



4-H Project Work



Tim Pehlke, Orange County 4-H Program Coordinator
Rebecca Harris, Orange County 4-H Agent

What are the benefits of 4-H project work?

Project work lies at the heart of the 4-H experience. Through 4-H project work youth have an opportunity to participate in hands-on learning experiences on a subject of personal interest. Along the way youth learn responsibility, public speaking skills, teamwork and other vital life skills.

What constitutes a 4-H project?

4-H project work features a series of subject specific learning experiences with a duration of six or more hours. There are currently over 50 4-H projects* supported by university tested curriculum. 4-H curriculum is designed to provide developmentally appropriate hands-on learning experiences to youth. Some 4-H projects feature multiple texts that build cumulatively upon one another, while others only contain a single text. Youth also have the opportunity to apply what they have learned through competitions, activities, and other experiential learning programs.

What is a record book?

Record books provide documentation of youth's work towards the completion of a 4-H project. This constitutes the reflexive part of experiential learning, allowing youth to demonstrate mastery of the subject specific knowledge they have gained as a result of completing the project. In this process youth develop and evaluate their progress towards achieving self set goals. Youth must also include pictures, a personal story, and the completed project book. Use the *4-H Project Report* sheet to complete these steps. Record books are intended to be completed throughout the process of 4-H project work. Do not wait until the end!

Why should youth submit a 4-H record book?

Record books promote active participation in 4-H project work. Through this process they learn self-discipline, goal setting and much more! Opportunities are also available for more tangible forms of recognition. All record book submissions are recognized at our end of the year awards ceremony. In addition, youth may receive funds to cover the cost of 4-H related trips or project supplies through the *Standards of Excellence* program.

When are record books due?

In order to be eligible for judging, and subsequent recognition at the 4-H Awards Ceremony, youth must turn in their record book(s) by 4:00 PM on the first Friday in May.

For more information contact Tim Pehlke at (407) 254-9213 or tim.pehlke@ufl.edu

** Consult *Orange County 4-H Project Book Guide* for a current listing of 4-H project curricula*