4-H on Parade 2026 Life Skills Open Bench Show

Competition Rules & Guidelines

The 4-H on Parade Life Skills Open Bench Show competition is open to all 4-H members registered in a 2025/2026 4-H Life Skills project. There is also open to all registered Cleavers.

All submissions must be the original work of the member and be current year work.

Due to the extensive and complex variety of activities and projects within Life Skills, members are encouraged to submit entries with a detailed description of what you have created. Some items are very clear and may not need a description, whereas other items will some details of what you did on the item. If you are unsure where your item fits, the Life Skills Open Bench Show Committee will place them in the appropriate category.

Each competitor entered into the Life Skills Open Bech Show competition, may submit **one entry into each Class**, unless otherwise noted. If a member were to enter all classes, they would have 8 items entered. If a Cleaver were to enter all classes they are eligible for they would have 3 items entered.

All entries need to be related to your 4-H project work and completed within the year. We understand that members create multiple items each year and often explore different projects while continuing to develop skills they've learned before. Our goal is to showcase all your hobbies and talents and show what Life Skills has to offer!

IMPORTANT – It is up to you to help us display your item safely and appropriately. It is recommended that any entries submitted which would normally hang on a wall be accompanied by an easel to rest on in order to be properly displayed on the table It is recommended that small pieces (i.e. beadwork, needlepoint, etc.) be attached on a solid structure (such as a canvas) and accompanied by an easel as well in order to be properly displayed on the table. Other pieces such as leatherwork, a wood craft, ceramics, etc. that would normally sit on a table will be displayed as such. Written works can be presented creatively as long as they are legible.

All submissions must be prepared at home and brought to the competition no later than the 7pm on Thursday, move-in day. **Late entries will NOT be accepted.**

Classes include:

Photography- All photos entered must showcase 4-H (you, your animal, camp, activities), use your imaginations to create this photo. All photos must be placed in an 8x10 in a stand-up frame. Cleavers may also enter this class.

Sewing- Any machine sewn project created this year can be entered.

Leather Work- Any leather item created this year can be entered.

Pottery/Ceramics/Clay/Glass - Any item created this year can be entered.

Jewelry Making- Any jewellery items created this year can be entered.

Knitting/Crochet – Any item created this year can be entered.

Open- Any items that do not fit in the above categories will be placed in this class. This is the only class that is closed to project related items only. Some examples included canvas painting, wooden sign, poetry, furniture, etc. If it as part of your 4-H project and created by you, it is eligible for submission. Maximum of 2 items in this category.

Cleaver – Open class for Cleavers only any item created this year. Maximum 2 items in this category.

If a class does not meet the minimum entry requirement of four participants, its entries may be transferred to an 'Open' class, allowing competitors from different categories to compete together. This ensures the event maintains sufficient participation, even if a specific class has too few entries.

4-H on Parade 2026 – Creative Arts Bench Show

Judging Criteria

Each piece will be judged individually as per class. Depending on class items will be judged on flavor and texture, general appearance and creativity, design and functionality, technique and workmanship,

Based on total points awarded for each piece, the piece with the highest total points will be awarded a Grand Champion ribbon and the piece with the second highest total points will be awarded a Reserve Champion ribbon. This applies for each of the 6 classes.

Upon completion of the judging, the top two entries (by total points) will earn the overall Life Skills Grand Champion and Reserve Champion prizes. This will be an aggregate of all classes.

Should a tie or ties occur the judging team will be asked to break the tie for award purposes.

*Life Skills Committee and judges reserve the right to create or remove classes depending on the quantity or submission in each class. Every item entered in the Creative Arts Bench Show will be placed into a class.