

February 2016 Youth-Record Book article

### **4-H Project Medals for 2016**

Record books submitted to the County for judging can be submitted in 2 different categories— Record Books and/or Project Medals. The Record Book category involves submitting the entire Record Book as explained in the CA 4-H Record Book Manual: [Youth Version-Record Book Manual](#) or [Adult Version-Record Book Manual](#). Project Medals are unique to Kings County and there is no advancement to state level competition.

Recently the Kings County Incentives & Recognition Committee met, and with the approval of the Leader's Council decided to align the Project Medal award with the [Steps To Success](#). For Project Completion, a member must be in good standing, complete a minimum of 6 hours of project instruction or more as required by the project leader and complete an [Annual Project Report form \(APR\)](#). Upon meeting these requirements, a member will receive a year pin and stripe.

To compete for a Project Medal, the completed Annual Project Report form (with Expression page) will be turned in and judged. The I & R Committee hopes this will enable record keeping to be more enticing for 4-H members, and may lead to doing an entire 4-H Book and compete in the Record Book category. Members will still have the opportunity to specify what project area they wish to compete in. Record Books will compete against a standard (American system of judging) and will not be ranked 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Danish system). There is not a set number of Project Medals awarded; all who meet the standard will receive medals. These awards will be presented at Achievement Night in the fall.

Members must keep in mind that the APR must be filled out completely and contain detailed information regarding what was learned, activities and experiences in the project and a complete financial record of expenses, income and value. With the APR standing alone, there will not be a 4-H Story or Personal Development Report form supplying supplemental information.

A new Project Medal Evaluation Form has been developed (insert in this Youth Talk). One major change has been in the area of required communications. Instead of requiring a member to give a presentation in the specific project (as in the past), members will be required to have a variety of Communication experiences in the specific project as outlined in the PDR— #6 Communication Skills. The requirement is based on the age of the member. Communication skills required are: 4 for Juniors (9-10 yrs.), 7 for Intermediates (11-13 yrs.) and 10 for Seniors (14 yrs. and older), all from the current project year.

There has been some confusion about what should be recorded on the APR. In the Learning Experiences portion, project meetings should be included as well as workshops, training sessions attended etc. In addition, work and activities done outside the project meeting that relate to the project can also be included. For example, if a member learned to make a picture frame at a Craft Project meeting and they come home and make 5 more and donated them to a Silent Auction or use them as gifts for friends, this should be included. The experience of making the picture frames in the project meeting triggered a spark in the member and they demonstrated this by making more of the item for useful purposes.