



BRADFORD COUNTY

Guide to Achieving Standards of Excellence for 4-H Members

“Clover Awards”



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Achieving Standards of Excellence

Overview

We encounter standards at all ages and stages of life. Most have been developed by experts. Sometimes the individual responsible for achieving or living up to the standards is involved in developing them. Some standards have developed over time and are generally understood and accepted, though not written down.

Many “rites of passage” can be called standards. These include religious and civil ceremonies that indicate a stage of life has been reached. Examples include marriage; bar mitzvah, confirmation or catechism; voting eligibility; and registering for military service. Other rites of passage include buying a house, moving out of parent’s home, and retirement.

Societal requirements that indicate a level of ability or skill can be called standards. They include a driver’s license, Red Cross lifesaving certificate, CPR certificate, etc. Some standards define a level of education or qualifications to perform a specific job. These include a high school diploma; post high school degree; or licensing for nursing, engineering, social work, or teaching certificates. The levels of achievement in the horse project are 4-H examples.

Expectations about personal behavior often are less obvious standards. Examples include ground rules for a youth group or family rules. In some situations, adults set standards for young people. In others, youth and adults together establish standards. In some situations, standards are determined by the individual or group of people who are working toward the standards. Examples are social clubs, behavior expectations for a field trip, or grade contracts for academic work. It is important to remember that standards for behavior set by adults may be very difficult for youth to understand, and these standards often fail to take into account personal standards set by the young person.

Standards relate to a socially accepted product or positive behavior. However, standards can encourage deviant behavior. Examples of deviant behavior are when rules are used by groups to promote racial hatred, gang violence, or hazing.

Standards may be used to include or exclude people. This occurs in both the workplace and in private life. Standards for hiring or promotion can be established so personal characteristics aren’t used inappropriately in the workplace. In the private sector, standards can be used to prevent people from buying real estate in a certain neighborhood or joining a country club, sorority, fraternity, or fraternal organization. Standards can be used so inequities do not occur.

In 4-H educational programs, standards are used in two ways. First, standards are established by subject matter and youth development specialists to provide a base for young people to use as they plan and work toward their goals. Examples are exhibit criteria, scorecards, and judging sheets, etc. Second, professional staff and/or volunteers and young people work together to establish standards. Examples are behavior desired at 4-H camp, expectations of 4-H’ers involved in meetings, and appropriate dress for 4-H events.

Teaching young people skills needed to meet or achieve standards has a lifelong benefit. 4-H has excelled in recognizing 4-H’ers who have achieved standards of excellence, but we need to continue to improve the way we use this type of recognition. A special thanks to Andy Toelle, Kelsey Cook, Sarah Hensley, GERALYN SACHS, and Laura Valencia for their efforts in bringing this publication to fruition.

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Member Options for Recognition

Performance Standard Awards/Clover Awards

CLOVERBUD 5-7 Year Olds	Performance Standards
CLOVER Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete a show and tell activity with your club.• Exhibit something made in the county fair or other location.• Complete at least one Cloverbud workbook or project book.

JUNIOR 8-10 Year Olds	Performance Standards
BRONZE Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club).• Share project experiences by giving a presentation to your club.• Attend two 4-H activities or events outside of the club.• Participate in one service project.• Complete one record book.
SILVER Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club).• Share project experiences by giving a presentation to your club.• Attend three different 4-H activities or events outside of the club.• Participate in two service projects.• Participate in one competition/exhibition.• Complete one record book.
GOLD Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club).• Share project experiences by giving a presentation to your club.• Attend three different 4-H activities or events outside of the club.• Participate in three different 4-H activities or events outside of the club.• Participate in three service projects.• Participate in two competitions/exhibitions.• Teach one club level activity.• Complete one record book.

INTERMEDIATE MEMBER 11-13 Year Olds	Performance Standards
BRONZE Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club). • Share project experiences by giving a presentation to your club. • Participate in two 4-H activities or events outside of the club. • Participate in one service project. • Complete one record book.
SILVER Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club). • Share project experiences by giving a presentation to your club. • Participate in three 4-H activities or events outside of the club. • Participate in two different service projects. • Participate in one competition/exhibition. • Complete one record book.
GOLD Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club). • Share project experiences by giving a presentation to your club. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in three 4-H activities or events outside of the club. • Participate in three different service projects. • Participate in two different competitions/exhibitions. • Give a 4-H talk to a community group. • Teach one club level activity or workshop. • Complete one record book.
EMERALD Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club). • Share project experiences by giving a presentation to your club. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in five 4-H activities or events outside of the club. • Participate in three different service projects. • Lead a service project. <i>(must be approved by Club Leader)</i> • Participate in four different competitions/exhibitions. • Give two 4-H talks to two different community groups. • Teach two club level activities or workshops. • Complete one record book.
May be used one time per person/year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • **WILDCARD/EXTRA CREDIT An Interview with one 4-H Alumni (<u>cannot</u> be a relative) about their experiences in 4-H can be substituted for <u>one</u> of the above requirements. A written report must be turned in to your leader and the 4-H Agent.

SENIOR LEVEL 14-18 Year Olds	Performance Standards
BRONZE Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club). • Share project experiences by giving a presentation to your club. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in two 4-H activities or events outside of the club. • Assist in one service project. • Participate in one competition/exhibition. • Complete one record book.
SILVER Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club). • Share project experiences by giving a presentation to your club. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in three 4-H activities or events outside of the club. • Assist in two different service projects. • Participate in three different competitions/exhibitions. • Teach one club level activity or workshop. • Complete one record book.
GOLD Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club). • Share project experiences by giving a presentation to your club. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in four 4-H activities or events outside of the club. • Assist in two different service projects. • Lead a service project. <i>(must be approved by Club Leader).</i> • Participate in four different competitions/exhibitions. • Give a 4-H talk to a community group. • Teach one club level activity or workshop. • Teach one County level activity or workshop. • Complete one record book.
EMERALD Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club). Independent members meet with mentor four times during the program year. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation to your club. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in five 4-H activities or events outside of the club. • Assist in two different service projects. • Lead two service projects <i>(must be approved by Club Leader).</i> • Participate in five different competitions/exhibitions. • Give two or more 4-H talks to two different community groups. • Teach two different club level activities or workshops. • Teach one county level (or beyond) classes or workshops. • Complete one record book. • Serve as a mentor for another 4-H'er and write up a summary of your mentorship experience.
*May be used one time per person/year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • **WILDCARD/EXTRA CREDIT** An Interview with one 4-H Alumni (<u>cannot</u> be a relative) about their experiences in 4-H can be substituted for <u>one</u> of the above requirements. A written report must be turned into the leader and the 4-H Agent.

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Definitions

4-H Talk: Promotional and informative talk about 4-H and/or your project area.

Achievement: Something accomplished successfully.

Activity: Non-competitive 4-H educational experiences.

Attend: To be present for the duration of the 4-H event or activity.

Club Level: 4-H event or activity that is coordinated by one or two clubs for their own members.

Community Group: Group of 10 or more people which represent the community as an organized unit.

Competition: 4-H Events in which awards are granted using standards &/or rankings.

County Level: 4-H event or activity that is coordinated or sanctioned through the county 4-H Office.

District Level: 4-H event or activity open to all counties within a 4-H District.

Exhibition: Opportunities where 4-H project work is exhibited, and no awards are granted for standards or rankings.

Mentor: Agent, volunteer or senior 4-H member sanctioned by the 4-H agent, which provides guidance to a less experienced 4-H member.

Participate: Actively engaged in the 4-H event or activity.

Project Book/Record Book: Complete record of 4-H member's project.

State Level: 4-H event or activity coordinated or sanctioned through the state 4-H Program.

Performance Standard: The criteria that needs to be completed to meet the standard. Each activity or event may only be reported once to meet a standard. For example, participating in an event can't count as both a competition and an activity, you must choose one or the other.

Achieving Standards of Excellence

Events and Activities Examples

The following list includes some examples of the events and activities that 4-H'ers can participate in throughout the 4-H year and should not be considered a comprehensive list. Other opportunities will also be made available through your club and county program. These are just examples. The 4-H agent makes the final decision on events and activities. Check your 4-H newsletter for additional activities to be announced.

Competitions/Exhibitions

- Share-The-Fun
- Fashion Revue
- Public Speaking
- Demonstrations
- Essay Contest
- Poster Contest
- Photo Contest
- Arts & Crafts Exhibit
- Animal Shows
- Judging Teams
- Fair Exhibits
- Bake Off

District or Higher-Level Events

- Area Horse Show
- State Horse Show
- Regional Fairs
- District Events
- Florida 4-H University
- Florida 4-H Legislature
- State Fair in Tampa
- State Judging Contests
- National Events or Contests

Activities

- Parades
- Workshops offered by the 4-H Office
- 4-H Activities at Community Festivals
- County Council
- Day Camps

Community Groups

- Kiwanis
- Rotary
- Church Groups
- Garden Club
- County Commission
- Homeowners Association
- PTA/PTO