

Tips for Skillathon Facilitators

Thank you for volunteering your time and expertise to be a 4-H Skillathon facilitator! Skillathons are one method of challenging and evaluating a youth's knowledge of many aspects of a specific animal species. Individual scores are tabulated for specific ages, and awards are presented based on rankings within each species skillathon.

Below are some facilitator tips to help make 4-H and FFA members' Skillathon experiences positive and rewarding.

When You Arrive...

1. Arrive at your station early enough to review the facilitator instructions to make sure you understand what is expected at your station.
2. Review each Situation and Task, or Station Activity(ies), and actually complete the station activities prior to the Skillathon starting to make sure you understand what the youth are asked to do.
3. Ask one of the Skillathon Superintendents if you have any questions about the station before the Skillathon begins.
4. Be consistent with each line when placing labels and pictures face up or face down on the table. Be consistent with each participant.

When Youth Arrive...

1. Put each youth at ease. Welcome them to your station. Introduce yourself and the name of the station.
2. If there is a time limit, tell them what that is before they begin. As soon as they begin the station, set the timer. When the timer buzzes, politely tell them their time is up and send them to the next station (or chair to wait). Some facilitators tell them when there is one minute left on the timer.
3. A youth may ask how to pronounce a word or may ask your help with reading certain words. This is especially true for young participants. You may read to them, without indicating the answer.
4. This is a test of the youth's knowledge. Do not direct them toward a correct answer, tell them the answer or give them a nonverbal indication of an answer. Once they are finished, do not tell them the answer, or tell them which items they correctly or incorrectly answered. (Exhibitors and their families may come back through the Skillathon stations at the end of the advertised time span to see the correct answers.)

Scoring...

1. Scoring accuracy is very important! When the task is completed and you score that task, double check the score you give the participant to make sure it is correct. Double check your addition to make sure the total score is correct. Write the total score for your station in the appropriate area of the score sheet. Initial where it says "Judge's Initials."

See reverse side



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



ohio4h.org

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.

2. Do not give the score sheet to the participants. Do not let the participants see their scores. Do hand the score sheet face down to the next facilitator. If you are facilitating Station 4, hand the score sheet to the person at the scoring table.

Miscellaneous...

1. Calculators are permitted as long as every line has them for that particular station. Skillathon Coordinators should provide calculators when needed. Youth are not permitted to bring calculators, cell phones, etc. into the Skillathon.
2. Feed samples may be opened and smelled, but not tasted.
3. Hay samples may not be touched.
4. Youth are not permitted to leave and return to the Skillathon area once they enter. However, if a youth indicates s/he must use the restroom, is feeling faint, etc., take that youth to the Skillathon Superintendent who will make sure the youth is accommodated so s/he can return to finish.
5. Youth with disabilities should have Winning 4-H Plan documentation that specifies accommodations needed to make the Skillathon experience positive and meaningful. If this is the case, the overall Skillathon Coordinator(s) should be made aware of these requested accommodations at least 30 days prior to the event, and will make every effort to make reasonable accommodations.
 - (a) If told the day of the event prior to or at registration, efforts will be made to accommodate the youth.
 - (b) It is important that Superintendents make facilitators aware of youth with disabilities, if known.

Enjoy your time as a facilitator! Know that watching youth being challenged and completing the station is another step toward positive youth development. Thank you for being a part of their experience!