

Los Angeles County 4-H Emerald Star Program

Overview

The Emerald Star is an award given to a 4H member for planning and implementing an advanced leadership activity. Emerald Star is separate from any star rank. Emerald Star is not a 4-H rank. It has been designed to encourage members to plan and execute a goal outside the member's Community Club. The Emerald Star is for experienced 4-H members who have been in 4-H for at least two years and are at least 13 years old, as of Dec. 31st of the current program year. Each Emerald Star application will be evaluated for its value to the LA County 4-H Program, value to the community, practicality and feasibility.

Purpose of the Emerald Star

The Emerald Star Program is designed to provide opportunities for the 4H member:

- Encourage 4-H members to develop higher levels of leadership and organization skills through an individual program of planning, action and reflection.
- Promote the development of mentoring relationships between individual members and leaders
- Encourage 4-H members to be creatively involved in projects or events beyond the Community Club.
- Be involved in a leadership opportunity without requiring a previous star rank.
- Prepare members for experiences at the county, state and national levels in the 4-H program.

Your Emerald Star Advisor

The Emerald Star Program is run through the district councils with each district having at least one Emerald Star Advisor designated. You can work with an Emerald Star Advisor from any of the districts. Your advisor may not be a relative or actively involved in your club. It is your responsibility to secure an approved County Emerald Star Advisor. You must contact the County 4-H office for the names of advisors from which you may select. The Advisor will work with you to make sure that your project will qualify as an Emerald Star project and that its scope is manageable and will offer advice on how you should proceed. The Advisor advises but does not do any of the work on the project. Your advisor will meet with you at least twice: first, to go over your Project Plan and, secondly, to review your Final Report/Reflection.

The Emerald Star Project

Important considerations in choosing an advanced leadership Emerald Star project include:

- Does it meet a need in the community or in the area or county wide 4-H program (not your club)?
- Is it useful and not duplicating existing programs?
- Does it provide a chance for you to 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?

Your Emerald Star project can cover virtually anything. It may be something that has never been done before, or it may be something that has been done before but needs to be repeated. Generally (though not necessarily), topics fit into the following categories: projects, events, and publications/educational resources.

Examples of past Emerald Star projects include:

Projects:

- Be a junior/teen leader for a project group that involves several clubs
- Lead a county wide project
- Conduct an independent research project and make results available to 4-H members throughout the county (such as lamb feed studies)

Events:

- Lead an area or county event committee
- Plan, organize and conduct an area event such as a horse show, dog show, learning day, judging contest, field day or presentation day
- Present a series of programs or talks about 4-H
- Hold a fundraiser for a nonprofit organization
- Organize meals for homeless
- Plan and conduct a recreational activity or event that helps members socialize and build friendships with other clubs.

Publications/Educational Resources:

- Develop an educational brochures or booklet for leading a project for which existing 4-H materials are inadequate.

Emerald Star Application Instructions

Use this page to keep track of your project

Date Completed:

1. Have an idea or plan for an activity or event beyond the local club level. _____
2. Contact an Emerald Star Advisor prior to the date you intend to begin work on your project to discuss your ideas or plan. _____
3. Fill out and send the Emerald Star Project Plan to your Advisor prior to your planning meeting. Save a copy for your records. _____
4. Discuss your Emerald Star Project Plan with your Advisor. _____
5. After your planning meeting with your Advisor, make any revisions necessary to your Project Plan and submit a copy of the revised Plan to your Advisor. Repeat this step until Advisor approval is received. _____
6. Present your plan at your District Council meeting. _____
7. After presenting your Emerald Star Project Plan to your district council, make any revisions necessary to your Project Plan and submit a copy of the revised Plan to your Advisor. _____
8. Upon receiving notification from your Advisor that your Project Plan has been approved, begin implementing the Plan. _____
9. Within 60 days of completing your project, fill out the Final Report and Reflection form. Send it to your Advisor. Contact your Advisor to schedule an evaluation meeting to complete your project. _____
10. Present your find report at your District Council meeting. _____
11. Emerald Star medal is awarded to you. _____

Emerald Star Project Plan

To be submitted to and approved by the Emerald Star Advisor and District Council before beginning the project. Attach additional pages if more space is needed for this plan.

Name	Todays Date	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
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Address	Phone Number
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Club	Age	Years in 4-H (incl. this yr)	Advisor	Date for planning meeting with Advisor
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Project Description. Include measurable, realistic and attainable goals

Why do you want to do this project? How will you and others benefit from this project?

Estimate of time, effort, human resources and funds required. Source of funds.

Possible Obstacles	Possible Solutions

Specific Action Steps for Achieving Goal: Timeline	Target Date
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	

How will you track your project's progress?

Signatures/Approvals

This is my plan of action for the Emerald Star project. I have read the Emerald Star information and understand my responsibilities for completing this project. I understand that this proposal must be approved, as signified by having the Emerald Star advisor and District President sign below, before I begin working on the project.

Applicant's Name (Print)

Applicant's Signature

As parent/guardian of the Emerald Star Applicant I understand what is expected of my child. I understand that my role is to support and encourage my child with the project, not to perform any of the work. I understand that by performing any of the work for my child, the project may be disqualified, and no Emerald Star awarded.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

I nominate this 4-H member to be considered for the Emerald Star Program.

Signature of Club Community Leader

Date

****Emerald Star Project Plan Approval:**

I approve this Emerald Star Plan.

Emerald Star Advisor / Date

Emerald Star Final Report Final Report and Reflection

To be submitted to and approved by the Emerald Star Advisor.

Name	Todays Date	Project Start Date	Project Completion Date
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Address	Phone Number
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Club	Age	Years in 4-H (incl. this yr)	Advisor	Date for final meeting with Advisor
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Attach additional pages if more space is needed for this report.

Were the goals for your project met? (Be specific) Did your project meet your expectations of success?

Who benefited from this project? How and Why?

What were the costs of this project in time, effort, human resources and funds?

Problems Faced	Solutions Used

Were the specific action steps and timeline you proposed realistic? How well did they work?

Suppose you could go back to the beginning of this project and start fresh. What changes would you make to your plan or action steps?

I certify that this application has met the requirements for Emerald Star award.

Emerald Star Advisor	Date
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