Timing and Tracking Protocol

Protocol Purpose: This protocol is designed to gather information on the way(s) children interact with Expo booths in a festival environment.

Directions:

This protocol is for tracking elementary and middle school aged children (age 4-13) accompanied by at least one parent/guardian while attending an Expo-style event with booths.

Sample Selection:

- Draw an imaginary line at your starting location once in the Expo booth area of the event
- Count the family groups that go by, you will select the 1st child that crosses that imaginary line in the 3rd family group that goes by
- Track the activities of that specific child – not anyone else in that group

Tracking / Observation:

- Wear festival t-shirt and neutral clothes – the point is to blend in
- Find the comfortable distance from the family that you can see what the child is doing, but not so close that you can actually overhear their conversation or get in their space
- You can move about; you don’t need to stay in one location if they settle for a while at an exhibit

Exhibit Stop -- a stop is defined as the child stopping at an exhibit for 10 seconds

- Enter exhibit number – each exhibit should have a unique number – ideally this will be located on the top of the tent, but you might have to look for this information
Exhibit Stop Form
Complete form for each stop you record.

What is the number/name of the booth you observed?
[open ended]

1. How long did you have to wait to get to the booth table?
   - □ No wait
   - □ <5 minutes
   - □ 5-9 minutes
   - □ 10-14 minutes
   - □ 15-19 minutes
   - □ 20+ minutes

2. Start time: __________   End time: __________

3. Activities: (Select all that apply)
   - □ Doing an exhibit activity individually
   - □ Talking to an exhibitor
   - □ Doing exhibit activity with parent/guardian
   - □ Doing an exhibit activity with another youth
   - □ Waiting – moved on
   - □ Looking
   - □ Talking with parent/guardian
   - □ Talking with another youth

4. Exhibit type:
   - □ Hands-on
   - □ Demonstration
   - □ Lab Tour
   - □ Lecture/Talking Exhibit
   - □ Performance
   - □ Other: _______________________

5. What is the gender of the child you observed? □ Female □ Male

6. Number of adults in the group? __________

7. Number of children in the group? __________

8. Additional Comments:
   [open ended]