Utilizing Alpaca- A Natural Fiber
2016 4-H Alpaca Wool Challenge and Community Service Project

Overview

A new statewide wool contest and community service project will unite alpaca wool producers with 4-H Clothing and Textiles 4-H youth. 4-H participants will take a sample of yarn provided by Alpaca producers combined with other yarns of their choosing in order to create a knitted, crocheted, or woven item of clothing or textile that can be used. The item can be constructed by either an individual or a group including 4-Her’s, adult leaders and community members who would like to assist the youth in the making of the project. Items will be judged at the same time as the 4-H Quilt Challenge Quilts. Unused wool skeins must be returned if a project is not entered.

Categories:

- **Accessories**
  - Examples: pairs of socks, pairs of gloves, leggings, jewelry, scarves, hats
- **Clothing**
  - Examples: vests, shirts, sweaters, skirts, shirts, ponchos
- **Non-Wearable**
  - Examples: throw blankets, lap blankets, table runners

**Purpose:** The alpaca wool challenge and community service project will provide youth with the opportunity to use their skills gained in the 4-H clothing and textiles project to complete a knitted, crocheted, or woven item of clothing or a blanket. The items will then be donated to a charity.

**Objectives:**

- Demonstrate the principles and elements of design in yarn crafts.
- Set goals to accomplish the construction of a knitting, crochet or woven project.
- Construct an article of clothing or blanket of good design, appropriate yarns, and quality workmanship.
2015-2016 Alpaca Wool Challenge Contest Awards

Awards: Blue, Red, and White awards will be given to entries based on the scoring criteria.

Best of Category Awards: One Best of Category Award will be presented to one entry in each category.

2016 Alpaca Wool Challenge Rules

1. Participation Age: The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Alpaca Wool Challenge is open to any age 4-H Club member. All participants need to be registered on 4-H CONNECT.

2. Eligibility of Alpaca Wool items: All items must have been made by 4-H members between the dates of June 1, 2015, and the time of entry. All work must be done by the exhibitor(s). Adults may assist in the design and construction through demonstration only.

3. Number of Entries: 4-H members may participate in the creation of one (1) item to be judged either as an individual or as part of a group.

4. Alpaca Wool items can be entered into one of the following categories:
   a. Accessories- pairs of socks, pairs of gloves, leggings, jewelry, scarves, hats
   b. Clothing- vests, shirts, sweaters, skirts, shirts, ponchos
   c. Non-Wearable- throw blankets, lap blankets, table runners

5. Adhere a label to the item with identifying information. i.e. name/club name and county name.

6. Entry Deadline: By midnight on May 15, 2016, all registrations must be submitted on 4-H CONNECT. Items need to be mailed in to be judged. The deadline for delivery is June 1, 2016.

   Mail items to:
   Angela McCorkle
   MS 2251
   578 John Kimbrough
   Bldg. 1536, Room 145
   College Station TX 77843-2251

7. Disqualification of an Entry: An entry that does not follow the rules or category guidelines will automatically be disqualified. Disqualifications forfeit all entry fees. A general form letter specifying the reason(s) for disqualification will be sent to the county after Alpaca Wool Challenge judging. Reasons for disqualification include:
   - Item of extremely poor quality
   - Item does not meet category criteria or entered in incorrect category
   - Entry fee not paid or only partial fee paid
   - County did not select/certify accessory, clothing, or non-wearable item to represent county
   - Item was NOT entered into the 4-H CONNECT system
   - Entry was not certified by county office in timely manner
8. **Release of Liability:** The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation and/or its employees/agents involved in the contest will not be held liable for missing, mislabeled, or non-displayed items. By entry, the 4-H member accepts this release.

9. **Announcement of Results:** Results will be posted on the Texas 4-H website after judging.

10. **Display and Future Rights Use Rights:** By submitting an entry to the contest, the 4-H member grants permission to the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, and any other public or private agency authorized by the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, the use and rights associated to the use of the Alpaca Wool items in promotional publications and other media without compensation. Certain photos of Alpaca Wool may be used for 4-H program and marketing purposes. By entry, the 4-H member accepts these conditions of display and future use.

11. **Judges:** Judges will determine the placings. Their decision on all entries is final.

---

**Alpaca Wool Challenge Questions and Answers:**

Q. What if you have a local cause that you want to support?
A. We encourage you to create items for local organizations. This year you will have the opportunity to have items made for a local charity judged at the state level.

Q. Where do I get my challenge wool?
A. The Alpaca Wool Challenge provides one challenge wool skein for those interested in creating a garment or blanket. Each individual or group that creates an item will provide additional of the wool to complete their project.

Q. Can adults help youth?
A. Yes, this project is to encourage youth, adult leaders, and families to help in this creation of the project item.

Q. How many people can participate?
A. We have a limited number of skeins available. Participation is on a first come, first serve basis.