

## Tech Tips for 4-H Videographers

### Audio

#### Microphones

Shooting video on a windy day can create problems! Things move when and where you don't want them and then there's the effect of wind distorting your audio!

A solution for the audio can be to use an external microphone with a wind screen. Some microphones can plug into your phone, others may be wireless. A wind screen looks like a very fuzzy mitten (sometimes called a "dead cat") that goes over your microphone. The fuzz will dampen the wind sound.

A directional microphone will also give you a better recording when you point it at your subject than your built-in microphone.

Basic microphones run \$30-\$50

#### Background Noise

It can be extremely annoying when you're shooting outside and a loud car, truck, or jet go by in the middle of your take! If this happens, the best course is to stop, wait for the sound to pass, and then reshoot. It's inconvenient, and irritating, but not hearing those distracting sounds is worth the wait!

### Video

#### Tripods

Sure, you can try holding your phone steady, and there are stabilization settings to minimize camera shake, but a tripod will always give your video a more professional look. Tripods allow you to adjust height and hold things steady for as long as you need. They also allow you to move smoothly side to side (panning) or up and down (tilting).

Tripods vary in price and quality but some start under \$20 and can be used as a selfie stick. If your budget allows, a tripod with a "fluid" head will give you the smoothest moves.

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