

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY 4-H EMERALD STAR PROJECT

EMERALD STAR PROJECT OVERVIEW

- The Emerald Star Project offers 4-H'ers the opportunity to develop leadership skills beyond the club level and receive special recognition for their work.
- The star rank is a county award and is not part of the California 4-H Star Rank system.

PURPOSE:

- The Emerald Star Project focuses on project planning and evaluation skills, carrying out assignments, and working in a community or countywide basis.
- The Emerald Star encompasses a project that benefits Contra Costa County 4-H program members.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Emerald Star is designed for Intermediate and Senior Members
- Emerald Star may be completed as an individual project or in a group (as long as all group members participate fairly and equally in the project).
- We encourage Emerald Star Project members to extend this project to 2 years to provide sufficient time for planning the event or service project, though it may be completed in 1 year with the advisor's permission.

ON WHAT CRITERIA WILL THE MEMBER'S INITIAL PLANS WILL BE EVALUATED:

- Project goals and strategies for completing the goals. (The plans should be clearly outlined in the Emerald Star Application and the Leadership Development Report).
- Value of the project/event to the Contra Costa County 4-H Youth Development Program
- Practicality and feasibility of project

ON WHAT CRITERIA IS THE MEMBER JUDGED?

- Did the project member complete the planned project or event?
- Did the member reflect on the success of his/her plans or goals?
- Did the member shift gears and adjust his/her strategies if necessary?
- Did they complete the Part 2 (Post) section of the LDR and reflect on the learning experience plus complete the post-project budget analysis?
- Did the member turn in a binder or booklet to the Emerald Star Committee that would enable other members to replicate the event or project? (For educational publications

like Showmanship guides, a complete guide may be turned in instead of a binder to replicate an event. The first part of this guide should include a reflection on your learning experience during this project). The binder, booklet or guide must be added to the county website under the “Emerald Star” tab.

- Presentations – The project member must conduct a presentation to County Council describing the project at the beginning of the project period. The member will conduct a second presentation about the learning experience and present the binder/guide to the county council at the end of the period.
- The first year of the project, the project member must present a progress report before the Emerald Star Committee by the end of May.
- The member’s binder/guide, LDR, and budget analysis must be turned in to the Leadership Committee by May 31 of the final year of the member’s project. The end-of-project interview must be completed by June 10 of the same year. Emerald Stars will be awarded at the following County Achievement Night. If you plan to be gone for the summer, then give the committee plenty of time before you leave to coordinate a final interview.
- Ideally, Emerald Star projects should be completed successfully. However, in a rare case a 4-H’er may receive the Emerald Star rank even if his/her project is not successful. The end of project evaluation will assess how well the 4-H’er planned, tried (including revision of his/her plans) and evaluated his/her own efforts, and these factors will be taken into account when determining if the member will receive the Emerald Star.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The member’s application and project idea will be evaluated by the Emerald Star Committee, and he/she will be interviewed by the committee at the beginning of the project (currently scheduled for November 28, 2017) and at the end of the project.
- The member must meet with his/her advisor once/month, a minimum of 8 times over the course of the project.
- This should either be a new activity or informational guide benefitting the county or must significantly add to a pre-existing county-wide event, activity or guide.

EXAMPLES AND IDEAS

- Hold an educational day such as livestock judging,
- Hold a judging contest such as livestock, dairy, healthy living, horticulture, or organize a showmanship contest, etc.
- Organize a county-wide project workshop or field day or some other type of county-wide activity.

- Plan and conduct training at local 4-H clubs on selected topics such as presentations, record books, officer training, citizenship (must be a significant revision/expansion if it's an activity that is already being provided by the county).
- Create a new 4-H event and build a strong committee that will support it indefinitely.
- Write a project member handbook and post it on our county website.

Projects may be very different from the ones listed above. Be creative!