_____	_____	_____
Use of proper safety procedures	_____	_____	_____	_____
Following skill project plan	_____	_____	_____	_____
4-H'er apparel, demeanor, and proficiency	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Interview Judge Points Awarded (1–5 points) \_\_\_\_\_**      **Average      Good      V. Good      Excellent**

Accuracy of dimensions	_____	_____	_____	_____
Quality of finished project	_____	_____	_____	_____

**COMPETITION PROJECT: 50%**

**Skills**      **Average      Good      V. Good      Excellent**

Accuracy - measurements, cutting, and assembly	_____	_____	_____	_____
Proper use of joinery and fasteners	_____	_____	_____	_____
Preparation of surfaces and quality of finish	_____	_____	_____	_____

**General Characteristics**

Attractive and well-proportioned	_____	_____	_____	_____
How well it will serve its intended purpose	_____	_____	_____	_____
Proper selection of wood, based on intended use	_____	_____	_____	_____

**COMMUNICATION SKILLS: 30%**      **Average      Good      V. Good      Excellent**

Able to explain project design, materials chosen and intended use \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Book**

Accurate and complete according to project guidelines	_____	_____	_____	_____
Able to explain construction techniques	_____	_____	_____	_____
Appearance	_____	_____	_____	_____

**JUDGES COMMENTS:**

**Strengths:**

**Area(s) for Improvements:**

## 4-H Woodworking Day Evaluation Sheet (Classes J-5 through J-8)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibitor Number: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### SKILL PROJECT: 20%

Skill project time (Minus 5 points if over time) \_\_\_\_\_ Time (J5/6 - 10 min., J7/8 - 15 min. allowed) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Skill Judge Points Awarded (1-15 points)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Average** **Good** **V. Good** **Excellent**

Skillful use of tools				
Use of proper safety procedures				
Following skill project plan				
4-H'er apparel, demeanor, and proficiency				

**Interview Judge Points Awarded (1-5 points)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Average** **Good** **V. Good** **Excellent**

Accuracy of dimensions				
Quality of finished project				

### COMPETITION PROJECT: 30%

#### Factors to be considered:

Proportionality and squareness	Application of appropriate finish
Quality of basic woodworking skills	Quality of finish and techniques
Use of appropriate joinery	Composite eye appeal of finished project

**Average** **Good** **V. Good** **Excellent**

### ADVANCED SKILLS & TECHNIQUES: 30%

#### Factors to be considered:

#### A. Use of more complex techniques and skills

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dovetail joints             | <input type="checkbox"/> Raised panels    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket screw joinery  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stile and rail construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Inlay            | <input type="checkbox"/> Biscuit joinery       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dado cuts                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Miter joints     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lathe and scroll work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbet joints               | <input type="checkbox"/> Router edges     |  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Molding and trim |  |

Additional techniques and skills demonstrated \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Quality of workmanship attained using advanced techniques and skills

Techniques used in an appropriate manner	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>V. Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Improvement of overall quality by using above skills and techniques				

### COMMUNICATION SKILLS: 20%

#### Factors to be considered:

Ability to explain overall project design and construction techniques	<b>Average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>V. Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Able to clearly relate construction procedures				
Able to describe tool usage during construction				
Clearly and accurately answer questions posed by judge				
Project book reflects a working knowledge of the project				
Appearance and attitude reflect respect for 4-H and the project				

### JUDGES COMMENTS:

**Strengths:**

**Area(s) for improvement:**