

# Seasonal 4-H Clubs

## 4-H Judging

### Purpose:

- Learn about 4-H Judging
- Practice judging food items and other items
- Increase decision making skills

**Supplies and Materials:** A variety of simple judging activities are included to help participants understand the principles of judging.

- 4 kinds of pencils
- 4 kinds of bubblegum
- 4 kinds of popcorn

### 4-H Judging

How many of you have ever done judging?

- Judging means comparing choices against a set of standards.
- Judging is a way of learning how to make good decisions.

4-H Judging Classes usually have four choices as a solution to a simple problem. Judges rank the choices from best choice to the poorest choice. Judges make decisions based on information and standards for the problem or item. And, they give reasons for each decision they make.

How many of you decided for yourself what to eat for breakfast this morning? What to wear today? In each situation you compared choices and made a selection. You judged!

Now I need four volunteers that are willing to give me one of their shoes for a short time.

### *Shoe Class (example)*

Cory needs shoes for basketball practice. Which would be the choice? Second? Third? Why?

Kirby needs a pair of shoes to wear to the lake. Which pair would the best choice? Which would be the choice? Second? Third? Why?

Have participants practice giving reasons for placing the class the way they did.

See Page 2 for *pencils, bubblegum, and popcorn* classes.

If this activity is conducted prior to several foods classes, for example, try to practice judging a type of food that the participants will be making later in the series. Ask them to evaluate that food based on standards given to them. Participants will especially enjoy this with cookies and muffins.

When conducted at the beginning of an outdoor adventure series, try to use items similar to those participants will work with later, such as fabrics, trail foods, or shoes.

Decision making is a life skill that can be practiced and measured through 4-H Youth Development participation.

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Activities for youth grades 2 - 7. Allow 45 - 60 minutes. Standard - Scientific Process  
Colorado State University Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development

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## 4-H Judging

These are examples of simple judging classes that can help participants understand and have immediate success in judging. A chart with four columns allows participants to write down the kinds of pencils, gum, popcorn, etc. The criteria they are comparing can be listed along the left edge of the chart.

### *Pencil Class*

Provide four items including the following:

- long #2 pencil with eraser
- red colored pencil
- ink pen
- short pencil with no eraser

Mark each item, #1, #2, #3, and #4.

Jody needs a pencil for an arithmetic assignment. Which pencil would be the best choice?

Have youth explain how they would place the class and in what order; giving an explanation between each item.

### *Bubble Gum*

Provide four different kinds of bubble gum, including

- a sugar free gum
- a gum with little gum and lots of extras such as advertising
- inexpensive gum
- expensive gum

Mark each item, #1, #2, #3, and #4.

Next we are going to judge a class of bubble gum. Tell me what you look for in bubble gum. What makes it good or great gum? Consider

- flavor, long-lasting flavor
- bubbles
- no sugar
- cost
- other criteria

Depending on the length of the class, you can also have youth chew each kind of gum. Have youth explain how they would place the class and in what order; giving an explanation between each item.

### *Popcorn Class*

Provide four different kinds of popcorn. Mark each item, #1, #2, #3, and #4.

Next we are going to judge a class of popcorn. Tell me what you look for in popcorn. That is, what are the standards against which we can judge? What makes it good or great popcorn? Consider:

- cost
- salt
- calories
- fat
- other criteria

Have youth explain how they would place the class and in what order; giving an explanation between each item.

