



A Guide to Standards of Excellence Awards
for Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors

Description of Award: Standards of Excellence are awards any youth can apply for to receive recognition for their activities and time as a 4-H member. The merit of the award is given based on the level to which the member was active. The trick to these applications is properly identifying where certain events or activities should go, primarily because many things are appropriate in many categories, but you can only use things once!

Tips/Requirements:

- Write out each date to the best of your ability.
- Get all the signatures you need (as you go, if possible).
- Write as neatly as you can, but fill it out yourself!
- Don't use the same event twice.
- You can use the Calendar of Events to determine when events are occurring.
- Fill in the award you're applying for (see chart below), your name, 4-H age as of September 1, and club name.
- Use the Matrix to see how many of each item you need for your chosen award.

	Juniors	Intermediates	Seniors
Bronze	✓	✓	✓
Silver	✓	✓	✓
Gold	✓	✓	✓
Emerald	X	✓	✓

All awards require you to have the following:

- **Project Plan & Goals** are included in *Project Reports* – if you've filled one out, you've accomplished this.
- **Attend 2/3 of Club Meetings** as confirmed by your club leader or secretary's signature.
- **Perform a Project Presentation** as confirmed by your club leader.

Serve on a Committee or Hold an Office: Write the name of the office you held or the committee you chaired.



4-H Activities: 4-H activities are anything outside of 4-H club meetings which are sponsored or arranged by your club, county, district, state, regional, or national representatives. You have participated if you were actively engaged in the event or activity as a 4-H member. You have attended if you were present for the duration of the event or activity.

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| - Parades | - Commissioner's Breakfast | - Resume Builder |
| - Workshops | - National Youth Science Day | - Workshop for Seniors |
| - Festival Booths | - Membership Field Days | - Ag Literacy Day |
| - Summer Camp | - Youth Citrus Project Workshops | - Fundraisers for your Club |
| - Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign | - Social 4-H Events | - Hog & Ham |
| - County Council Events – not meetings | - Mason Smoak 5K 4-H Booth (work at the booth) | - Camp Counselor Training |
| - Open Enrollment | - Caladium Contest Workshop | - County Awards Banquet |
| - Record Book Workshops | | - Any Competition or Exhibition you didn't use in that section |
| - Animal Ethics Trainings | | |

Community Service: These are events at which the community benefited – not you or your club. A community or community member who is not a club member should be getting something out of this type of event. Remember, fundraisers are not services, and you must actively participate to take credit for your club's activities.

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| - Food Drives | - Bell Ringing for Salvation Army |
| - Toy Drives | - Ag Venture Setup |
| - Door Decorating at Senior Living Facilities | |

Community Service Leadership Report: This is an event you, the youth member, instigated. You told your club about it, you advertised it, you wanted to do this project from the beginning, you delegated tasks to others and you delivered the follow through. Any of the above examples are still adequate, but they are just the beginning of what you could do! Be sure to attach a report, or it doesn't count! In your report, note the facts about the project, and the specific things you did to make the project a success. Did you overcome any barriers? How did you grow as a person or as a leader as a result of this project? These reports may be typed. It is recommended you use a basic font, size 12, one and one-half or double spaced, and complete approximately 1-2 pages for your report. There are no disqualifying limits.



Competitions and Exhibitions: If there was an award to be won, and you entered to be considered to get it, it's a competition! You do not have to win to take credit for it here. Most competitions are partnered with an exhibition, so make sure you don't double up; the only annual exhibition independent of a competition is the photography display at district events which does not always occur, depending on the year's host. Juniors may attend a competition (watch a competition or spend time looking at an exhibition if the competition was not public) and receive credit, or participate in a competition and receive credit, but not both.

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| - Share-the-Fun at County Events | Events (Previously Poster Contest) | - Florida 4-H Tailgate Competition |
| - Fashion Revue at County Events | - Photography Contest at County Events | - Judging Team Competitions |
| - Public Speaking at County Events | - All of the previous events at district and state events | - Marine Photography Contest |
| - Demonstrations/Illustrated Talks at County Events | - Fair Booth Entries | - Caladium Contest (must enter at fair) |
| - Graphic Design Contest at County | - Livestock Animal Shows | - Area E Horse Shows |
| | | - State Horse Shows |

Talks to Community Groups: The subject of these talks should be 4-H – your project, what 4-H is, your experience, etc. – and to a group outside of 4-H. A 4-H Talk is a “promotional talk about 4-H and/or your project area” (Florida 4-H Standards of Excellence Module).

Club Activity Taught: Anything you lead as an instructor for your club or another club. Icebreakers, animal anatomy, record books, etc.

Teach Class or Workshop: Contact your 4-H agent to assist with any of the below workshops or classes. You must contact her at least two weeks prior to the event, and be able to come in before the event to receive some training of your own. It is required that – unless the workshop is new – you have attended that workshop before.

- Record Book Workshop: Planning Your 4-H Year
- Animal Ethics Trainings
- Record Book Workshop: Fair Animals
- Record Book Workshop: Finish Strong
- Camp Counselor *has application process



Attend District or Higher Level Event: There are 2-4 district meetings each year, and there is almost always one of them in Highlands County. You can even get a two-for-one if you go to district events as a competitor, and make sure to attend the meeting they hold there. Any state event counts as well. The state fair is acceptable.

- District Meetings or Socials
- District Events
- First Executive Board
- Second Executive Board
- Third Executive Board
- Leadership
- Adventure Weekend
- 4-H University
- 4-H Legislature
- 4-H Day at the Capitol
- Area E Horse Show
- State Horse Show
- State Judging Contest
- National Events
- South Florida Fair
- Florida State Fair

Project Reports: These may only be project reports/record books you turned in for grading. If you check a record book, it is ineligible. Note the type of project or name of the curriculum on the line.

Building My 4-H Portfolio/My 4-H Portfolio: The template can be found online for this form. It should be neat and filled out in entirety. Your years in 4-H should be accumulated in this document. [My 4-H Portfolio](#) is for graduating Seniors. [Building My 4-H Portfolio](#) for all other members.

“My 4-H Experience” Poster (Juniors Only): Posters are larger than 8.5 x 11” but no larger than 14 x 22”. May be landscape or portrait. Must portray the youth’s 4-H Experience and have a release form attached to the back.

“Can one Youth Make a Difference” Essay (Intermediates Only): Your opinion in response to this prompt which is 5 paragraphs in length with a maximum of 500 words which includes an introduction, body and conclusion.

Wildcard/Extra Credit (Intermediates and Seniors Only): An interview with one 4-H Alumni (cannot be a relative) about their experiences in 4-H can be substituted for one of the performance standards requirements. A written report or transcript must be turned in with your application. Ask at least five meaningful questions (not just their name, but that should be included). An optional template is attached for your report – please note it indicates minimum requirements.

Awards/Scholarship Portfolio (Seniors Only): Minimum standards as enforced by Florida 4-H can be found here: <http://florida4h.org/youth/awards-and-recognition/>.

“Why or Why Not is Record Keeping Important in 4-H” Essay (Seniors Only): Your opinion in response to this prompt which is 5 paragraphs in length with a maximum of 500 words which includes an introduction, body and conclusion.

Serve as a Mentor (Seniors Only): Help other 4-H members throughout their 4-H year by giving guidance during year. Complete a mentor report and turn it in with your application.



Interview a 4-H Alumni Report

Interviewer's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Interviewee's Name: _____ **Year(s) Enrolled:** _____

Example Questions – What was your favorite part of being in 4-H? What is your most profound memory of a 4-H event/activity/achievement? How did 4-H effect your life? What advice would you give me as a ___ year member? Have you kept in touch with any of your fellow club members?

Arrange your Questions before sitting down to your interview – this may be done over the phone, but must be verbal. You must ask five questions, but may ask more as long as the Interviewee Alumni allows time.

Question 1: _____

Response 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Response 2: _____



Question 3: _____

Response 3: _____

Question 4: _____

Response 4: _____

Question 5: _____

Response 5: _____

Be sure to thank your interviewee alumni for their time and sharing their experiences with you! Perhaps send them a letter after you're done.