



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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## **4-H CLUB RANKS and their Meaning**

### **Purpose of 4-H Club Work**

To provide learning opportunities that assist in developing life skills which will help young people in the development of character, leadership, citizenship, attitudes and ideals. The ranking system can help you carry out the purpose of 4-H in your own life, help you see the many different opportunities you have in the 4-H program, help guide you in making your plans for each 4-H club year, give you a method for summarizing your own 4-H achievements and encourage you to keep accurate and complete records.

The attitudes of cooperation, helpfulness, and sportsmanship that you develop through 4-H involvement will be more important in your life than the ribbons and prizes you may win.

This award is an accumulation of your years of 4-H involvement from when you first join until you graduate from the program. Reaching these ranks are achieved and may take your entire 4-H life to obtain the highest rank – the Gold.

**University of Wisconsin Madison  
Division of Extension  
Marathon County**

**Revised August 2005  
Reformatted August 2020  
Updated July 2023**

Complete this form and return to the Extension Office by September 30.

**Extension Marathon County Office   Awards Committee,  
212 River Drive, Suite 3, Wausau, WI 54403 5476**

## DIRECTIONS FOR USING THE CHECK SHEET

The 4-H Club Ranks Check Sheet on the back page is designed to help you report your accomplishments at the close of the year. It lists 22 items which represent opportunities in 4-H club work.

You must complete at least 8 items to earn a Bronze Pin, at least 12 to earn a Silver Pin, and at least 18 to earn a Gold Pin. For each rank, you must complete three of the first five items. These first five items are of great importance to careers of all successful 4-H club members. You must earn these awards in order, no more than one per year.

The requirements listed for each item are the minimum number, well within the reach of every ambitious 4-H club member. Try to build your record by completing many items rather than just the minimum number.

Your accomplishments keep adding up as you advance from one year to another. For example, if you reported three talks in previous years, and planned and gave two more this year, your total for all years would be five.

Use numbers in the spaces on the Check Sheet, rather than check marks or x's.

### DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS OF ITEMS

1. **Was the member in regular attendance?** (75% of the time) at club meeting? General Leader should initial in the box if member has met the requirement.
2. **Verification of Project Meetings attended.** Was this member in regular attendance (75%) at project meeting? General Leader should initial the box if member has met the requirement.

3. **Number of Project Units Completed.** Project unit means number of years an approved project has been carried, for which an acceptable record, M.P.E., has been completed. (Example: beef project, three years; garden project, two years—total, five project units.) Count all units in a major project if carried in the same year. (Example: count Beef 1 and 3 as one beef project, Garden 1 and 4 as one garden project.)
4. **Participation at 4-H events within the County, District, or State.** 4-H events refer to gatherings other than local club meetings and project meetings. (Example county project tours, recognition programs, fairs, livestock fitting and showing, workshops, quilt camp, horse workshops, hands-on-cultural arts, tractor safety, animal shows, MASS educational activities, fundraising, shooting sports, team problems.) (Does not include items from #12)
5. **Public Speaking, Demonstrations, Illustrated Talks.** Report the number of times you gave a public speech or a demonstration either alone or as a member of a team at local club meetings, at county level, or at school—Forensics, FFA, (maximum of 3 points may be accrued per year).
6. **Participation on Club Committees.** Participation means appointment to a committee, attendance at committee meetings, and active duty as a committee member.
7. **Youth Leadership.** This refers to the completion of one year of the Youth Leadership Project Series requires for the Gold Pin rank. Youth Leadership

Plan must be completed and signed by cooperating adult.

8. **Offices Held.** Includes offices held in your local 4-H club.
9. **County Leadership.** Includes: Camp Counselor, Ambassador
10. **Membership on County or District Committees.** Includes: Steering Committee, Developmental committees, Leader's Federation, Junior Fair Board, MASS.
11. **Chairmanship of Committees.** Report here the number of times you have served as a chair of a committee. Do not report memberships on those committees also. A club officer who has served as a committee chair may report services here, as well as, under offices held.
12. **Involvement in Fair-related Activities.** Superintendent's helper at fair or barn duty (at least 4 hours), Booth or barn decorating, or Potato Booth. (Includes Wisconsin Valley Fair and Athens Fair).
13. **Clothing Revue, Cake Revue, Foods Revue, Showmanship, or Pre-Fair Music/Drama, Tractor Operator Contest, Judging Competition.** Participation in these activities at local district, county, and regional 4-H events.
14. **Participation in Club Conservation, Beautification, Safety, Fire Prevention, Health or Community Service Projects.**
15. **Participation in National 4-H Week or June Dairy Month Activities** (news stories, radio or TV and personal appearances, window displays, promotions, cheese displays,

or any other 4-H club promotion activity)

16. **Signing up a New Member, Project Leader, or Resource Person**
17. **Other 4-H Contributions.** Include all personal appearances in connection with 4-H club work not reported elsewhere. (Example: Master of ceremonies, song leader, entertainer, parade participant, backstage crew, usher, hosting through 4-H).
18. **Attendance at County 4-H Camp.** Junior Camp, Camp at Upham Woods or Teen Winter Camp
19. **County Representative at State Fair.** Includes exhibits selected for state fair, dress revue, demonstration, state 4-H drama and chorus appearances, etc.
20. **Attendance as a Delegate at State 4-H Congress, State Sponsored Workshops.** Example: Art Leadership Lab, Art Camp, Fall Forum, WLC
21. **Attendance as a Delegate on Citizenship Washington Focus, American Spirit, Summer Academy, National 4-H Congress, or Space Camp.**
22. **Attendance as a delegate on International Trips.**
23. **Participation Other than 4-H.** Report your activities in other community organizations, including church, school, community, and others. (Example: Junior Breed Association, Scouts, FFA, school newspaper, dance, sports, Odyssey or the Mind, etc.) Each year's participation in an organization counts 1 point.
24. **County or Local Club Project Award Recipient.** Report project award received last year.

# 4-H CLUB RANKS CHECK SHEET

YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Age (Jan. 1 of current year): \_\_\_\_\_ Years of 4-H Club Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Rank Applied for: Bronze ☐ Silver ☐ Gold ☐

ITEMS REQUIRED	REQUIREMENTS			ACCOMPLISHMENTS		
	Bronze Pin	Silver Pin	Gold Pin	Previous Year(s)	This Year	Total Years
	Number Required			(1)	(2)	(3) Add Columns
	8	12	18		Completed	(1) and (2)
Three of the first five items are required for each rank.						
1. This member was in regular attendance. Signed by general leader:						
2. Verification of Project Meetings Attended. This member was in regular attendance at project meetings. Attendance at 75% of all project meetings enrolled in. Leader initials: _____						
3. Number of Project Units Completed. Leader initials: _____	2	8	12			
4. Participation at 4-H events within County or district.	6	10	15			
5. Public speaking, demonstrations or illustrated talks	1	3	8			
6. Participation on Club Committees	1	4	6			
7. Youth Leadership	1	2	3			
8. Offices Held	1	4	6			
9. County Leadership	1	2	3			
10. Membership on County or District Committees	1	1	2			
11. Chairmanship or Committees	1	1	3			
12. Involvement in Fair-related activities	2	6	10			
13. Participation in Judging Competition, Clothing Revue, Cake Revue, Food Revue, Showmanship, Pre-Fair Music/Drama, or Tractor Operator Contest	1	2	4			
14. Participation in Club Conservation, Beautification, Safety, Fire Prevention, Health Activities, or Community Service Activities	2	4	6			
15. Participation in National 4-H Week or June Dairy Month	1	2	4			
16. Signing Up a New Member, New Project Leader or Resource Person.	1	1	1			
17. Other 4-H contributions: (specify)	1	3	5			
18. Attendance at 4-H camp	1	2	2			
19. County Representative at State Fair	1	1	1			
20. Attendance as a Delegate at State 4-H Congress, State Sponsored Workshops	1	1	1			
21. Attendance as a Delegate on CWF, American Spirit, National Congress or at Space Camp	1	1	1			
22. Participation in International Programs	1	1	1			
23. Participation Other than 4-H	1	5	12			
24. County or Local Club Project Award Recipient	1	1	1			

Approved for \_\_\_\_\_ Star Rank by \_\_\_\_\_ (Club Leader) Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved for \_\_\_\_\_ Star Rank by \_\_\_\_\_ (Awards Committee) Date \_\_\_\_\_