

4-H Fashion Show — Procedures and Information

The 2025 Lancaster County Super Fair Book has information about 4-H contests — see pages 16–20.

In the Fashion Show contest, 4-H members learn how to present themselves and gain confidence as they model their constructed or purchased clothing projects and show the proper fit of their clothing. Fashion Show is open to 4-H members ages 5–18.

The contest consists of two parts:

- 1) Judging — held 1 or 2 weeks before the Lancaster County Super Fair.
- 2) Public Fashion Show — held during the Lancaster County Super Fair.

Once you have exhibited in a higher level, you are not eligible to exhibit in a lower level. Example: once you exhibit in STEAM Clothing 3, you are not eligible to exhibit in STEAM Clothing 2. Exhibitors may only exhibit in 1 level each year.

Garments should be age appropriate. Clothing garments to be modeled shall display tasteful design and modestly cover the body. Examples of design features to avoid include — but are not limited to — revealing low-cut necklines, extremely short hemlines, extremely short shorts and swimwear with minimal body coverage. 4-H members should confer with Extension staff prior to Fashion Show Judging Day if there is a question about the appropriateness of their design or pattern to avoid disqualification. Note: nightwear or loungewear cannot be modeled at the state level.

If a 4-H member sewed a garment(s) for someone else to wear, garment(s) may be modeled by the individual it was sewn for.

A parent or helper is allowed to assist youth in preparing for the Fashion Show judging and the public Fashion Show.

Fashion Show Judging

Judging is held before the Lancaster County Super Fair on **Tuesday, July 22, 8 a.m. at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek**



Parade of fashion at the 2024 4-H public Fashion Show

Road, Suite A. Prior to judging, an email will be sent to participants assigning specific check-in and judging times.

STEAM Clothing 1 Non-Wearables (including Fiber Arts/ Knitting or Crocheting Level 1) participants will not be judged on judging day. Clothing 1 Non-Wearables participants need to register and complete the Fashion Show Narration form. They will receive participation ribbons at the public Fashion Show.

Public Fashion Show

The public Fashion Show is held during the Lancaster County Super Fair, on **Thursday, July 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sandhills Global Event Center – South Hall** — please use east entrance. 4-H members will model their clothing projects on a runway-style stage in the middle of the audience. Invite parents, relatives and friends to this event, which culminates in a delightful parade of fashion!

The afternoon of the show, 4-H staff will transport garments from the static exhibit displays in the Ag Society Hall to the South Hall for the public Fashion Show. Dressing rooms will be marked by gender. Participants may begin dressing at 6:30 p.m., but must be in line by 7:15 p.m.

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Participants should bring footwear, accessories and/or Make One-Buy One purchased garments. Clover Kids should arrive dressed by 7:15 p.m.

Ribbons and trophies will be handed out during the public Fashion Show, and State Fair Fashion Show qualifiers will be announced. In addition, 4-H Clothing Superintendent Kath Conroy will announce which 4-H youth will receive a new sewing machine donated by her and her husband, Mike (watch the 4-H e-newsletter for instructions on how to apply).

Register by July 14

4-H members must register for Fashion Show by Monday, July 14. Forms are available online as fill-in PDFs at <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/contests>. Completed PDF form MUST be attached in an email to Kristin Geisert at kristin.geisert@unl.edu — please also copy the narration into the body of the email.

On each entry form, 4-H members write the narration which will be read as they model their clothing during judging and the public Fashion Show. Be creative in describing your outfit. Sample narrations are on the next page.

Participants need to fill out one of the following entry forms for EACH entry:

- **Fashion Show Narration Entry Form** — for each entry constructed by 4-H members ages 8–18. For sewn garments, a sketch/picture of the pattern and sample of each fabric used MUST also be mailed/delivered with a printed copy of the form to: Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528.
- **Shopping in Style Fashion Show Written Report with Narration Entry Form (new form in 2025)** — for a purchased outfit modeled by 4-H members ages 8–18. Please attach a photo of 4-H member wearing the outfit — sized to fit within the photo box indicated on the form. You may either submit the photo on the form digitally OR mail/deliver attached to a printed copy of the form to: Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528.
- **Clover Kids Fashion Show Entry Form** — for an entry modeled by 4-H members ages 5–7. Include in the email a picture or sketch of the item.

Clover Kids Fashion Show Project

Clover Kid members may model 1 item in the Fashion Show. Clover Kids Fashion Show items may NOT be entered as static exhibits.

Clover Kids may:

- Carry and show: pillow, pillowcase, purse, bag or other item they have sewn or decorated/embellished.
- Wear: purchased top, shorts, pants, apron, cape, skirt or dress they have decorated/embellished.
- Wear: top, shorts, pants or apron they have sewn.
- Wear: a purchased outfit on a budget (Clover shoppers).

Register by emailing a “4-H Clover Kids Fashion Show Entry Form” (available online as a fill-in PDF at <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/contests>) by Monday, July 14 to kristin.geisert@unl.edu. Copy the narration into the body of the email and attach a picture or sketch of the item.

No premium payouts — Clover Kids receive participation ribbons only. Not eligible for the State Fashion Show.

Clover Kids may practice modeling (not required) during judging on **Tuesday, July 22, at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County lobby, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A**. Arrive in the morning, any time after 8 a.m.

Clothing Static Exhibits

Most clothing items modeled in the Fashion Show must be entered as a Clothing Static Exhibit to be judged for construction, except:

- Clover Kids Fashion Show items may NOT be entered as static exhibits.
- New in 2025: In the STEAM Clothing Level 2 & 3 Make One-Buy One classes, only the constructed garment needs to be brought to the fair. If outfit is in the Fashion Show, bring the purchased garment at that time.

4-H & FFA Static Exhibit check-in is Tuesday, July 29 from 4–8 p.m. in the Ag Society Hall at the Sandhills Global Event Center. **On the Static Exhibit Entry Tag, clearly mark the check box that indicates the item is a Fashion Show article.**

All Static Exhibits are released Monday, Aug. 4, 7–11 a.m. Premium payouts for static exhibits and contests (including Fashion Show) will be paid in cash on Monday, Aug. 4, 7–11 a.m. in the Ag Society Hall. Please pick up premium payouts BEFORE picking up static exhibits.

State Fashion Show

Top models at the county contest in constructed garment classes and Shopping in Style garments will be selected to participate in the State Fashion Show, held during the Nebraska State Fair. 4-H members who is 8–18 years old (by January 1 of the current year), and is in STEAM Clothing 2, Clothing 3, Beyond the Needle, Knitting or Crocheting, or Shopping in Style, is eligible for the State Fashion Show.

Additional Information

If you have any questions about the Fashion Show, please contact Kristin Geisert at kristin.geisert@unl.edu or 402-441-7180.



HELPFUL RESOURCES

Three YouTube livestreamed videos, “4-H Fashion Show at Lancaster County Super Fair,” from 2022, 2023 and 2024 are linked at <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/contests>

Sample Fashion Show Narrations

STEAM Clothing 1

- Sarah Doe is ready for school in her close-fitting cotton capri pants and a cotton pullover sleeveless top. Her pants are accented with trim to coordinate with the top, making it a complete outfit. Making this outfit was a new experience for Sarah! She plans to wear this outfit to school, church or when she goes shopping with friends.
- Emily Doe is ready for the heat in her cool summer outfit. This easy pull-on outfit is accented with bright smiley faces. Emily chose 100% cotton because it is breezy and easy care. While sewing her first outfit, she learned how to hem and create a casing for elastic. Keep smiling, Emily!

STEAM Clothing 2

- Jane Doe will be counting ladybugs instead of sheep in her cotton/flannel pajama top and coordinating black cotton/flannel boxer shorts. Her pajama top features a front button placket and patch pocket. Adding the long set-in sleeves was a new skill for Jane and the process was very challenging. Watch out for Jane as she'll be the best dressed at the next "sleep over" with her friends!
- For Maria Doe's clothing project this year, she chose a plaid jumper made from a wool and rayon fabric with a matching beret. This is the first time Maria has constructed pleats. To finish her ensemble, she's wearing a white cotton long-sleeved blouse accented with gold buttons. Maria is looking forward to this fall when she can enjoy wearing this outfit.

STEAM Clothing 3

- Becky Doe is showing off her dress she made for a high school dance last January. She chose a 100% polyester crepe in periwinkle blue fabric. The close fitting, A-line dress has front princess seaming, back crossing straps and a side zipper. Becky fully lined this short formal dress which was a new experience. Looking elegant, Becky!
- Ann Doe is showing fashion from the 1950's. This costume has a blue felt circle skirt complete with a poodle appliqué. Complimenting the skirt is a white cotton semi-fitted blouse with buttons. Putting in a collar, sleeves and making buttonholes were new skills learned in this project. Very retro, Ann!

Beyond the Needle

- Nola Doe decorated this shirt with a few of her favorite things. After learning the skill of stenciling, she stenciled butterflies, caterpillars, bees and flowers on the collar, cuffs and pocket. Hand sewn bugle beads add intricate detail to her design. This beautiful and versatile shirt can be worn over a sun dress, or with pants, capris or jeans. Excellent embellishment, Nola!
- After John Doe was on an outdoor adventure vacation with his family, he was inspired to create this shirt. He tried a new procedure, arranging the leaves on the shirt and lightly spraying it with a bleach mixture and quickly rinsing it to stop the bleaching action. Now he will "blend right in" to the forest the next time he goes hiking. Very creative, John!