



Lots of 4-H clubs decide to make their own banner. They can be displayed at club meetings, county fairs and carried to identify the club at parades. Horse clubs may want to mount their banner on a pole so two riders can carry it between them.

Materials:

Suggested Size for a

A. Parade Banner 6' wide x 40" high;

Fabric needed: 2 yards

B. Fair Banner 3' wide x 2' high;

Fabric needed: 1 yard

Just about any fabric will do, though if it is too lightweight it may blow too much in the wind and/or too much light will shine through. 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 what decorations you will add.

Thread – one spool of color to match fabric.

Trims – let your imagination run wild.

Words and shapes are easy to do with felt or fabric appliques, or outline with yarn or embroidery. Decorations can be added with ball fringe, tassels, rickrack, nail heads, rhinestones, ribbons, and so on.

Some Helpful Hints

1. Before you start your decorating, you need to get the banner ready. On the short sides, turn the fabric to the wrong side $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{1}{4}$ " again. Pin the fold and stitch in place.

A. Parade Banner

2a. On the top edge, turn the fabric to the wrong side a $\frac{1}{4}$ " and then 3", pin in place, and stitch close to the inside fold. This makes a casing to slip a through to carry the banner.

3a. On the bottom edge, turn the fabric to the wrong side 1" and then 1" again. Pin in place and stitch close to the inside fold. Into this wide hem you can choose to insert a length of chain; the extra weight will help prevent the banner from blowing in a breeze. Be sure to hand stitch both of the ends of chain in place.

B. Fair Banner

2b. A casing can be made at the top follow 2a directions or turn under the fabric twice as in step 1.

3b. The bottom edge – turn under the fabric twice as in step 1.

4. Place your banner on a piece of paper of the same proportion. If you have a piece of paper that is 11" long [as is this page!], cut it 7" wide, turn it sideways, and that is the shape of your banner.

5. Make a fairly accurate sketch of where things will go right on the banner. Stand back and look at it to make sure letters are large enough to be read, the designs are centered or evenly spaced, and so on,. If you use chalk to make the sketch, it is easy to brush away, if you use soap, a damp sponge or steam iron will quickly remove it. Have a clear plan in mind before you start. Do remember a 4-H Banner cannot be decorated with any religious words or symbols or any brand names or copyrighted characters.

6. Choose colors for your designs that are in contrast to the background so they can be seen easily. If you are in doubt, cut out small shapes or letters and pin them to the banner. Have some one stand as far away as possible and tell you what the shapes are. If they cannot see what it is, you definitely need to make a different color choice.

7. If you want to use yarn to make letters or out lines, it can be attached by using fabric glue, fusible web, zigzag stitching on the sewing machine, or large hand stitching. It may take several strands of yarn to make the letters "fat" enough to read easily from a distance.

8. Applique's can be attached by any of the methods mentioned above for yarn. If it is a fabric that ravels, it would be good to finish the edges with a zigzag machine stitch.

9. If you think you might like to change your designs or pictures, add sticky backed Velcro spots to the back of the picture and to the front of the banner.

Adapted from directions by Arlene Vrooman, 4-H leader, Schoharie County. Updated June 2008

