Attire:

* Solid, closed-toe shoes
* Jeans
* Light colored shirt or white jacket
* No large, flashy necklaces or hats

Know Your Bird:

* Breed and Breed Characteristics
  + Egg vs. Meat
* Sex of Bird
  + Cock vs. Hen
  + Cockerel vs. Pullet
* Judge Your Bird
  + Good things (according to breed characteristics and standards)
  + Disqualifications (according to breed standards)
* Terminology and Body Parts

Handling and Procedures:

* Bird should face to the left of the judge
* Be prepared to share your knowledge of your bird
* Step #1: Evaluate the general appearance
* Step #2: Examine the head area
  + Examine the eyes
  + Inspect for defects on the comb
  + Feel texture of wattle for abnormalities
  + Examine condition of the feathers
  + Check beak for defects (like crookedness) and pigmentation
  + Examine the color of the earlobes for breed correctness
* Step #3: Run your fingers over the neck area to feel for smoothness and signs of molting
* Step #4: Examine back area to feel for abnormalities. Measure the length and breadth of the back area to check conformation of bird. Check undercolor for molting
* Step #5: Run hand down bird’s tail. Press the tail feather toward you and examine condition of feathers.
* Step #6: Examine vent area checking for lice and mites. Hens may have pigmentation loss. Check for handling quality and past egg production.
* Step #7: For hens, measure abdominal capacity (another way of determining past egg production.)
* Step #8: Check the abdomen for hardness or softness, indicating production (in hens.) Also check for signs of molting and feather conditions.
* Step #9: Examine thighs to determine meat. (Especially important in meat chickens.)
* Step #10: Examine shanks for cleanliness or mites.
* Step #11: Examine toes and check for breed correctness or defects.
* Step #12: Examine the feet for defects or pigment loss.
* Step #13: Examine the breast for straightness of bone and meat or abnormalities. (Especially important for meat chickens.)
* Step #14: Examine wings and check for molting and skin.
* Step #15: Examine the crop area