



2009 State 4-H Record Book Competition Judging Process

Senior 4-H members are eligible to enter state competition. State competition is focused on selecting 4-H members who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their 4-H project work. Books are judged against standard criteria and those books displaying the most outstanding 4-H work, life skills development, leadership and citizenship development are selected as State Medalist and/or State Winner.

The Purpose of the State 4-H Record Book Competition:

- Provides an incentive to members to record their project work in their 4-H Record Book.
- Members receive feedback and encouragement on their 4-H project skill development, leadership and citizenship development, and record-keeping skills.
- Members are recognized for outstanding 4-H work.

Age Eligibility for the 2009 Competition: Senior 4-H members (at least 14 years of age and no older than 19 years old by December 31 of the program year for which the book is being entered) are eligible to enter state competition. This means that 4-H member born anytime in 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, or 1994. (*between January 1, 1990 and December 31, 1994.*) are eligible.

State 4-H Cover Page - The State 4-H Judging Cover Page must be included with 4-H Record Books entered for State Judging. The Cover Page may not be altered. 4-H Record Books missing the Cover Page will be reason for disqualification.

County Check Sheet - A county check sheet must be included with 4-H Record Books entered for State Judging. 4-H Staff from the County 4-H Cooperative Extension Office, must complete the checklist and ensure the completeness of the 4-H Record Book. 4-H Record Books missing the Check Sheet is reason for disqualification.

Previous Years Materials - Materials from all previous years in 4-H must be removed and replaced with a summary of your previous involvement in 4-H (the 4-H member may include all involvement as a 4-H member, including primary). These pages must be placed at the back of the 4-H Record Book and must conform to the standard formatting and page guidelines. More information is available in the 4-H Record Book Manual.

Timeline

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| ➤ September 30, 2009 | Judge's Applications Due to the State 4-H Office |
| ➤ October 23, 2009 | 4-H Record Books Due to your County 4-H Office |
| ➤ November 6, 2009 | 4-H Record Books due postmarked to the State 4-H Office |
| ➤ December 4 – 6, 2009 | State 4-H Record Book Competition |

County 4-H Office Responsibilities:

- Ensuring a County Check Sheet has been filled out and attached to every book.
- Checking the eligibility of each applicant.
- Sending one package with all of the 4-H Record Books from that county to the State 4-H Office postmarked by November 6, 2009.

Judge's Responsibilities

- Arrive on Friday, December 4 by 1:00pm for an Orientation
- Judge 4-H Record Books on December 5 and December 6; departing on Sunday after 2pm.
- Provide written feedback on 4-H Record Books
- Provide feedback on the judging process to help improve the following year's judging

Judge Eligibility

- Parents/guardians and relatives of current applicants, and applicants themselves are not eligible to judge.
- Enrolled as a 4-H Volunteer leader in the 4-H YD Program
- Able to communicate and compromise with fellow judges
- Openness and flexibility in this first year of a new judging procedure

Selection of Judges

- Judges for the state competition are by invitation of the Coordinator of the event.
- State judging teams will represent leaders from all four sections in the state
- Judges must be enrolled as 4-H Volunteer Leaders

Selection Criteria: Selection will be based on the above mentioned eligibility, experience with 4-H Record Book judging, providing written feedback, and ensuring diverse representation across the state.

State Coordinator Responsibilities

The State 4-H Director will designate a State 4-H Record Book Coordinator to organize State Judging. The responsibilities of the State Coordinator are:

- Determining state due date
- Securing a date and location for judging
- Recruiting and orienting judges
- Organizing and copying appropriate forms
- Obtaining proper signatures on forms and sending books back to their respective counties
- Addressing any questions or concerns that arise during the judging process or after the competition
- Train and orient the team of judges prior to judging. The orientation will cover theories of judging, an overview of the 4-H Record Book process and writing constructive comments.

Judging Process

The judging process strives to be fair and consistent; unbiased and neutral.

At the state competition, the first round of judging will place books into three categories: a) Merit Recognition, b) State Medalist, c) State Medalist w/ State Winner consideration. The second round of judging will determine State Winners based on available award funds for the year (i.e. if \$10,000 is available, there may be up to 20 State Winners).

Forming Judging Teams:

- Committees of three will be formed considering judge's experience level and areas of expertise.
- Committee members should not be from the same county unless there is no other alternative.
- If possible, no one should judge applications from his/her county. If it is unavoidable, the other two judges should give their ranking first.
- Judges will not look at applications other than those assigned to their committee.

Awards

All 4-H members entering a record book at State competitions will receive constructive feedback

- State Merit Recognition members receive a certificate.
- State Medalists receive a certificate and lapel pin.
- State Winners receive a certificate, lapel pin and \$500 cash award.

State Winner Eligibility

4-H members are eligible to be declared a State Winner a maximum of two times. There is no restriction on the number of times a 4-H member may be declared a State Medalist. 4-H members who were previous winners in the State Project Competition are eligible to compete again.