



FLORIDA 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. 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

CLOVERBUD 5-7 Year Olds	Performance Standards
CLOVER Award	• Complete a show and tell activity with your club. • Exhibit something made in the cloverbud project. • Complete at least one cloverbud workbook or project book. • Complete a 4-H Cloverbud Project Summary.

JUNIOR 8-10 Year Olds	Performance Standards
BRONZE Clover	• Establish plans for member's project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff. • Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club). Independent members must meet with mentor a minimum of four times during the program year. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Attend two activities. • Participate in one service project. • Complete one record book.
SILVER Clover	• Establish plans for member's project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff. • Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number established by club). Independent members must meet with mentor a minimum of four times during the program year. • Share project experiences by giving a presentation. • Attend three different activities. • Participate in two service projects. • Participate in two different competitions/exhibitions. • Complete one record book.

JUNIOR 8-10 Year Olds	Performance Standards
GOLD Clover	• Establish plans for member's project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff. • 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. • Attend three different activities. • Participate in three different activities. • Participate in three service projects. • Participate in four different competitions/exhibitions. • Complete two record books. • Teach one club level activity. • Make a poster on <i>"My 4-H Experience."</i>

INTERMEDIATE MEMBER 11-13 Year Olds	Performance Standards
BRONZE Clover	• Establish Plans for member's project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff. • 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. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in two different activities. • Participate in one service project. • Complete one record book.
SILVER Clover	• Establish Plans for member's project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff. • 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. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in three different activities. • Participate in two different service projects. • Participate in two different competitions/exhibitions. • Complete one record book.

INTERMEDIATE MEMBER 11-13 Year Olds	Performance Standards
GOLD Clover	• 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. • 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. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in five different activities. • Participate in three different service projects. • Participate in five different competitions/exhibitions. • Give a 4-H talk to a community group. • Teach one club level activity or workshop. • Write an essay on <i>"Can One 4-H'er Really Make A Difference"</i> and turn into your leader and the 4-H Agent. • Attend one District level event. • Complete two record books.
EMERALD Clover	• 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. • 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. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in six different activities. • Participate in three different service projects. • Lead a service project. (Must be approved by Club Leader) • Participate in six different competitions/exhibitions. • Give two 4-H talks to two different community groups. • Teach two club level activities or workshops. • Teach one County level activity or workshop. • Attend two different District or higher-level events. • Complete two record books. • Write an essay on "Can One 4-H'er Really Make A Difference" and turn into your leader and the 4-H Agent.
May be used one time per person/year	**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 one of the above requirements . A written report must be turned in to your leader and the 4-H Agent.

See Additional Supporting Resources:

- Cloverbud Award Application Form
- Junior Award Application Form
- Intermediate Award Application Form
- Senior Award Application Form
- Definitions
- Events and Activities Example Form

SENIOR LEVEL 14-18 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award Suggestions
BRONZE Clover	• Establish Plans for member's project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff. • 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. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in two different activities. • Assist in one service project. • Participate in a competition/exhibition. • Complete one record book.	Clover Certificate- BRONZE Level Name printed in the 4-H newsletter
SILVER Clover	• Establish Plans for member's project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff. • 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. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in three different activities. • Assist in two different service projects. • Participate in three different competition/exhibition. • Complete one record book.	Clover Certificate- SILVER Level Name printed in the 4-H newsletter

SENIOR LEVEL 14-18 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award Suggestions
GOLD Clover	• Establish Plans for member's project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff. • 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. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in five different activities. • Assist in two different service projects. • Lead a service project. • Participate in six different competitions/exhibitions. • Complete two record books or Florida 4-H scholarship/award trip application and a record book. • Give a 4-H talk to a community group. • Teach one club level activity or workshop. • Teach one County level activity or workshop. • Write an essay on <i>"Why Is creating a sense of belonging important in 4-H?"</i> and turn into your leader and the 4-H Agent. • Participate in two different District level or higher event.	Clover Certificate- GOLD Level Name printed the 4-H newsletter

SENIOR LEVEL 14-18 Year Olds	Performance Standards	Award Suggestions
EMERALD Clover	• Establish Plans for member's project and make report on project to leader. Independent members must present completed Project Plan to 4-H staff. • 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. • Serve on committee or hold an office. • Participate in seven different activities. • Assist in two different service projects. • Lead two service projects (<i>must be approved by Club Leader</i>). • Give two or more 4-H talks to two different community groups. • Teach two different club level activities or workshops. • Teach two different County level (or beyond) classes or workshops. • Participate in seven different competitions/exhibitions. • Participate in three different District or higher level events. • Write an essay on "Why Is creating a sense of belonging important in 4-H?" and turn into your leader and the 4-H Agent. • Complete four record books or Florida 4-H scholarship/award trip application and two record books. • Serve as a mentor for another 4-H'er.	Clover Certificate- EMERALD Level Name printed in the 4-H newsletter
*May be used one time per person/year	**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 one 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.

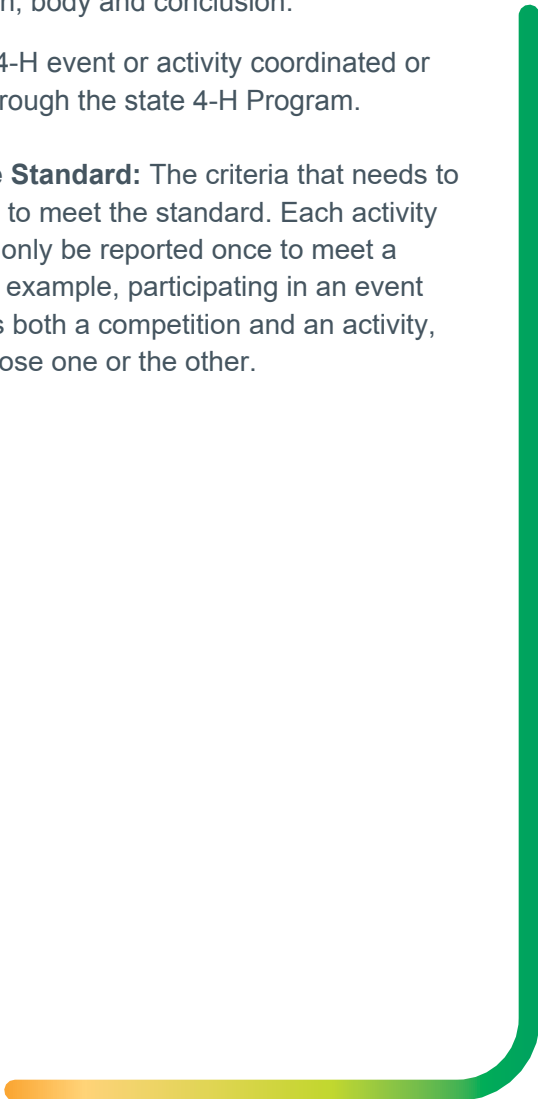
Project Book: Supplemental materials specific to a project usually included in a completed record book.

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

Essay: A maximum of 500 words which includes an introduction, body and conclusion.

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
- Exhibit Days
- Public Speaking
- Demonstrations
- Beekeeping Essay Contest
- Dairy Poster Contest
- Poster Art Contest
- Photo Contest
- Arts & Crafts Exhibit
- Animal Shows
- Judging Teams
- Fair Exhibits

District or Higher Level Events

- Area Horse Show
- State Horse Show
- Regional Fairs
- District Events
- Florida 4-H University
- Florida 4-H Legislature
- District 4-H Council
- State Fair in Tampa
- State Judging Contests
- National Events or Contests
- District Jr. Congress
- Marine Ecology Event
- LAW Weekend

Consumer Choices

- Life Smarts
- Hippology
- Bake-Off
- State 4-H Council/ Executive Board
- State 4-H Ambassador

Activities

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

Community Groups

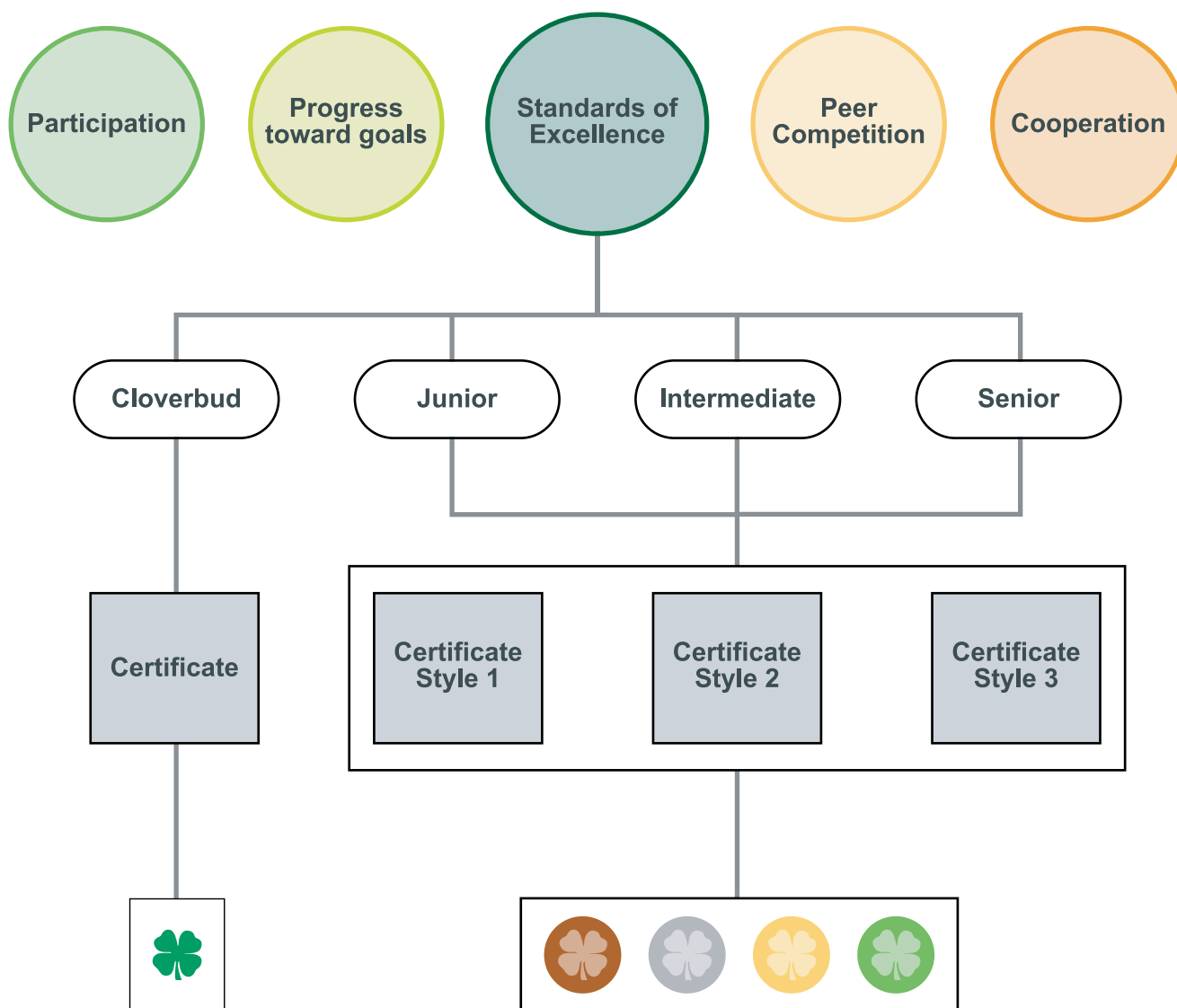
- Kiwanis
- Rotary
- Church Groups
- Garden Club
- County Commission
- Homeowners Association
- PTA/PTO

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? - There are levels of standards listed in each age category. The expectations become greater as the 4-H member matures through Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior levels. There are different 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. The standards of excellence color levels are cumulative. 4-H'ers must achieve all of the requirements for each color level in order to progress to the next.

Florida 4-H Award Matrix



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 or state 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:

- **BRONZE Clover:** Member will receive a BRONZE Clover Certificate and name printed in the 4-H newsletter.
- **SILVER Clover:** Member will receive a SILVER Clover Certificate, Clover points and name printed in the 4-H newsletter.
- **GOLD Clover:** Member will receive a Gold Clover Certificate, Clover points, and name printed in the 4-H newsletter. An invitation to age specific activities may be included.
- **EMERALD Clover:** Member will receive an EMERALD Clover Certificate, Clover points, name printed in the 4-H newsletter and name in a news article submitted to the local newspaper for publication. An invitation to age specific activities may be included.

When Are These Awards Given to Members?

These awards might be presented during a 4-H meeting or during a special recognition program.

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 in the appendix of this module. Additionally, many 4-H programs provide the pre-determined standards use 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.