

Criteria For Judging 4-H Project E-Records

This criterion for judging 4-H Project E-Records is to help judges evaluate the e-record. Please use this to help build consistency across the board when judging these electronic records.

Remember, 4-H project record books are meant to be a learning experience for 4-H members. Keeping a 4-H record helps youth to organize themselves, set reasonable goals, appreciate what is learned by meeting those goals, keep track of activities and expenses, gather information needed to apply for awards and scholarships.

As a judge, you are looking at the **whole 4-H project experience** that the 4-H member had and the quality of that experience as expressed by the 4-H member.

The e-record is broken down into 10 areas: Cover, Project Goals, Project Information and Activity Log, Demonstration, Community Service, Expense Record, How Did You Do?, Project Photos, Project Story and Specific Project Information page.

This e-record can be completed several different ways and no way is better than the other. For example: if a 4-H member completes the e-record in pencil or pen it should be evaluated the same way as if it was completed on the computer. Remember as a judge you are looking at the total experience that the 4-H member had, not whether it was completed by hand, typewriter or computer.

Cover: The cover is either complete or incomplete.

Project Goals: Sometimes when we judge, we think that more is better but that is not necessarily the case. If the 4-H member has done the minimum requirements and filled out the goal or goals and has identified how he/she is going to do it then it is completed. A 4-H member can do an excellent job with one goal. Remember that you are looking for goals that can be accomplished and how the 4-H member is going to accomplish those goals. If you mark lower than excellent, be sure to make a comment as to why you did so.

Project Information and Activity Log: This is where the 4-H member records all the activities related to that **4-H project**. It is very important that the 4-H member record his/her project meetings and times when the 4-H member works on his/her project at home with their parent. Also the time spent working on the project should be recorded here. Again as a judge, you would like to see the hours worked on the project. More time does not necessarily mean a better project, so please comment accordingly. Extra points should not be given for additional information from Community Club meetings. This information may be put here but should not be counted down for or given extra credit.

Demonstration: In a perfect world, we would like to see a 4-H member do a demonstration in his/her project but that may not be the case. Remember that the important item here is that a 4-H member gains the experience of giving a demonstration in front of his/her peers. A 4-H member should not be counted down if he/she do not

give a demonstration in his/her project area. A judge may comment that they would have liked to have had the 4-H member do a demonstration in his/her project.

Community Service: In a perfect world, we would like to see a 4-H member do a community service project in each of their projects but that may not be the case. The important thing is that the 4-H member has the experience of volunteering to do something for others. As a judge, you should not count down if the 4-H member does not have a community service project in his/her project area. Extra points should not be given for excessive detail in this area.

Expense Record: This area is to help 4-H members recognize that all projects have expenses and that those expenses need to be recorded. It is important when judging this area to recognize that some 4-H members are going to be “lumpers” and some are going to be “detailers”. There is nothing wrong with either type. Some projects are going to have more expenses than others and some of these expenses are going to be higher than others. As the judge, look to see that the 4-H member has recorded expenses---are they realistic to the project? Juniors only need to put down the expenses for the exhibited item.

How Did You Do?: This area is a self-evaluation of the goals that the 4-H members have set at the beginning of the project. As a judge, you are looking for the 4-H member to evaluate how he/she did on his/her project goals. If the 4-H member completed this area and commented on how he/she did, then it is completed. Even if you disagree with his/her evaluation, you need to give them an excellent because it is his/her evaluation of what they did.

Specific Project Information Page: This page is where the supplements go. On this page will be the information from the State Fair Exhibit Requirements. Please be sure to become familiar with the State Fair Exhibit Requirements for each project that you are judging. These projects require this page: Artistic Clothing (DYD), Bread Experiments, Cake Decorating, Ceramics, Clothing Construction, Heritage Arts, Home Environment, Model Rocketry, Photography, Shooting Sports, Small Engines, Sportfishing, Wildlife, Weeds, and Woodworking. Please be sure that either the information from the supplement pages are on this page or the supplement page is there. Also Baking Units 21-24, Visual Arts, Advanced Weeds and Advanced Engines need to provide information on this page.

Project Photos: Photos should be in a story form with caption. The photos should tell the story of the project. This doesn't mean that more photos are better than a few---it is the story that it tells that is important. An excellent photo page could be one with five pictures that tell the story of the project. A minimum of four pictures are required. Additional photos can be added (this is no maximum).

Project Story: This is one of the most important parts of the e-record. The project story can fill in the parts that are not covered in the rest of the e-record. When judging the story look for how the goals were accomplished or not, what was learned, what he/she liked the best, what he/she would do differently and how he/she would improve the project. Remember that it doesn't matter if the story is hand written, typed or done on the computer. As a judge, you are looking for the amount of work done, quality of that work, and how he/she shared what he/she learned. A story should follow these

guidelines; introduction, body and summary. A junior member could have a story that is five sentences that covered his/her whole project experience. Again more does not always mean better.

Remember, when judging to look at the whole 4-H experience of the 4-H member and the quality of that experience expressed by the 4-H member.