



NICOLLET COUNTY 4-H

Guide to Meaningful 4-H Records

WHAT ARE 4-H RECORDS

A 4-H record is an organized, written account of your 4-H experience. Your 4-H record shows progress, personal growth and accomplishments of the member gained through participation in 4-H. The process of record keeping teaches 4-H members life skills in goal setting, planning, organizing and critical thinking.

WHY KEEP 4-H RECORDS

- TO KEEP TRACK OF DATES & IMPORTANT INFORMATION.
- TO RECALL EVENTS, EXPERIENCES & 4-H ACTIVITIES.
- TO COMPARE PROGRESS AND GROWTH FROM YEAR TO YEAR.
- TO DOCUMENT AND SHOW WHAT HAS BEEN LEARNED.
- TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN MANAGING RESOURCES, SUCH AS TIME AND MONEY.
- AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE FOR FUTURE USE SUCH AS COLLEGE OR JOB APPLICATIONS, RESUMES AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS.

WHERE CAN I FIND NICOLLET COUNTY 4-H RECORDS

At the Nicollet County Extension Office located at the Nicollet County Government Center at 501 South Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter. On line at

<http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/nicollet/4-h/downloads/>

WHAT RECORDS SHOULD I COMPLETE

Cloverbud members should complete one Cloverbud record. Traditional 4-H members need to complete a Participation Record, plus a record for specific project area and you will need to choose the appropriate record. Your choices are Small Animal Record, Livestock Record, Basic Record or Experienced Record.

DO I NEED TO COMPLETE A RECORD FOR ALL MY PROJECT AREAS

I would encourage records for all project areas, but for some that is not possible. You need to decide as a member with your parents and or leader and decide what is best for you.

WHERE DO I GET A 4-H RECORD COVER



At the Nicollet County Extension Office - no charge.

RECORD EVALUATION

Each October volunteers come to the Extension Office to evaluate records. This is a great volunteer opportunity for adults and older youth. It is a good way to learn about records and project areas.

4-H RECORD RECOGNITION

Nicollet County 4-H has an annual awards program where 4-H achievements are celebrated. The first time a traditional 4-H member completes records, they receive a record completion plaque. Each year thereafter that records are completed, and turned in to the Extension Office a record completion disc will be awarded. Top project records are recognized with a project area disc.

Tips for Successful Record Keeping

- Keep records organized by year.
- Photos and newspaper clippings are a nice way to enhance records, if possible include photos. Ribbons and stall cards are not necessary and I would discourage you from including them in your record book.
- Do one record per project area, not one per fair exhibit.
- Please include what you want to learn, what went well with your project, what challenged you, finances of your project.
- Start early in the 4-H year so you can establish 4-H project goals.
- If you hand write your records, stay with one color ink, but remember records can be completed on line. If you need help with your records ask your 4-H leader or call the Extension Office at 507-934-7828.

CONTACT NICOLLET COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE WITH QUESTIONS:

507.934.7828 OR EMAIL KWENDING@UMN.EDU