



Placer County 4-H Emerald Star Program

What is an 4-H Emerald Star?

Many counties in California have an Emerald Star program, which is sponsored by the county 4-H office and/or the county 4-H leaders' council. The Emerald Star program is designed for intermediate and senior 4-H members (8th grade and older).

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

This program is designed to help youth learn about project planning, organization, and presentation. Typically, youth develop an action plan for some type of multi-county event. They then organize and facilitate this event. After completion and presentation of their project, they are awarded with the Emerald Star ranking. It is hoped that all Emerald Program plans are successful, but 4-H'ers may receive the Emerald Program completion even if the plans are not successful. The end of the project evaluations may indicate how well the 4-H'ers planned, how well they tried (including revision of their plans), and how well they are able to evaluate what they did.

The Emerald Star Program is not a rank such as All Star and does not require a record book or interview. It is not a prerequisite to the All Star Award.

A member could conceivably complete more than one program to add subsequent numbers to the Emerald Star Program, not to exceed more than one per year.

Qualifications

A current Placer County 4-H Member who is in 8th grade or above regardless of the number of years in 4-H.

Any member who wishes to apply for Emerald Program should be allowed to do so, during anytime of the year he/she wishes to submit a plan on the provided form to the Placer County 4-H Council for approval.

Whether or not you are eligible for your Emerald Program Award depends upon completion of your plan of proposed work.

Upon completion of the plan they shall become an Emerald Star Recipient. The Emerald Star is to remain on the hat. It will be awarded at the Community Leader/Council Monthly Meeting at the conclusion of the final report and will also be recognized at the Placer County Achievement Program.

Your Plan

A plan must be submitted for approval prior to work being done. It may be a new program or project you want to start. It may be a new event or activity. It may include more than one member.

Your plan will be evaluated according to four criteria:

1. Value to the 4-H Youth Program.
2. Value to the community in general.
3. Fulfillment of a real need and the originality of your plan.
4. Practicality and feasibility.

Be sure you consider the program in terms of time, money, and energy involved. Consider school activities and other time demands. Have you cleared the time and dates involved with regional, county and club calendars? Remember transportation can be expensive.

For resources, consider people as well as literature and facilities. Ask if resource people such as professionals, leaders, parents, and other members are going to be willing to help.

In planning, outline what you plan to do. Make a schedule. Evaluate whether or not you should try to do all of the things listed, or explore some of the experiences in depth. Consider how the Emerald Program Project will help you personally, and how will it help others. Determine how the program can be evaluated upon its completion.

Plans are to be submitted on the attached form anytime during the year to the 4-H Program Representative. Then the plan is to be presented to the Community Leader/Council at a monthly meeting. They will offer suggestions and support. You will be expected to carry out your plan as proposed. When the project is completed, a portfolio of your activities including pictures is to be submitted with a Completion Form at the time your final report as it is presented at a Community Leader /Council monthly meeting. The portfolio will be retained by the 4-H Program.

If you have questions please contact the 4-H Office at 530-889-7386.



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Placer County 4-H
Emerald Star Program
PLANNING FORM

4-H Emerald Program Applicant (Print Name)

Planned Completion Date

1. What do I want to accomplish? (What will I learn and do and what will others learn and do? Include in your thinking, why you want to work on this particular program.)

2. Where can I locate this information?

3. How will I do this?

4. When will I do this? (Calendar of activities)

5. How will I determine accomplishments?

Member/Members Signature (s)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Placer County 4-H Council President Signature

Date Approved



Placer County 4-H

Emerald Star Program

PLANNING FORM Examples

Examples or Ideas:

1. **What do I want to accomplish?** (Objectives and goals.)
Form a program at Junior High level in small engines and auto shop for the Los Olivos Grammar School, (ages 11-13) at the request of the school's Principal, Mr. Gates Foss, who feels such a pilot program will help him expand to other shop programs if this one is successful.
2. **Where can I locate this information?** (Resources.)
4-H project manuals and also the high school shop teacher?
3. **How will I do this?** (Methods.)
Mr. Foss has asked me to make plans for a short course of several units for six to eight boys at a time and run the units several times during the year. He will then go over them with me and add ideas of his. We will be working with at least one other teacher.
4. **When will I do this?** (Time schedule.)
I have set up my high school program so that I have my last block free for this program. Mr. Foss would like to start in the second semester.
5. **How will I determine accomplishments?** (Evaluation.)
If the boys are enthusiastic and willing to work with me, I will feel our purpose has been accomplished. A certificate might be awarded for all who complete the units and a quiz.

Ideas Continued

1. Plan and carry out some outreach, or service project.
2. Organize a group who will bring some kind of service to a nursing home or the disabled. (Six to eight weeks minimum involvement.)

Please remember, these are only examples. A plan can involve something that has been done before and needs to be done again, or it can be something that no one has ever done, but which fills some kind of need in the 4-H program or community. These should not be 4-H programs or activities already on the 4-H Calendar.

The CA 4-H Website lists Emerald Star Recipients from around the state. You might look there to see what's been done in other counties. <http://www.ca4h.org/Projects/Leadership/EmeraldStar>



**Placer County 4-H
Emerald Star Program
COMPLETION FORM**

4-H Emerald Program Applicant (Print Name)

Completion Date

1. Where did you locate the information?

2. How did I/We accomplish this?

3. How did you do this?

4. When did you do this?

5. How did I/We determine accomplishments?

Member/Members Signature (s)

SIGNED: I understood and supported my son/daughter in carrying out this program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Placer County 4-H Council President Signature

Date Approved