



**PUTNAM 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 of 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 Putnam County 4-H office by the first working day in June. 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. Poster must not exceed the 11 x 14 inch size or it will not be accepted.

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 Putnam 4-H Office by first working day in June.

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

You may only use one Wildcard Option

CLOVERBUD 5-7 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award
CLOVER Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a show and tell activity with your club or family. • Exhibit something made in the cloverbud project. • Complete 1 cloverbud project book with project report. • Attend at least 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings during the year. • Make a poster about your 4-H year. Size 8.5 x11 -11x14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover certificate • Special Cloverbud award or gift • Medallion
Clover Friends 8-18 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award
Clover Friend Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share project experience with presentation or show & Tell • Attend at least 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings during the year. • Participate in 2 activities • Participate in 2 community service projects. • Participate in 1 contest/exhibition. • Complete 1 project report with 1 project book. • Make a poster about your 4-H year. Size 8.5 x11 -11x14 	

JUNIOR 8-10 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award
Bronze Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings during year. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Participate in 2 activities • Participate in 1 community service project. • Complete & turn in project report with 1 junior book. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronze level certificate • Name announced at awards banquet • Bronze level year pin
Silver Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Participate in 2 different activities. • Teach 1 Club or County Level Activity • Participate or lead 1 community service project. • Participate in 1 competitions/exhibition. • Complete & turn project report with 2 Junior books. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover certificate Silver level • Name announced at awards banquet • 50 Clover Points • Medallion
Gold Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Participate in 3 different activities. • Teach 1 Club or County Level Activity • Participate or lead 2 community service projects. • Participate in 3 competitions/exhibition. • Complete & turn in project report with 3 Junior project books. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover certificate Gold level • Name announced at awards banquet • 50 Clover Points • Medallion
Emerald Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Participate in 4 different activities. • Teach 1 Club or County Level Activity • Participate or lead 3 community service projects. • Participate in 4 competitions/exhibition. • Complete & turn in project report with 3 Junior project books. • Make & turn in "My 4-H Experience" Poster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover certificate Emerald level • Name announced at awards banquet • 100 Clover Points • Medallion

INTERMEDIATE MEMBER 11-13 years old	Performance Standards	Award
<p>BRONZE Clover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover certificate Bronze level • Name announced at awards banquet • Bronze clover year pin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 6 club meetings . Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings during year. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Participate in 2 different activities. • Participate or lead 1 service project. • Complete & turn in project report with 1 Intermediate project book. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover certificate Bronze level • Name announced at awards banquet • Bronze clover year pin
<p>SILVER Clover</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings during year. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Participate in 3 different activities. • Participate or lead 1 community service project. • Participate in 2 different competitions/exhibitions. • Complete & turn in project report with 2 Intermediate project books. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover certificate Silver level • Name announced at awards banquet • 25 clover points • Medallion

INTERMEDIATE MEMBER 11-13 years old	Performance Standards	Award
<p>GOLD Clover</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in 4 different activities. • Lead or participate in 2 different service projects. • Participate in 3 different competitions/exhibitions. • Give a 4-H talk to a community group. • Teach 1 club or county level activity or workshop. • Attend 1 District level event. • Complete & turn in project report with 3 Intermediate project books 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover certificate Gold level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name announced at awards banquet • 50 clover points • Medallion
<p>EMERALD Clover</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings during year. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in 5 different activities. • Participate or lead 3 community service projects • Participate in 4 different competitions/exhibitions. • Give a 4-H talk to a community groups. • Teach 1 club level activities or workshops. • Teach 1 County level class or workshop. • Attend 1 District or higher-level events. • Complete & turn in 3 Intermediate project books. • Write an essay on Intermediate emerald level topic for year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover certificate Emerald level • Name announced at Awards Banquet • 100 Clover Points • Medallion

SENIOR LEVEL 14-18 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award
BRONZE Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 6 club meetings (or number established by club). Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings during year. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Participate in 2 different activities. • Lead or participate in 1 community service project. • Participate in 1 competition/exhibition. • Complete & turn project report with 1 Senior project book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover Certificate-Bronze Level • Name announced at the Awards Banquet • Bronze clover year pin
SILVER Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings during the year • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in 3 different activities. • Lead or participate in 2 different service projects. • Participate in 2 different competition/exhibition. • Teach 1 club level class or workshop • Complete & turn in project report with 2 Senior project books 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover Certificate-Silver Level • Name announced at Awards Banquet • 25 Clover points • Medallion

SENIOR 14-18 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award
GOLD Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings during year. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in 4 different activities. • Lead or participate in 2 different community service projects • Participate in 3 different competitions/exhibitions. • Complete & turn in project report with 3 Senior project books • Give a 4-H talk to a community group. • Teach 2 club level activity or workshops. • Teach 1 County level activity or workshop. • Participate in 1 District level or higher event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover Certificate-Gold Level • Name announced at Awards Banquet • 50 Clover points • Medallion
EMERALD Clover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 6 club meetings. Independent members must attend a minimum of 4 County Council meetings during year. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in 6 different activities. • Lead or participate in 3 service projects • Give a 4-H talks to a community group. • Teach 2 different club level activities or workshops. • Teach 2 different County level (classes or workshops. • Participate in 4 different competitions/exhibitions. • Participate in 2 different District or higher level events • Complete & turn in 3 Senior 4-H project books with project reports • Write an essay on Senior emerald level essay topic of year 	<p style="text-align: center;">Clover Certificate- Emerald Level</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Name announced at Awards Banquet</p> <p style="text-align: center;">100 Clover points</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 Putnam 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.****

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Competitions/ Exhibitions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrations ● Public Speaking ● Photo Contest ● Graphic Design contest ● Share-The-Fun ● Fashion Revue ● Exhibit Days ● Putnam Fair Arts & Crafts Exhibit ● Fair Exhibits ● Animal Shows ● Judging Teams ● Berry Project ● Pullet Project ● Poster Art Contest ● Holiday Bake-off Contest ● Beekeeping Essay Contest ● Dairy Poster Contest ● Forest Ecology Contest ● Archery match ● Insectathon 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>District or Higher Level Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional Fairs ● District VI Events ● Florida 4-H University ● Florida 4-H Legislature ● State Fair in Tampa ● State Judging Contests ● National Events or Contests ● Marine Ecology Event ● LAW Weekend ● Area or State Horse Show ● Hippology ● Life Smarts ● State 4-H Council/ Executive Board ● State 4-H Ambassador ● Tailgate Contest ● Insectathon ● Nature Poetry Contest ● 4-H Day at the Capitol
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parades ● Workshops offered by the 4-H Office ● Berry Project meetings ● Pullet Project ● 4-H Activities at Community Festivals ● Tri-county Potato Project ● Tractor Supply Paper Clover campaigns ● Day Camps ● County 4-H camp ● County Council ● Forest Ecology Clinic 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Community Groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kiwanis ● Rotary ● Church Groups ● Garden Clubs ● County Commisiion ● Homeowners Association ● Community Association ● PTA/ PTO ● School clubs or organizations

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, bronze clover year pin, 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 Putnam 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.