



#7: Reflecting on the year

Reflect on and receive recognition for your hard work and achievements throughout the year.



Record keeping

Keeping records, a journal, or a portfolio of your 4-H experiences are ways of reflecting on and enhancing your learning. Reflection is a very important part of the experiential learning model we use in 4-H. Reflection allows youth to think about the hows and the whys of an experience or activity to identify what they learned through the experience, enabling youth to then apply that learning in other situations. Youth are not required to complete 4-H records, but they are a great tool to use!

4-H record keeping helps teach important life skills, such as self-discipline, decision making, goal setting, wise use of resources, communication, sharing, etc. Accurate and up-to-date records not only provide a history of the youth's 4-H experience, but they are also helpful in completing applications to colleges and universities, scholarships, awards, and employment.

There are resources available at z.umn.edu/4-hrecords, including basic project record forms that youth can use to help track their experiences. There are also some project-specific record forms available by contacting the Extension office at 320-693-5275 or mnext-meeker@umn.edu.

Awards and recognition

At the conclusion of every 4-H year, youth have the opportunity to share their experiences throughout the year and showcase their achievements. The 4-H Awards & Recognition Website can be found by going to <https://z.umn.edu/meekerawards>. This site includes information for all the opportunities that youth have to apply to receive special recognition or nominate adult leaders and community members for recognition of their service.

Outstanding awards

Recipients of outstanding awards are selected by a nominating committee to recognize outstanding work and leadership in the following areas.

Longtime 4-H member

For outstanding accomplishments and leadership throughout a member's entire 4-H career.

County ambassador

For outstanding work as a county youth leader and an active 4-H representative to the public.



Animal science member

For outstanding work in beef, dairy, dairy goat, dog, horse, llama, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, swine, pet display, exploring animals, horseless horse, horse-related, science of animals, or veterinary science project areas.

Expressive arts member

For outstanding work in crafts and fine arts, performing arts, photography, public presentations, scrapbook, or video project areas.

Natural science member

For outstanding work in entomology, exploring the environment/environmental science, fishing sports, forestry resources, geology, shooting sports, water/wetlands/water resources, or wildlife biology & management project areas.

Plant science member

For outstanding work in plant science, flower gardening, fruit, herb gardening, indoor gardening, landscaping design, or vegetable gardening.

Personal growth & development member

For outstanding work in 4-H marketing, citizenship, global connections, safety, self-determined, or youth leadership project areas.

Family & consumer science member

For outstanding work in child & family development, clothing, consumer education and money management, food & nutrition, health, home environment, needle arts, or quilting project areas.

Mechanical science member

For outstanding work in aerospace, bicycle, engineering design, industrial technology, mechanical science, science inquiry, or technology project areas.

Additional awards

Best set of records

Each year, 4-H'ers are encouraged to complete records in each of their project areas to help them reflect upon and evaluate their experience and knowledge gained. Completing records does take time and dedication. Meticulous record keeping signifies a tremendous accomplishment and is a valuable experience in learning lifetime skills. This award honors youth who completed a series of records, reflecting on their entire 4-H year and experiences.



Young achiever

This is an annual award for a younger 4-H member who has shown enthusiasm through his/her participation in a variety of 4-H activities and by his/her own positive attitude. To be eligible for this award, a member must be in third, fourth or fifth grade during the previous 4-H year. A representative adult club leader may nominate one or two members to be considered for this award. The nomination should be made without the member's knowledge, so the awarding will be a surprise.

Minnesota 4-H Key Award

Members can apply for this one-time award that is given to deserving members to acknowledge accomplishments throughout their 4-H career. The key award recognizes an individual's contributions to their club and community throughout their 4-H career and encourages citizenship.

Pin awards

Pin awards are given in recognition of a youth's achievements in a project area. You can complete records and apply for pin awards in any project areas that you have exhibited in over the past year.

Club officers (secretary, treasurer and reporter)

Each club has the opportunity to submit its club Secretary and Treasurer's books to the Extension office for review. Additionally, club reports submitted by the reporter will be evaluated for recognition. A committee will select an outstanding club officer in each category.

Educational scholarships

Up to three \$500.00 scholarships are awarded yearly to Meeker County 4-H members or alumni in 12th grade to 3 years past high school. Eligible applicants must be enrolled in an institution of higher learning, have completed 5 years of 4-H membership with the last 3 years being in the Meeker County 4-H program, and demonstrate excellent 4-H leadership.

4-H volunteer of the year

This award recognizes a 4-H Volunteer for their incredible support and involvement in our Meeker County 4-H program.

4-H alumni of the year

Recognizing alumni Meeker County 4-H members who have contributed their time and talents in support of our 4-H program.

Friend of 4-H

Recognizing a community member or business that has displayed great support for our 4-H program.

Complete details can be found on the Awards and Recognition webpage at z.umn.edu/meekerawardsguide or by contacting the Extension Office at 320-693-5275 or mnext-meeker@umn.edu.



Awards banquet

Join us for this great recognition event to showcase the accomplishments of our youth throughout the past 4-H year. At this celebration, we will recognize award recipients, county fair champions, graduating members, membership year awards and more. This event is typically held in November in Litchfield with a meal option. We invite all families to join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our county youth!

Re-enrolling in 4-H

Re-enrollment is an annual process that begins October 1 and must be completed before participating in a 4-H program beyond the local 4-H club business meeting. This can be done by going to [4-H Online](#) and logging into your family account. Once logged in, follow these steps to re-enroll the youth members in your family:

1. Click 'Enroll Now' next to the family member you wish to enroll.
2. Select your club, member project areas of interest, and review the member information, making sure that everything is correct and up-to-date.
3. Once you have completed each section, submit the enrollment for approval.
4. The enrollment will be reviewed and activated by 4-H staff.

If you need to make changes to your family profile information, click "Family" from the member list screen. From there, you can edit the desired information by clicking on the "Edit" button for that section.

Check out the enrollment user guide at z.umn.edu/enrollmentguide to help walk you through the process.

If you need additional assistance at any time, you can contact the Extension office at 320-693-5275 or email mnext-meecker@umn.edu.

Thank you for re-enrolling in the new 4-H year. We are excited for you to begin your next year!

Source: Information from Minnesota 4-H Family Handbook

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