



BASTROP COUNTY 4-H RECORDBOOKS

The 4-H Recordbook is the official record of a 4-H member's time and work in the 4-H Program! This book is the place where you keep a record all of your project experiences, leadership experiences, community service activities and much more! You also get to create pages with pictures from your 4-H year to show everyone what you did in 4-H during the past year. While the record book may seem difficult and time consuming at first, once you have a system down, it gets much easier.

Each 4-H member is encouraged to keep a record of their 4-H work throughout the year. This kind of record is the one that remembers your accomplishments and triumphs during the year and are not an extra task, but are a part of the 4-H program. Keeping a 4-H record-book is cool and fun! It's like writing your own history, because it helps you keep track of what you've done and helps you review what you've learned in your projects and is an important life skill. You will keep records in high school, at home, in college, and even if you own your own business or work for someone else. Now is the time to learn how to keep good records.

Completing your record-book can give you a sense of personal accomplishment. Your records:

- Help you earn credit for completing the 4-H year
- Make you eligible to participate in other activities
- Give you the opportunity to be recognized on the county and district level
- Help you set increasingly challenging goals.
- Assist with college and scholarship applications

Why Should I Complete a Recordbook?

There are many different reasons why you should complete your 4-H Record Book. Keeping a recordbook is a great way to hold onto your memories about each incredible year you have in 4-H. In a few years, you can look through these journals and remember what fun you had. Keeping records is also a great way to develop your skills in communication, organize your time, document events and actions, evaluate your own efforts, set goals, solve problems, and keep track of money. Another good reason to complete your books is the awards and scholarships that you can win with it! Every time you complete a recordbook, you get a project pin in the area you created it in, as well as a year pin! You can also enter it in the county and district recordbook contests for ribbons and other prizes.

Note: Starting in 2020-2021, Seniors will be required to submit a 4-H recordbook for the 2 previous 4-H years in order to be considered for Bastrop County 4-H Scholarships. So, they would need to submit a recordbook during their Junior (2019-2020) and Senior (2020-2021) year of high school.

How Do I Get Started?

Record-books are like journals - they're a way to keep track of what you do and when you do it. Think of it as an entry book that you keep regularly (we recommend weekly or monthly). The point to remember is **when something important happens, write it down.**



The hardest thing to do is stay on top of working on your recordbook. This starts at the beginning of each new 4-H year in August. So, at the beginning of each 4-H Year:

- Set goals for each of your main 4-H projects
- Find a way for you and your family to track your 4-H experiences throughout the year
 - Printing the County 4-H Calendar and highlighting meetings/workshops you attended
 - Writing down experiences in a family calendar
 - Keeping a journal where you log your experiences and write notes about them
 - Keeping a folder with agendas/notes from meetings, workshops, etc.
- Set aside some time each month to work on your recordbook so you don't have to do it in one big sitting
- Mark the due date for Recordbooks in your calendar and turn them in on time!

As you participate in activities throughout the year, think, about what you want to remember about your year in 4-H. It will be your record of progress. Make it yours. Make it creative. Make it memorable. Design your own unique story and pictures. Put it on the computer. Add to your records so that they become your scrapbook. Add photographs. Remember - these are your records. Make them fun!

Where can I get more Information?

Your County Extension Office will host workshops a couple times a year to go over the guidelines and provide help. You can also access forms and guidelines online at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>

Be sure to visit the Bastrop County 4-H Recordbook Page at <https://bastrop.agrilife.org/recordbook/> to view the following resources:

- 2019-2020 Bastrop County 4-H Recordbook Overview (Handout)
- 2019-2020 District 10 4-H Recordbook Overview (Recorded Presentation)
- Link to the Bastrop County 4-H Awards Page