Fresno County 4-H Emerald Star

Fresno County 4-H Youth Development Program

Purpose:
The purpose of the Emerald Star Program is to provide leadership opportunities to 4-H members who wish to share his/her skills and knowledge in any area of 4-H to help others.

Another purpose is to prepare 4-H members for All Star responsibilities should they wish to become a Fresno County All Star at a later date. (Completing an Emerald Star Project prior to start of service as All Star is a requirement. This becomes effective for the 2015-2016 4-H Program year).

Those members wishing to apply for a "Homer Williams" Scholarship must have completed an Emerald Star Project.

What is a 4-H Emerald Star?
In general, the Emerald Star project's purpose includes:
1. Providing an opportunity for 4-H members to develop projects in their community or in 4-H beyond the club level
2. Improving, creating, and expanding 4-H programs
3. Helping individual 4-H members grow and improve in the areas of organization, leadership, and project planning

Applicant Requirements:

1. Be at least 13 years of age by December 31st
2. Completed at least 2 years of 4-H as a regular 4-H member
3. Secure an adult mentor to assist your work (must be non family)

Additional Requirements:

1. Members who have previously been selected as All Stars or State Ambassadors are not eligible for the Emerald Star Rank.

2. Emerald Star candidates may work on a project as an individual or on a team with one other individual. In the case of team projects, each candidate must be working on the same star rank. Mixed Emerald/Ruby Star projects will not be approved.

3. The Emerald Star project must be completed in one calendar year.

What Does Completing An Emerald Star Mean?

Emerald Star is different in many aspects from the other star ranks. Emerald Star is based on a leadership plan and how it is completed. Emerald Star is a process in which plans are developed with prior approval. These plans are to be of proposed leadership on a multi-club, county, or community level.

Important factors to consider in selecting an Emerald Star Plan:

- Is it useful, needed, and not duplicating existing programs?
- Does it demonstrate your leadership beyond the project and club level?
- Is the scope (cost, time, skills, and other resources needed) manageable?
- Is the time schedule feasible?
- If the activity needs financing, how will you obtain the needed funds?

Possible Topics for Emerald Star Projects:

Topics for Emerald Star Plans can vary. Generally they fit into the follow categories-

- ***Projects***
  Examples: Be a junior/teen leader for a project that involves several clubs or groups, lead a countywide project
- ***Events***
  Examples: Work on an event committee, hold a project show or field day, hold a judging activity, conduct a project workshop
- ***Publications***
  Examples: Project manuals, workbook
- ***Educational resources***
  Examples: Make a power point or video presentation, make leader teaching aids

Please remember that Emerald Star Projects are NOT limited to the examples given above.

Revised & Approved by Council: August 2013

4-H Emerald Star Process & Check List

Entrance

_____ Step 1: Select a topic

* work as an individual or in a team of 2
* if working as a team member, each member must be working on the same star rank

_____ Step 2: Select a Mentor

* Mentor provides advice and help as needed
* Mentor must be a non-family member

_____ Step 3: Submit ENTRANCE paperwork to the 4-H Office

* Submit paperwork to the 4-H Office by one of the following dates:
  November 1st
  February 1st
  April 1st

* Entrance paperwork includes:
  ~ Emerald Star Application
  ~ Leadership Project Plan & Report for Emerald Star Candidates- Section I and II.
  ~ Recommendation forms, pages 1 and 2

If working as a team, each team member must submit their own paperwork.

Once paperwork has been submitted, applicant will be contacted to arrange an interview. Interviews will be held the same evening as a Council meeting.

____ Step 4: Interview

* Dress- business attire or 4-H uniform
* Allow approx.15-20 minutes for interview
* Bring a copy of applications and Plan & Report for personal reference (optional)

Plan in Action

_____ Step 5: Proceed with Emerald Star Project

* Submit a *Guidelines* article regarding project (by 20th of month) to the 4-H Office.
* Conduct Emerald Star Project
* Make a Display Board of Emerald Star Project
  ~ use a Science (tri-fold, free standing) Board
  ~ board should be self-explanatory
  ~ include pictures of Emerald Star project
* Each Emerald Star Project must include a formal evaluation from those that benefited or participated/attended the project/activity/event.
  i.e.- pretest and post-test written questionnaire/evaluation
  Be creative!!!

Exit

_____ Step 6: Submit EXIT paperwork to the 4-H Office

* Submit Exit paperwork to 4-H Office by one of the following dates:
  November 1st
  February 1st
  April 1st
* Exit paperwork includes:
  ~ Plan & Report for Emerald Star Candidates- Section III items A-G
  ~ Exit Evaluations (2)

1 Evaluation by applicant's parent/guardian
1 Evaluation by mentor/advisor
(Exit Evaluations should be placed in a sealed envelope and submitted with Exit paperwork)

If working as a team, each team member must submit their own paperwork.

Once paperwork has been submitted, applicant will be contacted to arrange an interview. Interviews will be held the same evening as a Council meeting.

_____ Step 7: Interview

* Dress in business attire or 4-H uniform
* Bring the completed Plan & Report for personal reference
* Bring display board of your Emerald Star Project
* Evaluation and results

_____Step 8: Presentation to Leader's Council

* Same evening as your Exit Interview
* Orally present information to Council explaining Emerald Star Project from start to finish
* Refer to Display Board as an illustration to support oral explanation
* Presentation will last approx. 5 minutes including questions from audience

_____ Step 9: Exhibit of Display Board

* Display board MUST be exhibited at a county event such as 4-H Fair, Achievement Night, Judging Day, Presentation Day etc.

_____ Step 10. Attend County Achievement Night

* Attend County Achievement Night to receive Emerald Star

Emerald Star Application

Step 1 -- To apply complete the following steps:

1. Complete and submit Emerald Star Application Form and Leadership Project Plan and Report Form.
2. Request an interview time prior to a County Council meeting.
3. After plan approval, write and submit an article for *Guidelines* to advertise your project.
4. Conduct project.
5. Submit final report including a Leadership Project Completion Report Form.
6. Present project and outcome to County Council.
7. Receive your Star at Achievement Night.

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Address _____ Home Ph_____

Cell Ph._____ Mentor Ph. _____

Email Address _____

Club _____ Year in 4-H _____ Year in Leadership Project _____

Suggested time(s) for interview: _____

1. Describe the leadership project you would like to conduct as an Emerald Star:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. Goals and Objectives -

a.) What do you want to do and accomplish? What will you learn?

_____
_____
_____
_____

b.) What will others do and learn from this project?

_____
_____
_____
_____

3. How do you feel you are prepared to conduct this project?

_____
_____
_____
_____

4. Who will be your mentor for this project?*

_____

_____

Parent/Guardian's Signature

_____

Member's Signature

_____

Mentor's Signature

RETURN THIS FORM TO THE 4-H OFFICE

***Mentor/advisor and parent/guardian to send a written confidential recommendation form to 4-H office prior to the interview.**