

Rubber Stamping Guidelines

While all ages compete in one class at the Cass County Fair, suggested age guidelines for increased skill levels are as follows:

Beginner – 7-11

Junior – 12-15

Senior – 16-19

Basic Stamping Notes:

- Learn the difference between slow and quick drying ink.
- Learn the difference between wood mounted and rubber mounted stamps, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- Use only stamps which are small (close to palm size or smaller).
- Suggested projects include bookmarks, postcards, greeting cards, placemats.

Beginner Skill Level:

- Stamp using only one color of ink.
- Older beginners can start embossing, using one single type of embossing powder; learning how to use a heat gun.
- Color in images with markers or colored pencils.
- Backside of each item must include some sort of “stamped by” emblem with name or initials of stamper and date.

Junior Skill Level:

- Use of previous skills plus:
 - Use larger stamps.
 - Use watercolor-based markers to color on stamp (each item is colored *before* stamping).
 - Suggested projects include gift bag, invitation, greeting card, stickers, postcard, door hanger, etc.
 - More advanced embossing techniques.
 - Learn to color images with chalk.
 - Try multiple colors of ink and embossing powders, be creative.

Senior Skill Level:

- Use of previous skills plus:
 - Use of large stamps, including background stamps.
 - Use of decorative scissors to do layering techniques on cards.
 - Use of vellum paper and mulberry paper.
 - Use of pop dots to give a 3D effect.
 - Be creative to decorate: puff paints, tiny beads, watercolor pencils, etc.
 - Suggested projects include: paper clay, greeting cards, framed stamp art, envelope art, etc.

Fair Requirements:

- One entry per class.
- Each entry must include 5-7 items, each item must be slightly different (example: different technique). The difference must be recognizable.
- It is not recommended to do just bookmarks or just cards. Please try a variety of items.