

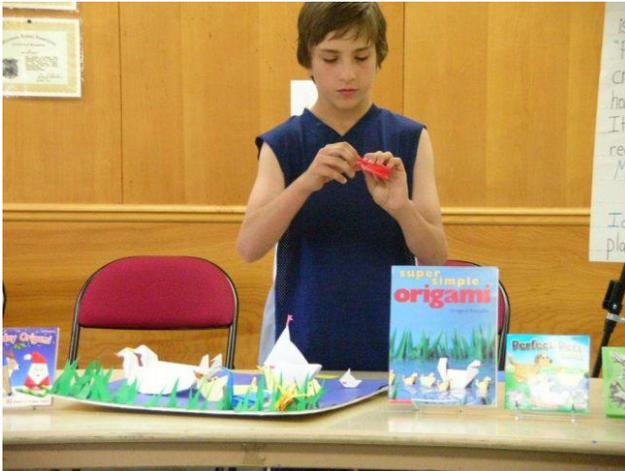
# 2026 Bayfield County Fair Pre-Fair Demonstration Contest Helpful Hints & Tips

**Who:** Open to youth in grades K-13. Participants must be enrolled in a fair recognized club or youth group.

**Entries:** 1 entry per person

## What is a demonstration?

Have you ever shown someone how to take a picture, groom a horse, peel a carrot or weed a garden? If so, you've given a demonstration, because a demonstration is simply showing and telling how to do something. It's words in action.



Demonstrations aren't difficult; you just tell how to do something by using action words such as cut, fold, stir, mix or saw. For example, say, "Fold the paper into halves," as you actually fold the paper. Explain why you are doing the step. Review the steps and answer questions about the steps.

## Why give demonstrations?

A demonstration helps others learn how to do something useful, perhaps in an easier or more practical way. Demonstrating is one of the best methods of teaching others, because it involves visual and verbal presentations at the same time.

Demonstrations help 4-H members:

- Develop self-confidence
- Express their ideas clearly
- Spontaneously respond to questions
- Acquire subject matter knowledge.

## 4 Parts of a demonstration:

1. Introduction— Introduce yourself & tell us what you are demonstrating.
2. Body — the steps of the skill and how to do them.
3. Summary — review of the steps.
4. Questions and answers — the members answer questions the audience may have.



**Getting Ready**

## Collect needed materials and equipment:

Make a list of the equipment and materials needed to give the demonstration. Remember, the audience needs to see what is being done.

## Develop the demonstration outline:

- Develop steps by actually going through the demonstration and writing down each step. Define the key points to emphasize and write them down.
- For each step, tell what is being done, how it is being done and why.
- Show the results. If you cannot complete a whole job in the short time, prepare a sample ahead of time. For example, have some cookies baked or a finished bootjack. Invite the audience to look over or sample the finished product.

## Questions

- Ask, "Are there any questions?"
- When a question is asked, repeat it. You may say, "John asked ...". Or just repeat the question. Then, answer if possible. If you don't know the answer, say so or tell the audience you will try to get the information for them or refer them to sources of information.
- When the questions are answered, add a courteous ending. Say something like; "This ends my demonstration. I hope you will find this information useful." Use your own words to say how you feel.

## Suggestions and tips

- Use a poster to emphasize the main points.
- Practice is important.
- Speaking slowly and clearly
- Try to talk to the audience, not at the table as you work.