

RIBBONS AND AWARDS

Have you ever wondered what the ribbons mean that are displayed on the various Fair entries after they have been judged? Sometimes those involved in the Fair just assume that everyone understands and knows that the various colored ribbons designate what placing was awarded for that entry. The following is how we determine Open Class ribbons at the Gallatin County Fair:

YOUTH ENTRIES (17 years & under) & SPECIAL NEEDS - DANISH SYSTEM

- Entries are not judged against one another.
- Every entry receives a Blue, Red, or White Flat ribbon.
 - Blue Ribbon - meets or exceeds product standards and meets exhibit requirements; overall, the work is of high quality.
 - Red Ribbon - meets minimum product standards and exhibit requirements; overall the work is of average quality.
 - White Ribbon - serious or considerable deficiencies in meeting product standards and/or exhibit requirements.
- Special awards may be given for an outstanding exhibit.

ADULT ENTRIES (18 years & older) – MODIFIED AMERICAN SYSTEM

- **The entries are judged against one another.**
- **A rank-order system in which exhibits in each “class” are placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.**
 - Blue Ribbon – First Place
 - Red Ribbon – Second Place
 - White Ribbon – Third Place
 - Yellow Ribbon – Fourth Place
 - Green Ribbon – Fifth Place
- **Judges are not required to award a blue ribbon in every class if they don’t feel there is an entry that meets or exceeds the product standards.**

Ribbons come in various sizes and shapes:

- Flats – Basic flat ribbons
- Single Rosettes - Flat ribbon with the addition of a rosette at the top.
- Triple Rosettes - Three flats joined by a rosette.

Special Awards that may be given for Indoor Open Class Exhibits:

- Best of Division – Awarded Flat Purple Ribbon
- Reserve Best of Division – Awarded Flat Pink Ribbon
- Best of Show (Best of Age/Ability) – Awarded Single Purple Rosette
- Reserve Best of Show (Second Best of Age/Ability) – Awarded Single Pink Rosette
- Sweepstakes (Best of Entire Department) – Awarded Triple Purple Rosette
- Reserve Sweepstakes (Second Best of Entire Department) – Awarded Triple Pink Rosette

Participation Ribbon:

Participation ribbons are awarded for children’s games, contests, and exhibits. They are usually given without regard to the quality of the exhibit or competition among the exhibitors. Participation ribbons are normally all the same color.

Note: The Horticulture & Floral Department has some of the above awards but also has special horticulture & floral awards, i.e. Award of Merit, Petite Award, Designer’s Choice Award, Youth Award, etc. Also the Poultry Show is judged using poultry standards.