

CLUB BANNERS

Lots of 4-H clubs decide to make banners for their club. They can be displayed at club meetings, carried in a parade to identify the club and displayed in the 4-H Youth Building at the Steuben County Fair. If your club is newly formed **OR** if your club has never made a banner **OR** if you want to make a new banner, here are some tips.

Fabric: The banner should be 3 ft. by 4 ft. designed to hang vertically or horizontally. A 3" casing is needed on top to put a dowel in to hang the banner. Please cut fabric with an extra 3½" in length to make the casing. Just about any fabric will do, although if it is too lightweight, it may blow too much in the wind and/or too much light will shine through it making it difficult to read. Felt is easy because the edges do not have to be finished. If it will be used a great deal, it probably should be machine washable. Keep this in mind when choosing the fabric and also when deciding on what decorations to add to it.

Words and shapes are easy to do with felt or fabric appliques or outline with yarn, embroidery, or fabric paints. Decorations can be added with ball fringe, tassels, rickrack, nail heads, rhinestones, ribbons—use your imagination! Some helpful hints:

1. Before you start decorating, you need to get the banner ready. On both sides of the banner, turn the fabric to the wrong side ¼" and then ¼" again. Pin and stitch in place.
2. On the top edge, turn the fabric the wrong side ¼" and then 3", pin in place and stitch close to the fold line. This makes a casing to slip a pole/dowel rod through to hang or carry the banner.
3. On the bottom edge, turn the fabric to the wrong side, similar to the edges of the banner. You may want to insert a length of chain into a larger casing in the bottom edge; the extra weight will help prevent the banner from blowing in a breeze. Be sure to hand stitch both ends of the chain in place.
4. Plan your banner decorations before you begin sewing, gluing, painting, etc.
5. Make a fairly accurate sketch of where things will go on the banner. Stand back and look at it to make sure letters are large enough to read, the designs are centered or evenly spaced and so on. Chalk is good to use because it is easy to brush it away when done.
6. Choose colors for your designs that are in contrast to the background so they can be seen easily.
7. If you want to use yarn to make letters or outlines or for fabric appliques, they can be attached by using fabric glue, fusible web, zigzag stitch or hand stitching.

Must incorporate the 4-H Clover. Must be equipped with a dowel suitable for hanging.