

LEAVENWORTH COUNTY FAIR 2026

4-H ASTRONOMY

Superintendent: Open

Exhibit Judging: Monday, July 27th from 5pm – 8pm; 4-H Building (consultation)

This Engineering and Technology exhibit area is designed to provide youth with the opportunity to explore space through telescopes, research, and observation.

Rules

1. Read General Rules. Violation of any of the following rules may result in disqualification. All decisions will be made by a county agent and their decision is final.
2. Telescopes entered in this division may be built from a kit or by original design. Radio telescopes are acceptable entries in this category. Pre-finished telescopes, which require no construction are not acceptable exhibits.
3. Telescopes are limited to no more than six feet in length. They must be placed on a stationary stand that does not allow the telescope to roll and/or fall over. The stand cannot extend past two feet in length or width.
4. Each telescope exhibit must include a "4-H Astronomy Exhibit Information Form," which is available through your local K-State Extension office or at <https://www.engtech4ks.com/astronomy/>. This form must be attached to the outside of a 10" x 13" manila envelope. Do not tie the envelope to the exhibit. All revisions of forms previously released for the Engineering & Technology division dated prior to current year are void for use and new forms must be obtained and used that are dated by the Kansas State 4-H Office for the current year. You must also include construction plans (or a photocopy) for the telescope and place it inside the manila envelope.
5. At least two photographs showing telescope construction and operation are required. Photographs should be mounted on one side of an 8 ½" x 11" page. A brief caption should accompany each photograph. Place photos in the 10" x 13" manila envelope. Up to 10 pages of pictures can be included.
6. The telescope must be properly assembled and painted with a smooth and uniform finish.
7. Telescopes designed by the exhibitor must be original, not a modification of an existing kit.
8. Exhibitor's name, county, age, and year(s) in project must be tagged or labeled on the telescope.
9. If a safety violation is noted by the judges, superintendent, or other staff, the exhibitor's exhibit, at the judge's discretion, may receive a reduced ribbon placement or disqualification.

Scoresheets, Forms, and Contest Study Materials:

- [Astronomy Scoresheet](#)
- [Astronomy Exhibit Form](#)
- [Educational Display, Notebook, or Poster Scoresheet](#)

Classes

5500 Telescope made from kit.

5501 Telescope made from original design.

Resources: Project Area – [Astronomy](#)

Educational Exhibits Rules

1. For notebooks, display boards, and posters, no additional exhibit information is required; no manila envelope is needed for these exhibits.
2. Exhibits are to have a **clear link to the Engineering and Technology areas of astronomy**.
3. Exhibits in posters, notebooks and display boards must contain substantial supporting educational materials.
4. Educational display boards, posters and notebooks should be creative and showcase details about the knowledge learned in the project during the current 4-H year. Value is placed on youth who can demonstrate how their skills have increased while completing the project. Each exhibit will be judged on uniqueness, creativity, neatness, accuracy of material, knowledge gained, and content. An exhibit judging score sheet available at <http://astronomy.engtech4ks.com/>
5. Follow copyright laws, citing all sources of information in a standard notation Sources of information must be cited on the front of your exhibit, including all posters and educational display boards. **Example citation: “Make a Star Finder”** <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/starfinder/en/>
6. Educational displays are not to exceed a standard commercial 4’ high X 3’ wide X 2’ deep.. No card table exhibits will be allowed. Care should be taken to use durable materials that will withstand Kansas State Fair conditions.
7. Posters are limited to commercial 3’ X 4’ tri-fold display boards.
8. “Construction Kits” that are part of educational displays must be contained in cases (tackle boxes, sealable containers, etc.) that may not be larger than 2’ x 2’ x 2’ and must have a latch which securely keeps all components contained in the “Construction Kits”. Other components are to adhere to appropriate dimensions as stated elsewhere.
9. Educational Project notebooks must be organized in a 3-ring binder **or similar book**.
10. Any three-dimensional poster or display board exhibits may not be thicker than 2 inches.
11. Exhibitor’s name, county, age, and year(s) in project must be tagged or labeled on the back of the exhibit. Exhibit cards are not sufficient as they may be removed or repositioned for display. Failure to label an exhibit may result in one ribbon placing deduction.
12. Exhibits should possess the following qualities (in no particular order):
 - a. A central theme
 - b. What you want others to learn
 - c. Be designed and constructed in a manner befitting the exhibit
 - d. Be something you are interested in
13. If a safety violation is noted by the judges, superintendent, or other staff, the exhibitor’s exhibit, at the judge’s discretion, may receive a ribbon placement or disqualification.

Astronomy - Novice – Ages 7-8 (Not State Fair Eligible)

- 5728 Novice Astronomy Educational Display
- 5729 Novice Astronomy Educational Notebook
- 5730 Novice Astronomy Educational Poster

Astronomy - Intermediate Division – 9-13 years old

- 5731 Intermediate Astronomy Educational Display
- 5732 Intermediate Astronomy Educational Notebook
- 5733 Intermediate Astronomy Educational Poster

Astronomy- Senior Division – 14 years and older

- 5736 Senior Astronomy Educational Display
- 5737 Senior Astronomy Educational Notebook
- 5738 Senior Astronomy Educational Poster