



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY



Midway
District

Extension

"K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Raine Bradshaw two weeks prior to the start of the event at 785-483-3157 or raine@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

Updated January 2026

Midway Extension

District #15



4-H Record Book, Project Records, & Achievement Pins Handbook

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY



Midway
District

Extension

Goal Setting - Getting Started

Prior to or at the beginning of the 4-H year, a member should begin identifying, setting and recording personal goals for themselves in each project area. Parents, club leaders, adult volunteers, and local Extension Staff play an important role in helping guide young people through this process. Members should record their personal goals and then begin work toward achieving those goals. It is important to record anything the member would like to learn or do.



Reflecting - Looking Back

Below are some questions to help a member start reflecting on his/her project experiences as he or she prepares to complete a Project Report. Follow size and spacing guidelines in the form.

- What did you learn from your project(s)? How did you grow in your project?
- Did you master any skills?
- Did you meet any of your goals?
 - If so, what helped you attain those?
 - If not, what were some obstacles that might have prevented you from reaching your goals?
- How did your project change or grow within the year or from previous years?
- Did you serve in any type of leadership capacity?
- What impact did your involvement have on you, your club, or community?
- How have your project experiences influenced your future?
Examples: career, leisure time, or other.



THE WHY AND HOW OF 4-H RECORD BOOKS

Record Books, Project Records, and Achievement Pin Applications, are all due to either Extension Office 8 days following the conclusion of the Kansas State Fair. This will always fall on a Monday at the end of September.

Keeping accurate records is a way of life. By filling out 4-H Record Books, you are learning a practical skill that you will use in the future. Records allow us to look back, to evaluate our accomplishments and to set goals for self-improvement. Record Books and Project Record Forms are judged on 50% project work, 25% citizenship within the project and 25% leadership within the project.

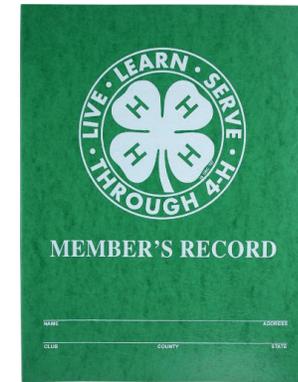
What is included in the 4-H Record Book?

The basic Record Book includes (in this order):

- Personal Page
- 4-H Story
- 4-H Permanent Record (add to same document each year)
- Photographs (optional)
- Current year Record Book information can go in front of all previous years' Personal Page and 4-H Story.

Your Record Book can be in a 4-H Record Book Cover (available to purchase at the Extension Office) or in a folder/notebook. The Record Book is separate from the Project Record Form. The Record Book is **REQUIRED** to receive your Achievement Pin.

All forms for the Record Book can be found at our website:
<https://www.midway.k-state.edu/4-h/recordbooks/recordbook.html>



Putting Your Record Book Together

PERSONAL PAGE - A new personal page is completed every year.

Complete all blanks and list projects enrolled in this year in

alphabetical order. The picture that you use should be a head and shoulder picture. Most use a current school picture. Include the necessary signatures—**yours, a parent and your leader**.

4-H STORY - This is probably the MOST IMPORTANT part of your 4-H record. Here is where you tell about yourself and your 4-H experiences in your own words. Write a 4-H Story that gives a complete overview of your 4-H year.

General Guidelines:

- 6 pages maximum
- Single space, one side of paper
- Typed (font size 11-point) or handwritten (pencil if you write in pencil at school, pen if you use pen)
- Title your story and Sign the end of it

First- and Second-Year Members: (7-8 year olds)

- The 4-H member should write in what they feel comfortable with.
- The first sentence should tell who you are and club name.
- Write at least one sentence per project.
- Write what was the best thing you did in 4-H that year.

Third- and Fourth-Year Members:

- The 4-H member should write in what they feel comfortable with.
- The first couple of sentences should tell who you are, what club you belong to, how many years you have been in 4-H, and what office or committees you've held.
- Write at least 2-3 sentences about each project. More than just ribbon placings, judges like to read about what you've learned.
- There should be a couple of paragraphs that tell about other 4-H events you've participated in (Club Day, Camp, Concession Stands, etc.)

KEY AWARD

The Kansas Key Award is one of the highest honors a Kansas 4-H member can achieve. As a 4-H award, the applicant needs to highlight 4-H related events, activities and achievements accomplished within the 4-H club, county/district, region or state. The Key Award recognizes extraordinary service and leadership that goes above and beyond expectations, exemplifying the true spirit of 4-H.

Basic Requirements:

- Passed 16th birthday before January 1 of current year.
- Completed four or more years of 4-H work.
- Enrolled in 4-H Leadership Project four or more years.

Other Requirements:

- Must meet at least nine of the eleven "Other Requirements" listed on the Key Award application. All requirements for each item MUST be met.
- You are not able to use one activity or event to fulfill multiple requirements.
- When a blank is provided for a date, these requirements are to be met in different years, generally the last 4 years.

Community Service Requirement:

- Explain how you have used the life skills you have gained through 4-H to provide leadership with a group or as an individual to accomplish a community service success.

PLAN 7—LEADERSHIP PIN

- Exhibit one or more of your projects at a club tour, club exhibit day, county fair or an event similar to a county fair but with another title.
- Attend a majority (more than half) of the regularly scheduled meetings of your club.
- Attend one club or county/district event, not otherwise listed on form.
- Enroll and participate in the 4-H Leadership project.
- Take part in a 4-H community service project.
- Complete your 4-H Record Book and at least 1 Project Report and turn in to Extension Office.
- Complete 11 optional requirements listed on the Leadership Achievement application.

PLAN 8—GOLD PIN

- Exhibit one or more of your projects at a club tour, club exhibit day, county fair or an event similar to a county fair but with another title.
- Attend a majority (more than half) of the regularly scheduled meetings of your club.
- Attend one club or county/district event, not otherwise listed on form.
- Enroll and participate in the 4-H Leadership project.
- Take part in a 4-H community service project.
- Complete your 4-H Record Book and at least 1 Project Report and turn into Extension Office.
- Complete 15 of the optional requirements listed on the Gold Achievement Pin application.

PLAN 9—GOLD GUARD

- Exhibit one or more of your projects at a club tour, club exhibit day, county fair or an event similar to a county fair but with another title.
- Attend a majority (more than half) of the regularly scheduled meetings of your club.
- Complete your 4-H Record Book and at least 1 Project Report and turn in to Extension Office.
- Enroll and participate in the 4-H Leadership project.
- Take part in a 4-H community service project.
- Attend one club or county/district event, not otherwise listed on form.
- Be 15 years or older before January 1 of the current year.
- Complete 17 of the optional requirements listed on the Leadership Achievement application.

Fifth- and Sixth-Year Members:

- May want to type on computer or use notebook paper (writing in pen).
- A paragraph should be written for each of the following: Introduction, Each Project, Leadership given, Citizenship helped with, Other 4-H Events, Conclusion of the Year.
- The complete story should be 3-4 pages long.

Senior Members:

- Use ½ page to introduce yourself.
- Use 2-3 pages for major project information.
- Use 1 page for other activities and events.
- Use 1-1½ pages to share Leadership and Citizenship information.
- Use ¼-½ page for personal satisfaction and future goals as a conclusion.

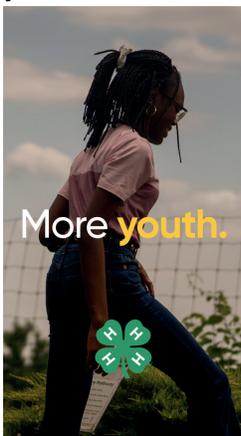
4-H PERMANENT RECORD - Records for your entire 4-H career will be kept on this record. This record is a summary of your total 4-H involvement to date. Keeping a calendar of all your activities will help you better fill out the Permanent Record. **Every section should include something!** The year space should always contain two years (the 4-H year—ie: 2025-26 or 25-26).

• Section 1: Meetings/Committees/Offices/Leadership Roles

- Club Meetings—check with your club Secretary as they keep roll for your club. They can tell you how many meetings your club has held and how many you attended.
- Project Meetings—should match how your projects are listed on your personal page and broke out by project (ie: Beef, Entomology, Photography)
- If you held an office in your club, write the name of the office held; if not, then write member.

(continued on next page)

- If you served on a committee, list the name of the committee you served on (booth, finance, etc.). If you served on more than one committee, then list each in a separate box going down the column—remember to include the year on each new line.
- Every row that you write on should include the 4-H year.
- Go through the school calendar and write down all school activities:
 - Concerts
 - Plays
 - Awards Ceremony
 - Groups you belonged to
 - Honors you won
 - Etc.
- Go through and record all that you have done with Church:
 - Christmas program
 - Played or sang music for church
 - Sunday school
 - Vacation Bible School
 - Easter Sunrise service
 - Mother/Daughter or Father/Son Banquet
 - First Communion
 - Etc.
- Go through and record all your community events:
 - Little League sports,
 - Angel Tree for Christmas
 - Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
 - Library Time
 - Etc.



PLAN 4—EMERALD PIN

- Exhibit one or more of your projects at a club tour, club exhibit day, county fair or an event similar to a county fair but with another title.
- Attend a majority (more than half) of the regularly scheduled meetings of your club.
- Attend one club or county/district event, not otherwise listed on form.
- Complete your 4-H Record Book and at least 1 Project Report and turn in to Extension Office.
- Complete 5 of the optional requirements listed on the Emerald Achievement Pin application.

PLAN 5—SILVER PIN

- Exhibit one or more of your projects at a club tour, club exhibit day, county fair or an event similar to a county fair but with another title.
- Attend a majority (more than half) of the regularly scheduled meetings of your club.
- Attend one club or county/district event, not otherwise listed on form.
- Complete your 4-H Record Book and at least 1 Project Report and turn in to Extension Office.
- Complete 7 of the optional requirements listed on the Silver Achievement Pin application.

PLAN 6—SILVER GUARD

- Exhibit one or more of your projects at a club tour, club exhibit day, county fair or an event similar to a county fair but with another title.
- Attend a majority (more than half) of the regularly scheduled meetings of your club.
- Attend one club or county/district event, not otherwise listed on form.
- Complete your 4-H Record Book and at least 1 Project Report and turn in to Extension Office.
- Complete 9 of the optional requirements listed on the Silver Guard Achievement application.

4-H MEMBER

ACHIEVEMENT PIN PLANS

Here are the requirements to be completed in the year for which an award application is submitted. You may receive only one achievement pin in a 4-H year. Please ensure that applications are completed according to the directions included on each form. You are not able to use one activity or event to fulfill multiple requirements. Keep the pin application loose. Do not hole punch and put in record book.

All forms for the achievement pins can be found at our website:
<https://www.midway.k-state.edu/4-h/resources/index.html>

PLAN 1—4-H MEMBERSHIP PIN

- Awarded to first year 4-H'ers.
- Attend a majority (more than one-half) of the remaining regularly scheduled meetings of your club after you join.
- Complete 4-H Record Book and turn in to the Extension Office.

PLAN 2—BRONZE ACHIEVEMENT PIN

- Exhibit one or more of your projects at a club tour, club exhibit day, county fair or an event similar to a county fair but with another title.
- Attend a majority (more than half) of the regularly scheduled meetings of your club.
- Attend one club or county/district event.
- Complete your 4-H Record Book, and 1 or more Project Reports and turn in to Extension Office.

PLAN 3—CLOVER PIN

- Exhibit one or more of your projects at a club tour, club exhibit day, county fair or an event similar to a county fair but with another title.
- Attend a majority (more than half) of the regularly scheduled meetings of your club.
- Attend one club or county/district event, not otherwise listed on form.
- Complete your 4-H Record Book and at least 1 Project Report and turn in to Extension Office.
- Complete 3 of the optional requirements listed on the Clover Achievement Pin application.

• Section 2: Project Communications, Exhibits, Presentations, Contests, Judging or Skillathons

- Every row that you write on should include the 4-H year.
- List projects in the same order as listed on your Personal Page.
- List the name of the presentation that you gave (in parenthesis place the project that it goes with).
- Write where given—use more than one line if you have the presentation in multiple places.
- Example: What's in Your Barn (Beef) Club Day
 - Have you done a talk at your club meeting?
 - Did you do any promotional talks at school?
 - Did you do any show & tells at school about your 4-H projects?
 - Did you participate in Club Day?
 - Did you participate in Regional Club Day?
- Place a number in each column, even if it is a zero.
- Include the date (ie: 2/6)
- Write in the column or tell what kind of judging you completed.
- Write in the placing if you placed; if not, write "part" for participation.
 - Did you do any judging at Club Day?
 - Did your club do any practice judging?
 - Did you attend any other contest?
 - Did you go to Fort Hays to judge?
- See the list at the top of the Permanent Record sheet, list event name, number of times and where.



Section 3: Activities

- List the event that you attended and place an “X” in the appropriate level of participation.
- Examples:
 - What did you do for National 4-H week?
 - Did your club do something for 4-H Sunday?
 - Did you attend Officer Training?
 - Did you attend the Achievement Banquet?
 - Did you help with any school assemblies to promote 4-H?
 - What did you do for District Club Day?
 - Did you go to Regional Club Day?
 - Have you had any Project meetings?
 - Did you attend weigh-in?
 - Did you go to camp?
 - Did you help with County Fair Pre/Post Cleanup?
 - What events did you participate in at the County Fair?
 - Did you go to the State Fair?
- Record 4-H participation, such as nursing home programs, sponsorships of club or county awards, fairground clean up, assistance to fair superintendent, special fund raising efforts, etc.
- This section can also be used for non 4-H activities as well.

Section 4: Most Important Recognition

- Every row that you write on should include the 4-H year.
- This is the 4-H’ers decision. It could be anything from a Red Ribbon at the Food Fair to a Top Blue at Regional Club Day or anything in-between.
- Include School Awards:
 - Character Counts
 - Perfect Attendance
 - AR
 - Lettered in Sports
- Include Community Awards:
 - Won Parade Entry
 - Little League Champions
 - Farm Bureau Safety Poster Winner

Project Report Form (continued)

- Paper (Personal Page, Project Record Form & Story): 8 ½ x 11 inch white paper. One **side** of page only.
- Paper (Photos): 8 ½ x 11 inch white. Easy to download photos on Project Report Form. Heavy photo paper is acceptable but not required. Strongly recommend the use of cardstock if you physically mount prints on the pages.
- Font: Easily legible, no smaller than 11-point font
- Spacing: Single-Spaced
- Use proper grammar, paragraph styling, punctuation, and spelling. If using a computer be sure to spell check and proof-read. Sometimes commonly used words are spelled correctly but not used correctly – for example country instead of county; goat instead of coat or boat; counsel instead of council; bred instead of bread; or lead instead of led.
- Use technology to your advantage such as bolding headings or key points, underlining, bullets, outlines, etc.
- Do NOT use plastic page sleeves. Dividers with tabs may be used to organize a record book, but are not required.
- White space is ok.
- Use action verbs to accurately describe what you have done. Did you “help” or did you “plan and conduct?” Consider the following verbs: Assisted, Directed, Maintained, Presented, Constructed, Explained, Managed, Revised, Coordinated, Initiated, Organized, Selected, Developed, Learned, Planned, and many more!
- Ask for help with translation if you do not use English as your first language.

Project Report Form

The Project Report Form is a project record and should be turned in for each project you want to be eligible for a County Award. Each Project Report Form needs to be in a **separate** folder/binder.

What is included in the 4-H Project Report Record?

The Project Report Form includes (in this order):

- Record Check Sheet
- 4-H Personal Page
- 4-H Story
- 4-H Permanent Record
- Project Report Form (one report per project)

All forms for the Record Book can be found at our website:

<https://www.midway.k-state.edu/4-h/recordbooks/recordbook.html>

All sections and attachments should meet the following requirements:

- Each project record will need to be in a separate notebook (you can simply photo-copy the Personal Page for each)
- Each age division will need to use a specific color of 3-ring binder for their Project Record
 - Juniors (age 7-9) - WHITE folder/binder
 - Intermediate (age 10-13) - BLUE folder/binder
 - Senior (age 14-18) - BLACK folder/binder
 -

While this might seem silly, it makes managing 150 Project Records much more efficient.

Ellsworth and Russell Extension Offices have folders available for purchase for \$1.25 each.

Keep track of the following for better success at the end of the year! Keeping a daily journal of what you did for your projects will help out tremendously when you go to fill out your project report forms.

- Receipts for everything that you purchase for your projects.
- The number of times you do chores, hours you repair pens, if you helped with the family herd for livestock.
- What you are feeding your livestock in the beginning and if you change feeds during the summer.
- How many times you help set the table, do dishes, if you help prepare something for the meal, if you go grocery shopping and learn something while there.
- The number of items you collect, the hours and dates that you spend collecting for entomology, forestry, geology, wildlife, etc.
- The number of project meetings, the number of hours that you practice with your dog, horse, shooting sports, etc.
- Every book you read and when you read to someone.



PHOTOGRAPHS (optional) The photo picture pages help tell the project story. Pictures are important because they help the judge “get to know you”, document the project and show sequence of project growth. Pictures should be taken from the very beginning of the 4-H year until the end.

- Photographs taken should be of value to help represent a chronological photo journal of the project year.
- Photos can help explain the written story and add interest and personality to the story as well.
- Pictures should include project involvement, project leadership and project citizenship.
- Pictures should be action pictures that show you doing something.
- Maximum of 3 pages of photos, one side of paper.
 - Page 1—Project pictures
 - Page 2—Leadership activity pictures
 - Page 3—Citizenship activity pictures
- Pictures may be cropped. It is suggested to crop all pictures into squares or rectangles (not scrapbook style cropping).
- **Captions should be neatly written or typed, they should tell who, what, when, where and level of participation.**
- Level of Participation: L=local, C=County, D=District, M=Multi County, S=State and N=National.
- DO NOT INCLUDE: Newspaper clippings, ribbons, certificates of honor or unrelated photos.
- DO NOT ENCLOSE PHOTOS IN PLASTIC SLEEVES.



Citizenship vs. Leadership

All applications (award, record, pin, scholarship, and job) require some examples from these two “ship” words. Many job interview questions also focus on leadership and citizenship experiences.

Citizenship is something done for the betterment of the community.

Citizenship focuses on the unnecessary services that a person provides for their community.

Citizenship can be considered a way to help others in need.

Citizenship examples:

- Christmas Caroling
- A bingo event at the local retirement center
- A park clean-up day
- Delivering treats to local people
- Decorating windows of local businesses
- Providing childcare during a town meeting
- Collecting food for the Food Pantry
- Clean-up after a natural disaster

Leadership occurs when a person takes the initiative at a given time.

Leadership is more behind-the-scenes. An effective leader is almost invisible.

Leadership is organizing, delegating, and allowing others to have a part.

Leadership Examples:

- Serving as a project leader - club or county
- Serving as a superintendent
- Serving on a committee or chairing a committee
- Officer for club or county wide group
- Serving as a mentor for younger members
- Organizing an event
- Serving as a camp counselor
- Active members in Junior Leaders

Try to include some Citizenship and Leadership into the activities and experiences for each project.