Tips for Earning and Recording Star Rank Credits in a Virtual World

Purpose: To help youth reach their 4-H Star Rank advancements when events they were counting on are canceled.

We know you may be having many disappointments right now. We hope that you can still find ways to work toward your rank achievements, even when everything has to be done from home.

We hope this document will give you some ideas on how to continue your 4-H work from home.

If you need help earning credits, please reach out to your 4-H Club Leaders and 4-H Project Leaders to help you with ideas and to make sure that what you are planning will meet their expectations of completion.

It's okay if you don't reach your Star Rank goal this year. Make a plan for how you will achieve your goal next year. We all have disappointments in our lives and one of the best skills we can have is how to cope with disappointment. At the end of this document are some steps to take if you are sad or disappointed about not reaching your goal this year.

Did you attend something online? Here's how to record it.

Event/Activity Any virtual/distance learning 4-H Activity should be counted just like an in-person event/activity. *Examples:*	Level of Participation I = Individual, L = Local Club/Unit/Project, C = County, M = Multi-county/Area, S = State, N = National/Multi-State G = Global	Record Book Section PDR= Personal Development Report APR=Annual Project Report
Virtual State Presentation Day	S	PDR: Event Attended
Virtual Area Presentation Day	M	PDR: Event Attended
Virtual Club Movie/Game Night	L	PDR: Event Attended
Virtual Leadership, Healthy Living or Civic Engagement training	L	PDR: Leadership or Civic Engagement
Practicing project skills at home	I	APR: Learning Experience
Virtual Project Meetings	L or C	APR: Learning Experience
Virtual Room Host	C or M or S	PDR: Leadership
Virtual Club Meetings	L	
Virtual 4-H Presentation or Talk that you gave	Depends on who you presented to	PDR: Communication
Virtual participation in music lessons, faith-based youth group, etc.	L	PDR: Healthy Lifestyles

Personal Development Report

Events Attended

Record 4-H events that you attend during the year. Count any virtual 4-H event that you attend outside of regular club and project meetings.

- Virtual Club Movie/Game Night
- Virtual Area/State Presentation Day
- Virtual County Fashion Review

Communication Skills

Record communication activities that you participate in at any event inside or outside 4-H, including virtual presentations. Do not include thank you letters as communication activities.

- 4-H Presentations: To be counted as a presentation, you must meet the requirements in the State 4-H Presentation Manual. Count 4-H Presentations given live over any virtual platform or prerecorded.
- Evaluator: Served as an evaluator for any virtual 4-H activity or contest.
- Prepared Talk: Any time you prepare (in advance of the event or activity) a report or talk, record this here. Record prepared talks from any virtual event or meeting.
  - Example: You give a prepared talk about virtual State Presentation Day to your club at the April Virtual Club Meeting.
- Written Communication: Newspaper articles, letters, Online Communication remain the same

Honors and Recognition

Record all high honors and recognition you have earned include honors earned at virtual events.

Annual Project Reports (APR)

Record every project-related activity or event where you learned something new or developed a skill related to the project.

- Any virtual or online project work.
  - Doing research
  - Working on a sewing project at home
  - Watching a documentary about the history of chicken showmanship
- Virtual project meetings
- Practicing project skills at home *
  - Practicing poultry showmanship with backyard chickens
  - Baking a cake in your kitchen
  - Practicing a new drawing technique

*Your Project Leader may want to see evidence of this, so you may want to do a short video from a phone, of what you did and share that video with your Project Leader.

Record Book Evaluations and Competitions

This year many club and county record book evaluation competitions may become virtual and require books to be submitted digitally in Microsoft Word or .pdf format. You may not need to print out your record book at all. In order to make it easier for Record Books to be uploaded as a Microsoft Word or .pdf file some Sections of the Record Book will NOT be required or be evaluated for the 2019-2020 Record Book Evaluation season:

- Collection of 4-H Work
- Project Expression Pages

Record Book Sections that will be Evaluated
PDR (all parts)
My 4-H Story
APR without the Expression Page
LDR (Intermediate and Seniors)
Resume (Seniors only)

Check with your Club Leader on how Record Book evaluations will be handled by your Club and County this year.

Getting signatures on the PDR, APR and LDR may take a little more effort this year. Here are the things that will work:

1) Email the form to the right leader.
   > The leader can sign it electronically OR
   > The leader can print it out, sign it with a pen, scan it, and send it back to you OR
   > The leader can send an email back to you saying they approve the document.
2) Save these email exchanges and attach them to your Record Book as verification.
3) OR you could use regular mail
4) OR you could drop off on porches and back and forth—remember to social distance and follow CDC guidelines for not touching paper that others have touched for a few days.