



IMPERIAL COUNTY 4-H EMERALD STAR INFORMATION SHEET



WHAT IS AN EMERALD STAR?

The Emerald Star is a county award for service to the community and/or to 4-H. Its purpose is to encourage older members to attain a higher level of leadership development through an individual program of planning, action and evaluation/reflection; promote the development of mentoring relationships between a member and leaders; and to create opportunities to conduct 4-H activities outside the community club which will benefit the local community and/or 4-H as a whole. The Project must provide a service above and beyond the normal scope of a project (i.e., a County Field Day, a teaching video, a written project manual). The Emerald Star Plan must be a total of 6 hours or more to qualify.

WHAT DOES AN EMERALD STAR APPLICANT DO?

An Emerald Star applicant must present a plan of proposed leadership to a selection panel. They must complete the attached plan by the current year's County Record Book due date; submit a self evaluation on their plan (a one page summary after completion). Applicant(s) must have an Adult leader is designated as Emerald Star Advisor (member may enlist their own Advisor).

WHO MAY APPLY FOR EMERALD STAR? (QUALIFICATIONS)

- Any 4-H member that is in 9th grade or above (or is 15 years old or older as of January 1 of the 4-H year) and who have completed 2 years in 4-H.
- May be an individual or team effort, but everybody in the team must meet first two criteria

HOW DO I APPLY FOR EMERALD STAR?

- Prepare an Emerald Star Plan and Application and submit it to the 4-H Office by the date set by the Imperial County 4-H Leader's Copuncil (usually in October) If a group is working on the plan or project, each individual involved should prepare an application and reflect their role in the overall plan.
- Each applicant (team or individual) must meet with their Emerald Star Advisor to discuss the application and presented plan.
- Each Applicant must turn in their application and plan to the 4-H office by due date set by the Imperial County 4-H Leader's Council.
- If the application is accepted the applicant(s) will carry out their Emerald Star Project.
- After completion of the project, a written self-evaluation (a summary, answering predefined questions), optional pictures/supporting materials and the Emerald Star Application will be completed and returned to the 4-H Office by the County Record Book Judging date. The Emerald Star advisor must approve and sign the final report in order for the applicant(s) to receive their Emerald Star.
- Emerald Stars will be announced at Achievement Night/Star Awards.
- The Emerald Star Selection Panel will decide which applicants will become EMERALD STARS. There is no quota of Emerald Stars to be selected.

AWARDS

Each Emerald Star award winner will receive an Emerald Star patch for their hat.

WHAT SHOULD THE PLAN BE?

The applicant must present a plan of proposed leadership to be offered on a multi-club basis, county or area level or in the community during the following year. Some examples are:

- Hold a project workshop or field day.
- Coordinate a judging contest.
- Make or improve a slide/video or information pamphlet for County use. (Should be in an area where there is a need)
- Hold a mini fair for non traditional 4-H audience.
- Prepare or update project materials.

Please remember these are only example ideas. BE CREATIVE! Your plan can be something that has been done before and needs to be repeated or something that no one has ever done, but fills a need in the 4-H Program or community.

IMPORTANT FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN DECIDING ON AN EMERALD STAR PLAN:

1. Is it something useful, something that is needed?
2. Does it provide a chance for you to demonstrate leadership beyond the project level in your own club?
3. Is it a project you can handle -- area, cost, numbers, time, skills you have or can acquire, people involved?
4. Has a time schedule been prepared that is feasible?
5. Review plan with your Advisor before submitting to committee.



IMPERIAL COUNTY 4-H EMERALD STAR APPLICATION AND PLAN



Instructions: Please answer the following questions. You may use 1 - 2 pages to complete your plan. Be brief and selective. Include all 4-H years.

Name _____ Phone _____

Years in 4-H (including current year) _____ Club _____

Birthdate _____ Grade in School _____

Title of Plan or Project: _____

Individual Plan _____ Group Plan _____ (If group plan all applications must be turned in together)

- 1. Goals and Objectives -- What do you want to accomplish? (What will you learn and what will others do and learn? What need is this particular program going to satisfy and why do you want to work on this particular program?)
2. What resources will you use (money, facilities, equipment, people, etc.)?
3. What method will you use to complete your plan (Field Day, Video Tape, Slides, etc.)?
4. How will you know your project was successful and useful?
5. My time schedule is included on the following page.

Signed _____ Emerald Star Applicant

_____ Date

Signed _____ Emerald Star Advisor

_____ Date



**IMPERIAL COUNTY 4-H EMERALD STAR
SELF EVALUATION**



Name _____

Phone _____

Years in 4-H (including current year) _____

Club _____

Birthdate _____

Grade in School _____

Title of Plan or Project: _____

Instructions: Please answer the following questions in essay format and attach your summary essay to this form. You may use **1 - 2 pages** to complete your summary.

How did you complete your plan? (What happened, what did you do?)

What did you learn from this project or plan?

If there were participants, what did they learn? How many attended?

What were the highlights and low points of your plan/project?

If you could go back to the beginning and start fresh, what changes would you have made to your plan?

Please attach your completed Plan of Action with your Self Evaluation.

Signed _____
Emerald Star Applicant

Date

Signed _____
Emerald Star Advisor

Date

We completed the plan on Sunday, March 2nd at about 6:30pm. This is when we held the Small Animal Round Robin Workshop. Even though we have had additional meetings to evaluate our plan this is when we actually completed the physical part of our plan of action. My part of the workshop was the Cavy table. I prepared materials for the members that would be coming to our station. I have included a copy of them in the supplemental section of our binder. I was with Rachel Evans at the cavy station. We included FFA as well as 4-H winners from the 1st and 2nd place winners of each of the small animal species.

We started the winners of each species at their own species. Our plan was that they would be at each station 10 minutes then rotate to the next station. We tried to use the winning animals of each species so that they would get a chance to at least work once with that animal. We obtained the information of the winning animals of each species such as: breed, variety color, etc. to provide to the members and also gave them supplemental information in regards to parts of the animal and some basic questions that we thought that the judges might ask during round robin.

I learned that you have to have a lot of patience with the members and their parents. The parents were worse than the members. The parents wanted to always correct me and kept interfering with what we were trying to teach the members. The parents were trying to control how and what we were teaching. I felt like that the parents did help their child to learn. It would have been better if the parents were not around. We planned this workshop to be a short introduction to the different species and then they winners going to round robin could contact the other winners later if they wanted more practice. I, also, learned that you have to know a lot about teaching a new animal skill and remember that this is something that some of them have never done. For example, a member that won in poultry may have never held a cavy or a rabbit and you have to be able to teach them the proper way to handle them. The biggest thing to remember is to have PATIENCE!

We had approximately 30 participants – 12 junior winners, 12 senior winners and 6 FFA winners. They learned how to do the basic showmanship of each species that would be in Small Animal Round Robin: rabbit, poultry, cavy, dog, waterfowl and pygmy goat. They were also given written information on showmanship, animal parts and anatomy of the species and some basic questions that the judge might ask them during round robin.

Some of the highlights of this workshop and Emerald Star plan was that we were asked to do it again next year during the fair. This made us feel like we did something good. Everyone got to see every species and handle that species at least once. Before the winners were always trying to find out how to contact the winners and make arrangements to meet and then sometimes the other person would not show up or have something else to do. We feel that this way they all got to meet at the same time and handle the animals at least once. Then if they wanted to make arrangements with the other winners they could. The other good thing was that the dog person brought the dogs that they would be using in Round Robin in so that they could practice with those dogs.

Low points- The biggest one was the weather. The wind was blowing really hard and we could not have some of the small animals out in the wind. Originally we had planned on using the Sperber Arena and having all the station in there so we could control who came in and such. But the weather decided not to cooperate with us, so we had to make some last minute adjustments. We moved the rabbits, cavies, poultry and waterfowl into the small animal barn and we had to make do with the space that we had. We were a little crowded but we did the best that we could with what we had to work with. Another of the low points was that some of the members did not want to spend the 10 minutes at each station so they would move onto the next station and ask the persons teaching to start all over so they could hear. The parents were always interfering and talking in the background and it was disruptive and rude. This made us all feel disorganized.

One of the other low points is that some people said that we gave out more information to certain people and that was not true. We gave everyone the same information. (All of that is included in the supplemental part of this binder.) If some got more information it was not part of this plan and we should not be responsible for that. Some asked us why we did not do it for the large animals and the reason is that we all only have small animals and this was the plan for our Emerald Star project

If we could do it all over again we would but there are some things that we would change.

1. We would either allow more time at each station or divide the junior and seniors and have them participate at different times.
2. We would have gate monitoring and only allow in those members and have the parents wait on the outside.
3. We would use a loud timer to actually set the time and when it buzzed then it was time to rotate just like they do in Round Robin.
4. We would have more advertisement about the workshop. Even though we announced it at several meetings and announced it at the end of each showmanship, we feel that we could have done a better job in letting everyone know about it.
5. We did not have time to get it in action but we will be making a video in the fall of small animal showmanship of some of the different species. We had some money donated in memory of Mr. Carter and it was decided to use it for this video because he was very passionate about small animals and the kids. And what a better way to preserve his memory than a video.

Overall, we feel that this workshop and our Emerald Star Plan were successful and we hope that this encourages others to pursue their Emerald Stars. We were the guinea pigs of the Emerald Star and if we can do it so can you!