



CITIZENSHIP

LEADERSHIP

LIFE SKILLS

4-H
Youth
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

San Benito County 4-H Emerald Star Information

In addition to the star ranks (Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum) achieved through the Personal Development Report (PDR), the following star ranks are available through a leadership development level: **Emerald Star**, All Star, and California Ambassador. Any member who has their Silver Star (or above) or All Star rank and is at least 11 years old may achieve the rank of **Emerald Star**. This program is designed to help youth learn about project planning, organization, and presentation. Earning an Emerald Star is based on a leadership plan and how it is completed.

In general, the Emerald Star project's purpose includes:

1. Providing an opportunity for 4-H members to develop projects in their community or in 4-H beyond the club level. Typically, youth develop an action plan for some type of multi-county event.
2. Improving, creating, and expanding 4-H programs.
3. Helping individual 4-H members grow and improve in the areas of organization, leadership, and project planning.

The Emerald Star rank is optional and can be repeated for additional leadership experience, but a member is only allowed to be involved in one Emerald Star project at a time.

Emerald Star Steps:

1. Submit an Emerald Star Application to the County Office by the 10th of the month at least 3 months prior to your event. This is available from the 4-H Office or on the San Benito County 4-H website: <http://cesanbenito.ucanr.edu/files/214082.pdf>. Remember there must be both a learning and service component to your project.
2. You will need to attend an Entrance Interview with the San Benito County 4-H Incentives & Recognition (I & R) Committee. The committee will contact you to set up this appointment.
3. After I & R Committee approval, present it at the following Council meeting. (This is also where you would request funding).
4. Implement your plan and complete the project.
5. When your project is complete, compile your documentation, complete the 4-H Emerald Star Project Completion Questionnaire and request an Exit Interview with the I & R Committee.
6. If you cannot complete your project within the time frame initially decided upon, consider requesting an extension. The extension request must be approved by the I & R Committee.
7. Receive your Emerald Star patch and pin at Achievement Night.

Important factors to consider in deciding what to do as an Emerald Star:

- ❖ Is your idea something useful, something that is needed, and/or something that is not duplicating other programs in the county?
- ❖ Does the idea provide a chance for you to demonstrate leadership beyond your project or the club level?
- ❖ Is the size of the project something that you can handle?
- ❖ Is the time schedule flexible?
- ❖ Does the event incorporate both learning and service for the participants?
- ❖ If the activity needs financing, how will you obtain the funds? Request approval from 4-H Council? If so, prepare the appropriate grant request and present it at a 4-H council meeting. This should be accomplished at least 2 months ahead of time.
- ❖ How will you promote your event/activity? You'll want to advertise in the blog/updates for the 2 months leading up to it. Do you want to mail out, post, and/or email flyers? (Make sure they're in black and white if they need to be copied; others can be in color.)
- ❖ Which clubs will you visit to talk about your idea? You'll want to talk to as many as possible as this is a tremendous way to promote your event/activity.
- ❖ NOTE: Team Projects are allowed. Members should be advised though that all incentives will be divided equally among the team members. Those who are qualified will receive the proper percentage upon application for awards at graduation. (For instance, if 2 people team up to do a project, they would each receive ½ of the Bank on Us award for earning an Emerald Star. If one of them has a 3.0+ GPA and one doesn't, the one with the 3.0+ GPA would receive ½ of the additional award for having a higher GPA, and the one with a GPA lower than 3.0 would not receive an additional award.)

Ideas for Emerald Star Projects:

- **Events:**
 - Organize a countywide or multi-county show, judging day, or field day
 - Community Service Activities
 - Organize and conduct Presentation Workshops
 - Organize and conduct Record Book Workshops
 - Fairs or "Fun" Days
- **Educational Resources:**
 - Develop project manuals, workbooks, handouts, or flyers for use by members and leaders
 - Develop Power Point slide shows, DVDs, videos, or other teaching aids that can be made available to project leaders and groups
- **Other:**
 - Promotion of the 4-H Program

The University of California Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR) prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/files/107778.doc>)

Inquiries regarding ANR's equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to Linda Marie Manton, Affirmative Action Contact, University of California, Davis, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 752-0495.