

RECORD BOOK 2025-26 TRAINING DALLAS COUNTY 4-H



2025-2026
**TEXAS 4-H
RECORD
BOOK**
FAMILY GUIDE

AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

LEADERSHIP & CITIZENSHIP

NATURAL RESOURCES

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATH



PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE OF 4-H RECORD BOOK

1

Show how they have grown, what they've learned, and where they want to improve.

2

Practice goal-setting and documenting the steps to reach those goals.

3

Understand the value of keeping written records.

4

Gain confidence for future applications (scholarships, college admissions, and jobs).



STEPS TO THE RECORD KEEPING PROCESS

GOAL SETTING

JOURNALING

REFLECTING

	Junior Grades 3-5 <i>(Clover Kid years should not be included)</i>	Intermediate Grades 6-8	Senior Grades 9-12
Personal Information Page	Include	Include	Include
Narratives & Photo Portfolio	<i>Must be 12-point font Use Times Roman, Arial or Calibri Fonts. 1 page Single Space The text and the photos DO NOT incorporate together on the same page DO NOT REMOVE THE HEADERS/INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TOP OF PAGES</i>		
About Me Narrative	<u>Max</u> : 1 page – <u>12 point</u> font. Single Spaced	<u>Max</u> : 1 page – <u>12 point</u> font. Single Spaced	<u>Max</u> : 1 page – <u>12 point</u> font. Single Spaced
Photo Portfolio	Max 1 page 4-6 photos minimum	Max 1 page 4-6 photos minimum	Max 1 page 4-6 photos minimum
4-H Report Form Sections	<i>10-point font minimum – DO NOT REMOVE THE HEADERS/INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TOP OF PAGES ** DO NOT INCLUDE CLOVER YEAR INFORMATION **</i>		
I – 4-H Project Experiences	Entire 4-H Career Encourage 4 projects minimal 4 pages max	Entire 4-H Career Encourage 4 <u>projects</u> minimal 5 pages max	Entire 4-H Career Encourage 4 projects minimal 6 pages max
II – 4-H Leadership Experiences	Entire 4-H Career Max: 10 entries 1 page max	Entire 4-H Career Max: 15 entries 2 pages max	Entire 4-H Career Max: 25 entries 3 pages max
III – 4-H Community Service	Entire 4-H Career Max: 10 entries 1 page max	Entire 4-H Career Max: 15 entries 2 pages max	Entire 4-H Career Max: 25 entries 3 pages max
IV – 4-H Recognition & Awards	Entire 4-H Career Max: 10 entries 1 page max	Entire 4-H Career Max: 15 entries 2 pages max	Entire 4-H Career Max: 25 entries 3 pages max
V – Non-4-H Activities	Up to 3 years 1 page max	Up to 4 years 1 page max	Up to 4 years 1 page max
VI – College & Career Exploration	Response to question Entire 4-H Career Max: 10 entries 1 page max	Response to question Entire 4-H Career Max: 15 entries 1 page max	Response to question Entire 4-H Career Max: 15 entries 2 pages max
Additional Narratives	<i>Must be 12-point font Use Times Roman, Arial or Calibri Fonts. 1 page Single Space The text and the photos DO NOT incorporate together on the same page DO NOT REMOVE THE HEADERS/INSTRUCTIONS ON THE TOP OF PAGES</i>		
College & Career Exploration Narrative (Intermediate & Senior Only)	<u>Max</u> : 1 page – <u>12 point</u> font. Single Spaced	<u>Max</u> : 1 page – <u>12 point</u> font. Single Spaced	<u>Max</u> : 1 page – <u>12 point</u> font. Single Spaced
Essay Prompt Narrative (Senior Only – changes annually)	<u>Max</u> : 1 page – <u>12 point</u> font. Single Spaced	<u>Max</u> : 1 page – <u>12 point</u> font. Single Spaced	<u>Max</u> : 1 page – <u>12 point</u> font. Single Spaced

****Make sure to update the forms each year, and include CURRENT YEAR activities**

RECORD BOOK

SCORE SHEET



Personal Information Page
2025-2026

Name: _____ County: _____ District: _____

Name of 4-H Club or Group: _____

Age Division: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Number of Years in 4-H: _____ School Grade: _____
(excluding Clover Kid years)

Category: _____ Number of Years in Main Project: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Member Email: _____

I certify that the information provided in this record book is true, complete, and an accurate representation of the project work completed by the 4-H member below. I further affirm that all work, records, and accomplishments described are authentic and the result of the individual efforts of the member.

4-H Member

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION PAGE

RECORD BOOK FORM (WORD)

4-H RECORD BOOK NARRATIVES

- **General Narrative Guidelines**
- 1 single-spaced page. Use a standard font (Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial) in 12 pt size.
- Write in the first person (“I”)
- Emphasize the quality of experiences instead of quantity.



TYPES OF
NARRATIVES

NEW THIS YEAR!

About Me Narrative (All Ages)

**College & Career Exploration
Narrative (Intermediate & Senior Only)**

**Essay Prompt Narrative (Senior Only
– changes annually)**



MY 4-H YEAR IN PHOTOS

- Each Record Book may include **one page of photos** that represents your 4-H year.
- 4-6 photos minimum should be included.
- Be creative in your design — use captions, layouts, or digital collages to help tell your story.
- Photos should reflect your **project work, leadership roles, community service, and personal highlights** in 4-H.
- The goal is to visually show your involvement and experiences, not just to display posed pictures.
- This page is separate from the written narratives and does not count toward page limits in other sections.
- Keep your layout simple and clean avoiding too much text or decorative clutter.

REPORT FORM

Same form for all age divisions



Request same content



Number of allowable entries varies



NEW Allows for capturing all years in 4-H

SECTION I

4-H PROJECT EXPERIENCES

What is your project?
How did your project change or grow? What have you done and what have you learned?

You can include learning experiences gained in other youth/community organizations but applicable to the 4-H project.

Individual directed project learning experiences are also acceptable.

Include up to 4 projects, current year ALL preceding 4-H years (do not include Clover Kid years in the program)

Maximum page limits:
Junior - 4 pages
Intermediate – 5 pages;
Senior – 6 pages.

SECTION II

4-H LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

Table includes : Year, Leadership Activity, Role, Level, Responsibilities/Duties/Accomplishments



List what you did to assist others throughout this 4-H year. Also include general leadership such as Club Officer, 4-H County Council, or County Committees.



Include current year and preceding 4-H years of activities (DO NOT INCLUDE CLOVER KID YEARS IN THE PROGRAM).



Entry and page limits: Junior – 10 entries and 1 page; Intermediate – 15 entries and 2 pages; Senior – 25 entries and 3 pages

SECTION III

4-H COMMUNITY SERVICE

Table includes : Year, Your Role, Service Activity & Importance & Impact

List community service or service-learning projects that might include: clean ups, collections, repairs, construction, care packets, visitations, education, donations, presentations, etc.

Include current year and ALL preceding 4-H years of activities (DO NOT INCLUDE CLOVER KID YEARS IN THE PROGRAM).

Entry and page limits: Junior – 10 entries and 1 page; Intermediate – 15 entries and 2 pages; Senior – 25 entries and 3 pages

SECTION IV 4-H RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Year, Level, Recognition, Importance to You



Include current year and ALL preceding 4-H years of activities (DO NOT INCLUDE CLOVER KID YEARS IN THE PROGRAM).



Entry and page limits: Junior – 10 entries and 1 page; Intermediate – 15 entries and 2 pages; Senior – 25 entries and 3 pages

SECTION V NON 4-H ACTIVITIES

Include	Limit	List
<p>Include current year and up to 3 preceding 4-H years of activities (up to 2 preceding years for Juniors)</p>	<p>Limit to 1 page</p>	<p>List leadership, community service, awards, and recognition from OTHER activities such as school, church, and other community organizations</p>

SECTION VI

COLLEGE/CAREER EXPLORATION

Answer : As of today, what career would you choose?

List activities that have helped you learn more about careers or the necessary education to enter a career. Examples of activities include: interviews, tours, job shadowing, research, mentoring, work experience, skill development, course work, etc.

Include current year and ALL preceding 4-H years of activities (DO NOT INCLUDE CLOVER KID YEARS IN THE PROGRAM).

Entry and page limits: Junior – 10 entries and 1 page; Intermediate – 15 entries and 1 page; Senior – 15 entries and 2 pages

BOOKS SUBMITTED FOR EVALUATION

What will Judges look for?

Clarification on learning activities that take place outside of 4-H clubs and project groups

- **DISCONTINUED IN 2025-2026**

- **We are exploring alternative online platforms for the future years. This is the reason for the change from allowing handwriting to only accepting typed record books if planning to go through the competitive process of review.**



SCORE SHEETS

TEXAS 4-H RECORD BOOK RUBRIC



Revised 9/1/2025

Name: _____ County: _____ District: _____
 Age Division: _____ Category: _____

The point values are provided as a guide for evaluation. Your Record Book coordinator will provide instructions regarding the requirements for ranking and/or usage of point values. Judges are highly encouraged to focus on writing constructive comments that will assist and challenge the 4-H member to continue growing their project work.

SECTION	COMMENTS	SCORE
About Me Narrative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize your 4-H journey Projects and goals outlined 4-H activity highlights and experiences Leadership and citizenship highlights Describes future 4-H plans/goals Follows guidelines Mechanics: grammar, punctuation, spelling, organization, etc. Overall Quality 		10
My 4-H Year in Photos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange 4–6 photos minimum that highlight your 4-H year. Place photos neatly in a grid, collage, or scrapbook style (avoid clutter). Include captions under 		5
Section I: 4-H Project Experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 projects encouraged, but not limited Experiences appropriate for age and length of time in project(s) Noteworthy learning experiences listed Shows knowledge gained Demonstrates growth in project experiences from year to year 		20
Section II: 4-H Leadership Experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows variety of experiences Varied types and levels Explains activity and accomplishments Appropriate for age and time in 4-H 		15

SECTION	COMMENTS	SCORE
Section III: 4-H Community Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows variety of experiences Varied types and levels Explains activity and accomplishments Appropriate for age and time in 4-H 		15
Section IV: 4-H Recognition & Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explains Significance/ importance of award Appropriate for age and time in 4-H 		5
Section V: Non-4-H Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes membership, activities, leadership, service, awards Appropriate for age 		5
Section VI: College/Career Exploration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explains activity or what was learned Appropriate for age 		5
College & Career Exploration Narrative (Only required for Intermediate and Senior Books) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly links current exploration to long-term educational and career aspirations. Mechanics: grammar, punctuation, spelling, organization, etc. 		10
SENIOR ONLY Narrative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-structured narrative that follows the prompt. Demonstrates self-awareness and thoughtful growth. Clearly connects experience to personal development. Explains how the experience influences future goals and values. Mechanics: grammar, punctuation, spelling, organization, etc. 		10
TOTAL (Note High Score Values Vary by Age Division : Junior = 80; Intermediate = 90; and Seniors = 100)		

All types of covers or binders are accepted.

Official 4-H Record Book covers can be ordered from National 4-H Supply if desired.

Dallas County 4-H Provides 😊

RECORD BOOK COVER



GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Headers/Instructions
- Typed
- Grammar and Punctuation
- Text Margins
- Paper Type
- Creativity
- Font

PROJECT CATEGORIES

Beef	Citizenship, Civic Education & Community Service	Dog Care & Training	Consumer Education	Entomology	Fashion & Interior Design	Food & Nutrition
Gardening & Horticulture	Goat	Health and Personal Safety	Horse	Leadership	Natural Resources	*NEW* Open/Self-Directed
Photography	Poultry	Public Speaking	Rabbit	Range Sciences and Agronomy	Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)	Sheep
	Shooting Sports	Swine	Visual & Performance Arts	Veterinary Science		

*Animal Agriculture is no longer a category and was replaced with Open/Self Directed Category

TEXAS 4-H RECORD BOOK WINNERS

Senior 4-H members who win first place at the Texas 4-H Record Book Judging competition, MAY submit a Record Book in future years in the same category in which they earned first place.



State record book winners will earn the opportunity to attend the Texas 4-H Leadership Conference which is held during Thanksgiving break. Cost of the trip to the 4-H member is typically between \$2,000-\$2,500

DALLAS COUNTY 4-H RECORD BOOK PROCEDURES AND DATES

ONLY DALLAS COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS

County Level Record Book Procedures, DATES & Guidelines

- May 26th Hard Copy of Records Books are due for Agent's Feedback and FIRST Judging (50% of Record Book contest)
- June 5th Record books returned to members with corrections and constructive feedback.
 - * Highest score in each Age Division in each Project Category will qualify to District IV Record book Contest.
- June 16th Final Hard Copy Record Books are due for FINAL judging and submission to contest (50% of Record Book Contest)

District IV Record Book Contest Dates.

- May 27th District Registration to contest opens in 4-H Online & Submittable
- June 12st District Registration to contest closes. In 4-H Online & Submittable.

State 4-H Record Book Contest

- Only for Seniors in 4-H (14-18): First place District IV contest in each Project Area Category will qualify to State Contest.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- [Family Guide](#)
- [Record Book Notable Changes for 2026](#)
- [Record Book Rubric / Score Card](#)
- [Record Book Category Descriptions](#)
- [Record Book Form \(Word\)](#)
- [Self Directed Project Guide](#)

QUESTIONS?

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