

Focus on Children Event

Focus on Children, an individual or team event, recognizes participants who plan and conduct a child development project that has a positive impact on children.

Event Categories

1. Junior: through grade 9
2. Senior Consumer Homemaking: grades 10-12
3. Senior Occupational: grades 10-12

Eligibility

1. States may submit one entry in each category of this event.
2. An event category is determined by participants' grade in school during the school year preceding the National Leadership Meeting.
3. Participants must have completed a course or unit of study in child development in a consumer homemaking or occupational child care training program.
4. A project entered in this event may not be entered in any other STAR Event, but may be part of the Chapter Showcase Event.
5. Participation is open to any FHA, HERO or FHA/HERO combined chapter.
6. Participants must register for the National Leadership Meeting to officially enter the event.

Criteria for Evaluation

Participants will be evaluated on:

- a five- to 10-minute oral introduction;
- application of child development knowledge to a project involving children;
- considered child development issues and addressed a specific need of children;
- an five- to 10-minute videotape of the project or display about the project; and
- a written description of project.

Rules

1. Participants will plan, conduct and complete a project that has a positive impact on children during a one-year span starting July 1 and ending June 30 of the school year preceding the National Leadership Meeting.
2. The project must be planned, conducted and evaluated by the participants.
3. The project will:
 - be developed using the FHA/HERO planning process (identify concerns, set a goal, form a plan, act on plan and follow up [see glossary]);
 - address a specific need of a group of children;

- describe the group served;
 - demonstrated ability to work with children;
 - incorporate knowledge of child development; and
 - have a positive impact on children.
4. The presentation of the project will consist of:
- a five- to 10-minute oral introduction of the project;
 - a five- to 10-minute videotape of the project or a display;
 - written summary; and
 - questions from evaluators.
5. Participants will submit to the event lead consultant at STAR Events Registration three typed copies (8½" x 11" paper in one letter-size file folder [see glossary]) of a two page summary that includes:
- use of planning process; and
 - written summary of project.
6. The file folder referred to in rule #5 will have the following information (typed or legibly written) on the upper left corner (see glossary):
- name of the STAR Event;
 - participant name(s); and
 - state.
7. If an individual or team uses a **display** to exhibit its project, the display will:
- have one 8 ½" x 11" typewritten sheet that includes chapter name, type of chapter (FHA, HERO or FHA/HERO), school, city, state, year and a summary (goals and accomplishments) incorporated into the front of the display;
 - be free standing, **not exceeding** a space 4' deep by 5' wide by 6' high or table top, **not exceeding** a space 2 ½' deep x 4' wide x 4' high, including audio/visual equipment;
 - use materials that accurately describe the project such as photos, slides, audiotapes, videotapes and other media (manuals, scrapbooks, flip charts and photo albums are not allowed); and
 - audio and/or visual recordings are limited to one minute playing time during the oral introduction.
8. **Display entries** will have 30 minutes to set up their displays at the time and in the space specified by the event lead consultant. Only designated participants may set up the exhibit. Others are not allowed in the area during setup. **Participants who do not set up during the designated time will be disqualified.**
9. If an individual or team uses a **videotape** to exhibit its project, the video will:
- be VHS format;
 - have a label listing the chapter name, school, city, state, year and title of the project attached to the front of the videotape and on the videotape box;
 - show the participants actively involved with children during the project; and
 - be made using home or school video equipment (professional editing or filming is not necessary as the project is evaluated on video content only).
10. At designated time, participants will introduce the display or video to the evaluators.

11. **Videotape entries** will be responsible for placing the videotape into the VCR for viewing. (Note: having a back-up copy of the videotape is recommended in the event of equipment malfunction.)
12. Participant(s) will be present during viewing. Following the display or video viewing, evaluators will question participants about their project for five to 10 minutes.
13. Evaluators will score each entry and discuss each one in private, then briefly review strengths and weaknesses with the participants.
14. A VCR and monitor will be provided in each evaluation room (for this event only).
15. The total time required for participation in this event is approximately 30 minutes for display setup and 30 minutes for introduction, display viewing and meeting with evaluators, or introduction, videotape viewing and meeting with evaluators.