

Marion County 4-H Program

4-H Records. Why bother!?

Record keeping is one of the unique 4-H learning opportunities that begins a life-time of possibilities! Too often in the past, 4-H parents and volunteers have only considered record-keeping as a means toward winning awards. Though that is sometimes the case, winning awards is **NOT** the most important pay-off!

4-H members throughout history have seldom been interested in taking the time to complete a 4-H record. It almost always requires a parent or other adult—one that sees and understands the long-term value of completing a record form, to urge, encourage, and even—**insist** that a member complete a 4-H record at any level. Fortunately, there are different levels of 4-H records and differing levels of recognition that go with each (see reverse side of this sheet).

Teens and pre-teens often set goals for themselves lower than they are capable of attaining. That is just a developmental fact for most young people. Here again, it takes a caring adult to help members set high goals for themselves, then encourage and even insist that they strive to reach those goals. It is well known too, that the younger a member is when they start doing 4-H records, the easier it is as you go along. That is a known fact!

4-H'ers that do records annually (at least) have these skills at levels much higher than peers in school, or 4-H peers that do not complete 4-H records:

- **Are able to set personal goals.**
- **Able to plan and do things to meet those goals.**
- **Able to collect and organize information.**
- **Better able to accept and follow through with responsibility.**
- **Better able to express themselves verbally and in writing.**
- **We know that 4-H members that complete annual 4-H records are far more likely to be successful throughout school and beyond. In addition to being more successful, they are more confident in school and are more likely to find a rewarding job as a teen AND as an adult.**



Any of the above is a pretty nifty “gift” to give your 4-H member, not to mention the whole list! And there is the possibility of some pretty cool medals, trips and scholarships for your 4-H member that is folded into the mix along the way.

Completing 4-H records gives a 4-H member some true power in their lives.

So, “**4-H Records—why bother?**” Now you know.

Marion County 4-H Records and Award Applications

	Year Completion	Project Recognition	Regional Recognition	Special local awards if eligible	State Recognition if eligible
Project form - no story	X				
Project form w/story	X	X			
Marion Co Achievement Report	X	X	X	X	
State Level 1, 2, 3 form	X	X	X	X	X

Special local recognition

- I Dare You
- Outstanding Member awards
- First Year Member award

Still requiring special forms

- Dennison Award
- Friend of 4-H
- Distinguished Service Award

State Recognition

- Regional Level 1 award (8-10)
- Regional Level 2 award (11-13)
- Regional Level 3 eligibility (14+)
- State 4-H Scholarships