

Citizenship, Communication, and Leadership

When applying for 4-H project awards, you may be required to list citizenship, communication, and/or leadership project area experiences. While the citizenship, communication, and/or leadership activity may or may not be a 4-H activity, it should however relate to the 4-H project.

For example: beef project – serving on a committee for a junior beef association, would be a “non” 4-H activity. Most of these activities, however, should be 4-H related.

Citizenship: volunteering your time to help others or a community

- Host a 4-H club meeting
- Lead a pledge at a club meeting
- Serve on a committee
- Help with a club or county event – communication contest, etc
- Provide an animal for a show – livestock judging, supreme showmanship, fun shows, etc.
- Give tours at the fair to guests, preschool groups, etc
- Host in an exhibit building at the county fair
- Help in the 4-H food stand at the county fair
- Pick up trash at the county fair
- Help with county fair set up or clean up
- Help with an afterschool program
- Share your 4-H project at a nursing home, classroom, etc
- Collect canned goods for a food pantry or provide donation to another charity
- Make a care package for a neighbor
- Display your project at the library, in a window, etc
- Be a mentor to a young 4-H'er or to a new 4-H family
- Help with a fall or spring clean up day at the Iowa 4-H Center

Communication: non-verbal or verbal - writing, talking, or acting to share ideas, knowledge, or skills

- Give a presentation, talk, etc to your club
- Participate in an activity at the communication contest
- Perform for Share The Fun yourself or with a group
- Write an editorial to the paper about your positive 4-H experience
- Display your 4-H poster in your school, at a library, or another community place
- Write a thank you to a guest speaker, etc
- Rabbit showmanship (exhibitors communicate rabbit knowledge in a few minutes)
- Tell a group about your 4-H project
- Emcee a county 4-H event
- Interview a person for your 4-H project or about a career that interests you
- Be a tour guide at the county fair
- School speech
- Communication about a fundraiser or service project

Leadership: planning and carrying out an activity to achieve a goal

- Complete responsibilities of a club officer
- Chair a committee
- Implement a get acquainted activity
- Organize a club event or a help needed schedule
- Organize a field trip or a club tour
- Teach a project workshop to your club or make it available to all county 4-H'ers

Be sure to review the requirements for each project award level (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Emerald). Know that the citizenship, communication, and leadership requirements are cumulative, meaning they are completed over the 2-5 years required for the project awards. They should also be appropriate for your 4-H level. Are you a junior, intermediate, or senior 4-H'er? Each item should only be listed once. For example, conference judging may be listed only once at the bronze level only. You are encouraged to expand your experiences in these areas.

Workshops: Also when applying for 4-H project awards, you may be required to list workshops you have attended. These may or may not be 4-H workshops, but should relate to your project. Examples could include:

- A club or county 4-H project workshop
- An association or another organization workshop that is offered
- A Central Area 4-H Rabbit Workshop
- A Horse Clinic
- A workshop at the State 4-H Retreat
- On going workshops/meetings for a project