

Danish Ribbon System

The Danish System is a widely used system in 4-H across the nation. This system provides maximum recognition for our 4-H members

The purpose of the system is to recognize each participant's work based on its merit and provide constructive feedback for improvement.





BLUE

Represents exhibits or entries that closely meet or exceed the goals, standards, or requirements.
These exhibits or entries may still have one or two minor things that need improvement.



RED

Represents exhibits or entries that meet the minimum goals, standards, or requirements.
These exhibits or entries may have some deficiencies or areas for improvement.



WHITE

Represents exhibits or entries that fall below the expected goals, standards, or requirements. These exhibits or entries have considerable deficiencies or areas for improvement.

The Danish Ribbon System addresses all five C's in Positive Youth Development:

- COMPETENCE: Encourages skill development though personalized evaluation
- CONFIDENCE: Builds self assurance by recognizing individual accomplishments
- CONNECTION: Fosters a sense of belonging by valuing each participant's efforts
- CHARACTER: Promotes integrity and responsibility through self assessment
- COMPASSION: Encourages empathy and support amongst peers in a non-competitive setting

When these five C's are present a sixth C emerges, Contribution. Empowering youth to actively give back to their communities.

References:



Modified Danish Ribbon System

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PURPLE

Represents exhibits or entries that exceed the goals, standards, or requirements. These exhibits are outstanding work that goes beyond goals, standards, or requirements.



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VARIES

In addition to a Danish ribbon both Judge's choice (an exhibit that is selected by the judge for other reasons) and the American System of Champions and Reserve Champions can be added to the Danish System

References:

Lerner, R. M., & Lerner, J. V. (2012). The positive development of youth. Report of the findings from the first eight years of the 4-H study of positive youth development, 1(1), v-vi.

Newman, J. A. (2018, May 17). WHO GETS THE BLUE RIBBON?. WSU Extension. https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2070/2020/12/7-Danish-or-Group-Method-of-Judging.pdf