

## 4-H Record Books– Now is the Time!

Now is the time to begin your 4-H Record Book! Now you may ask, but 4-H Record Books aren't due until the summer of 2017!

### *On Line Record Books (ORB)*

**Now** is the time to begin exploring ORB (On-Line Record Book) if you plan to use it. ORB is a very valuable record keeping tool, but it is for record keeping and not for record recollection. ORB is far more effective by taking time at least once a month to record the events and activities you have attended and the purchases or time spent in project work. Beginning your Record Book using ORB in April or May is setting yourself up for a very frustrating experience.

If you were unable to attend the workshop on ORB hosted by the Kings County Incentives & Recognition Committee, you may wish to learn more about ORB by visiting the State 4-H website at: [http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Members/RecordBook/4-H\\_ORB/](http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Members/RecordBook/4-H_ORB/)

### *Personal Development Report Form*

The star award ranking system is a voluntary advancement program utilizing the Personal Development Report form (PDR), which is part of the 4-H Record Book. It is a goal setting tool aimed at encouraging broad-based participation and achievement in 4-H. 4-H members record their participation in eight categories for the current 4-H program year on the Personal Development Report. Activities are totaled for all years in 4-H (junior, intermediate, and senior levels) and star awards are given to those 4-H members meeting the requirements. Each star level takes an average of two years to complete. Star rank achievers receive a tangible star at Achievement Night which can be worn on the 4-H hat.

Bronze Star: Complete at least 5 of the 8 PDR categories.

Silver Star: Complete at least 6 of the 8 PDR categories.

Gold Star: Complete at least 7 of the 8 PDR categories

Platinum Star: Complete at least 7 of the 8 PDR categories



To qualify for any of the achievement rank awards, 4-H members must attend 80 percent of both the community club meetings and the project meetings held during the year. To obtain any of the ranks, 4-H members must complete the asterisked (\*) categories on the Personal Development Report (PDR) of the 4-H Record Book as a part of his/her effort. (Presentations are one of the asterisked (\*) categories, and an important part of the 4-H experience.)

**NOW** is the time to review the Personal Development Report form and plan your 4-H year so you can earn your first star rank or your next star rank. Planning and setting goals is helpful in achieving a star rank.

### *Record Book Project Medal Awards*

**Now** is the time to determine which one of your projects you are the most passionate about– which *sparks* your interest the most? Once this project is determined, then set some goals *NOW* so when it comes to competing for a Project medal, all of the requirements will have been met. You will want to plan to attend at least 80% of your project meetings in the project area you are the most interested in or that is your strongest project. Plan your communications with this project in mind. Give a formal presentation in this project area or participate in other forms of communication as defined in the 4-H Record Book Manual. Plan on some form of community service or leadership in your strongest project area. You may serve as the Junior/Teen Leader, plan an activity in that project area or implement a community service idea. There are lots of possibilities.

### *Record Book Manual:*

Be sure to read the updated Record Book Manual available at: <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/218972.pdf>. The Manual available online is geared for members, and an adult version is also available. The Record Book Manual explains the 8 categories of the Personal Development Form and gives examples of the types of activities that are counted in each category. Other important information about putting together a 4-H Record Book is also included in the Manual.