



## Massachusetts 4-H Clothing and Textiles Program

### Guidelines:

- 1) The council and state level judging will use the “Reader’s Digest Complete Guide to Sewing” in the most revised edition as a judging guideline. Clubs/counties/regions are encouraged to use it for training and judging.
- 2) Judging forms will be available prior to the competition for anyone who wishes to view them
- 3) All work entered for any judging must have been completely done by the entrant, including laying out of fabric, pinning, cutting, sewing, and pressing/ironing. The following exceptions apply:
  - Another person may remove any stitching done in error
  - Dry-cleaning may be used if fabric calls for it
  - Another person may assist with fitting areas of the garment as needed and placing guide pins for hem length
- 4) Points will be taken off or disqualification may occur if others helped where not allowed
- 5) Registration deadlines apply for all state competitions. Late registrations will be disqualified from competitive judging. Entry may still however be judged for individual judging.
- 6) State Senior Level Clothing Evaluation Judging:
  - a) All above statements apply
  - b) All Massachusetts senior 4-H members are invited to participate. They need not be a clothing and textiles project member, although it is recommended that they sign-up with the county as one
  - c) If there is no preliminary competition all senior members are automatically advanced to the state-level judging, unless otherwise specified
  - d) A complete outfit must be entered (i.e. Gown, 2 or more piece outfit with a bottom and top piece, dress, coat) For example: you may make a skirt and a jacket and purchase a blouse or make a blouse and a skirt.
  - e) Accessories may be included with entered garment if sewn by the entrant.
  - f) Judging sheets will be available for hand-knitted or hand-crocheted items.
  - g) In the event of a tie and to determine placing, Workmanship will outweigh Model/Fit sections
  - h) All items requested on the senior registration form must be included with the garment for judging. Points will be taken off for items missing. For example: pattern instructions, etc.
  - i) Except for extreme circumstances all entrants are required to participate in both MA 4-H state fashion shows at the Eastern States Exposition in September. Top selected winners must model their winning garment in the fair parade that evening.
  - j) At the senior level, it is expected that entrants will know the care requirements and fiber content of the fabrics used in the construction of their garments.

Information for advanced juniors and seniors:

- Pattern instructions are a guide. However, when completing many advanced techniques pattern instructions many times do not cover full advanced instructions. Therefore, 4-H members are encouraged to use sewing books, websites, sewing magazines, etc to learn advanced skills to add to the pattern instructions. Some examples may include: the use of underlining to a garment, hem interfacing to keep stitches from showing on outside of garment, tailoring techniques, support for heavier or loosely woven fabrics used, bound buttonholes, etc.
- The Reader's Digest Guide to Sewing will be used for advanced techniques and correct general sewing. For example, a pattern tells you to finish seams or to do a hem, but not specifically how to do so. Use the book to help you make correct choices for your garment and section sewn.