



**MARION 4-H  
AWARDS AND  
RECOGNITION**

**Achieving Standards  
of Excellence**

**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



# 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.



# Achieving Standards of Excellence

## Member Options for Recognition *Performance Standard Awards*

**\*\*WILDCARD OPPORTUNITY CHOICES\*\*** (You may only use one or the other not both)

\*Submit a 11x14 inch poster about your 4-H project to the Marion County 4-H office by June 1, 2023. Poster should educate others about your 4-H project. Various art media such as markers, paint, colored pencils, & crayons can be used. Posters must include educational information not just pictures.

**OR**

\* Interview one 4-H Alumni (**cannot** be a relative) about their experiences in 4-H and submit a written report about the interview to the Marion 4-H Office by June 1, 2023.

One of these options can take the place of any one standard; except project book requirement.

**You may only use one Wildcard Option**

CLOVERBUD 5-7 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award
<b>CLOVER Award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a show and tell activity with your club.</li> <li>• Exhibit something made in the Cloverbud project.</li> <li>• Completed at least one Cloverbud project book.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clover</b> certificate</li> <li>• Special Cloverbud award or gift</li> <li>• Medallion</li> </ul>

JUNIOR 8-10 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award
<b>BRONZE Clover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish plans for member's project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings.</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>two</b> activities</li> <li>• Participate in <b>one</b> community service project.</li> <li>• Complete &amp; turn in <b>one</b> Junior project book.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clover certificate</li> <li>• <b>Bronze</b> level</li> <li>• Name announced at awards banquet</li> <li>• Medallion</li> </ul>

JUNIOR 8-10 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award
<b>SILVER Clover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish plans for member’s project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of four County Council meetings.</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>two</b> different activities.</li> <li>• Participate or lead <b>one</b> community service project.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>one</b> competitions/exhibition.</li> <li>• Complete &amp; turn in <b>one</b> Junior project book.</li> <li>• Teach <b>one</b> club or county level activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clover certificate <b>Silver</b> level</li> <li>• Name announced at awards banquet</li> <li>• 25 Clover Points</li> <li>• Medallion</li> </ul>
<b>GOLD Clover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish plans for member’s project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings.</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>three</b> different activities.</li> <li>• Participate or lead <b>two</b> community service projects.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>three</b> different competitions/exhibitions.</li> <li>• Complete &amp; turn in <b>two</b> Junior project books.</li> <li>• Teach <b>one</b> club or county level activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clover certificate <b>Gold</b> level</li> <li>• Name announced at awards banquet</li> <li>• 50 Clover Points</li> <li>• Medallion</li> </ul>
<b>EMERALD Clover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish plans for member’s project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings.</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>four</b> different activities.</li> <li>• Participate or lead <b>three</b> community service projects.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>four</b> different competitions/exhibitions.</li> <li>• Complete &amp; turn in three Junior project books.</li> <li>• Teach <b>one</b> club or county level activity.</li> <li>• Make a poster on <b>“My 4-H Experience.”</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clover certificate <b>Emerald</b> level</li> <li>• Name announced at awards banquet</li> <li>• 100 Clover Points</li> <li>• Medallion</li> </ul>

<b>INTERMEDIATE MEMBER</b> <b>11-13 Year Olds</b>	<b>Performance Standards</b>	<b>Award</b>
<b>BRONZE Clover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Plans for member’s project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings.</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>two</b> different activities.</li> <li>• Participate or lead <b>one</b> service project.</li> <li>• Complete &amp; turn in one Intermediate project book.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clover certificate <b>Bronze</b> level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name announced at awards banquet</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Medallion</li> </ul>
<b>SILVER Clover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Plans for member’s project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings.</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>three</b> different activities.</li> <li>• Participate or lead <b>one</b> community service project.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>two</b> different competitions/exhibitions.</li> <li>• Complete &amp; turn in one Intermediate project book.</li> <li>• Teach one club or county level activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clover certificate <b>Silver</b> level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name announced at awards banquet</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 25 Clover Points</li> <li>• Medallion</li> </ul>

<b>INTERMEDIATE MEMBER</b> <b>11-13 Year Olds</b>	<b>Performance Standards</b>	<b>Award</b>
<b>GOLD Clover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Plans for two member’s projects and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings.</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Serve on committee or hold an office.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>four</b> different activities.</li> <li>• Lead or participate in <b>two</b> different service projects.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>three</b> different competitions/exhibitions.</li> <li>• Give a 4-H talk to a community group.</li> <li>• Teach <b>one</b> club or county level activity or workshop.</li> <li>• Attend <b>one</b> District level event.</li> <li>• Complete &amp; turn in <b>two</b> Intermediate project books.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clover Certificate-<b>Gold</b> Level</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Name announced at Awards Banquet</p> <p style="text-align: center;">50 Clover points</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Medallion</p>
<b>EMERALD Clover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Plans for three member’s projects and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings.</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Serve on committee or hold an office.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>five</b> different activities.</li> <li>• Participate or lead <b>three</b> community service projects</li> <li>• Participate in <b>four</b> different competitions/exhibitions.</li> <li>• Give a 4-H talk to a community groups.</li> <li>• Teach <b>one</b> club level activities or workshops.</li> <li>• Teach <b>one</b> County level class or workshop.</li> <li>• Attend <b>one</b> District or higher-level events.</li> <li>• Complete &amp; turn in <b>two</b> Intermediate project books.</li> <li>• Write an essay on “Can One 4-H’er Really Make A Difference” and turn into the 4-H Agent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clover certificate <b>Emerald</b> level</li> <li>• Name announce at awards banquet</li> <li>• 100 Clover Points</li> <li>• Medallion</li> </ul>

SENIOR LEVEL 14-18 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award
<b>BRONZE Clover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Plans for member's project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club).</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>two</b> different activities.</li> <li>• Lead or participate in <b>one</b> community service project.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>one</b> competition/exhibition.</li> <li>• Complete &amp; turn in one Senior project book.</li> </ul>	<p>Clover Certificate- <b>Bronze</b> Level</p> <p>Name announced at the Awards Banquet</p> <p>Medallion</p>
<b>SILVER Clover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish plans for member's project and make report on projects to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings.</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Serve on committee or hold an office.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>three</b> different activities.</li> <li>• Lead or participate in <b>two</b> different service projects.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>two</b> different competition/exhibition.</li> <li>• Complete &amp; turn in one Senior project book.</li> </ul>	<p>Clover Certificate- <b>Silver</b> Level</p> <p>Name announced at Awards Banquet</p> <p>25 Clover points</p> <p>Medallion</p>

SENIOR LEVEL 14-18 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award
<p><b>GOLD Clover</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Plans for member’s project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings.</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Serve on committee or hold an office.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>four</b> different activities.</li> <li>• Lead or participate in <b>two</b> different community service projects</li> <li>• Participate in <b>three</b> different competitions/exhibitions.</li> <li>• Complete &amp; turn in two Senior 4-H project books or a Senior Portfolio &amp; one project book</li> <li>• Give a 4-H talk to a community group.</li> <li>• Teach <b>one</b> club level activity or workshop.</li> <li>• Teach <b>one</b> County level activity or workshop.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>one</b> District level or higher event.</li> </ul>	<p>Clover Certificate-<b>Gold</b> Level</p> <p>Name announced at Awards Banquet</p> <p>50 Clover points</p> <p>Medallion</p>
<p><b>EMERALD Clover</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Plans for member’s project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff.</li> <li>• Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings.</li> <li>• Share project experiences by giving a presentation.</li> <li>• Serve on committee or hold an office.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>six</b> different activities.</li> <li>• Lead or participate in <b>three</b> service projects</li> <li>• Give a 4-H talks to a community group.</li> <li>• Teach <b>two</b> different club level activities or workshops.</li> <li>• Teach <b>two</b> different County level (classes or workshops).</li> <li>• Participate in <b>four</b> different competitions/exhibitions.</li> <li>• Participate in <b>two</b> different District or higher level events.</li> <li>• Complete <b>three</b> Senior project books or an awards/ scholarship portfolio and two record books.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Write an essay on “Why or Why Not Is Record Keeping important in 4-H?” and turn into the 4-H Agent.</li> </ul>	<p>Clover Certificate-<b>Emerald</b> Level</p> <p>Name announced at Awards Banquet</p> <p>100 Clover points</p> <p>Medallion</p>



# Achieving Standards of Excellence 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:** Supplemental materials specific to a project usually included in a completed record book.

**Report/Essay:** 5 paragraphs in length with a maximum of 500 words which includes an introduction, body and conclusion.

**Service Project:** an event that benefits a group or helps meet a need within the community.

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

# 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 emails and the Marion County 4-H Facebook page for other opportunities to be announced throughout the year.

**\*\*Event, competition, or activity may only be used once. (Some fit in multiple categories but may only be used once.\*\***

<u>Competitions/ Exhibitions</u>	<u>District or Higher Level Events</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrations</li><li>• Public Speaking</li><li>• Photo Contest</li><li>• Graphic Design Contest</li><li>• Share-The-Fun</li><li>• Fashion Revue</li><li>• Exhibit Days</li><li>• Marion Home Arts</li><li>• Animal Fever</li><li>• Fair Exhibits</li><li>• Animal Shows</li><li>• Judging Teams</li><li>• Poster Art Contest</li><li>• Beekeeping Essay Contest</li><li>• Dairy Poster Contest</li><li>• Forest Ecology Contest</li><li>• Archery Match</li><li>• Insectathon</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional Fairs</li><li>• District VII Events</li><li>• Florida 4-H U Roadshow Workshops</li><li>• Florida 4-H University</li><li>• Florida 4-H Legislature</li><li>• 4-H District VII Council</li><li>• State Fair in Tampa</li><li>• State Judging Contests</li><li>• National Events or Contests</li><li>• LAW Weekend</li><li>• Area or State Horse Show</li><li>• Hippology</li><li>• Horticulture ID Contest</li><li>• Life Smarts/Food Challenge</li><li>• State 4-H Council/Executive Board</li><li>• State 4-H Ambassador</li><li>• Tailgate Contest</li><li>• Insectathon</li><li>• Nature Poetry Contest</li><li>• 4-H Day at the Capitol</li></ul>
<u>Activities</u>	<u>Community Groups</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parades</li><li>• Workshops offered by the 4-H Office</li><li>• Seminole Garden</li><li>• 4-H Activities at Community Festivals</li><li>• Tractor Supply Paper Clover campaigns</li><li>• Day Camps</li><li>• County 4-H Camp</li><li>• County Council</li><li>• Forest Ecology Clinic</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kiwanis</li><li>• Rotary</li><li>• Church Groups</li><li>• Garden Clubs</li><li>• County Commission</li><li>• Homeowners Association</li><li>• Community Association</li><li>• PTA/PTO</li><li>• School clubs or organizations</li></ul>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What Are Performance Standards?

Performance standards are a set of guidelines for member participation; in Florida, there are several options for youth and/or clubs to work toward. As members or groups complete the levels of standard, they are presented an award.

### What Is Expected of 4-H Members?

The various levels of standards are listed in each age category by the following levels: **BRONZE**, **SILVER**, **GOLD** and **EMERALD** Clover Awards. The expectations become greater as the 4-H member matures through Cloverleaf, Junior, and Senior levels. There are four (4) levels of 4-H achievement recognition in each category. The levels of standards are based on participation in the 4-H program on the County, District, State, and National 4-H events, as well as Leadership, Citizenship and Community Service project areas.

### Why Are Performance Standards a Part of the 4-H Program?

Performance standards make youth aware of the opportunities available in the 4-H program and to encourage members to become active participants.

### Who awards the members for achieving performance standards?

The club's volunteer leader will verify the achievement of the standard when the 4-H member has completed their work. Additional recognition will be given to members at the county level based on the performance standard achieved.

### What is awarded to the members?

4-H members at each age level should have age appropriate awards. It is suggested that the County Office provide awards based on their ability to recognize youth. An easy way for counties to recognize youth might be to take the following suggestions:

- **CLOVER:** Cloverbuds will receive a Clover Certificate, Cloverbud Award, a medallion, and name announced at 4-H awards banquet.
- **BRONZE Clover:** Member will receive a BRONZE Clover Certificate, medallion, and name announced at the 4-H Awards Banquet
- **SILVER Clover:** Member will receive certificate, medallion, 25 Clover points, and name announced at the 4-H Awards Banquet.
- **GOLD Clover:** Member will receive a Gold Clover Certificate, medallion, 50 Clover points, and name announced at the 4-H Awards Banquet.
- **EMERALD Clover:** Member will receive an EMERALD Clover Certificate, medallion, 100 Clover points, and name announced at the 4-H Awards Banquet.

### When Are These Awards Given to Members?

These awards are presented during the annual Marion County 4-H Awards Banquet.

## Are Clubs Eligible for Performance Standards Recognition?

Clubs may strive to meet specific standards of performance just as many club members will work to achieve standards. Each of the four levels of standards are available for clubs to achieve.

## What Other Types of Recognition Are Associated with Achieving Standards?

In addition to performance standards, 4-H members may also be recognized for Achievement of Standards through the preparation or demonstration of a product or behavior that is evaluated by an expert and deemed to meet the pre-determined standards for a quality product or behavior. These standards are often a part of the judging process seen at fairs and exhibits. Some examples of these pre-determined standards are the scorecards used for 4-H demonstration/illustrated talks, share the fun, public speaking or fashion revue. Copies of these standard scorecards can be found on our website. Additionally, many 4-H programs provide the pre-determined standards used for products for exhibition.

There are several systems of recognizing youth against these standards, an often used one is the Danish System of blue, red and white awards. The Danish System of ribbons is usually interpreted to mean there is no special formula about the number of blue, red or white ribbons to be given. Quality, measured against product standards and fulfillment of exhibit requirements determine the ranking. An accepted standard for ribbons are as follows:

- **BLUE** overall the work is of high quality. Excellent.
- **RED** overall the work is of average quality. Good.
- **WHITE** overall the work is below average quality. Fair or Needs Improvement.

The Florida 4-H Events website provides listing of all the rules and regulations for district, state and national competitive and non-competitive 4-H events and activities. Specific rules and regulations for National competitions are available from the Florida 4-H Events Coordinator.