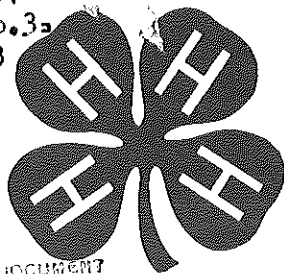


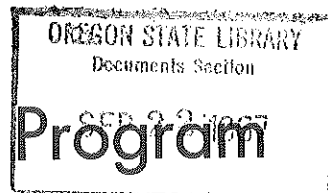
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4-H Advancement Program

Leaders' Guide



Prepared by CAL G. MONROE, State Extension Agent,
4-H and Youth Development

Advancement programs:

- ▶ Provide an outline for the club's "Program of Work"
- ▶ Provide activities for club meetings
- ▶ Divide members into interest and ability levels
- ▶ Supplement and broaden experiences for learning
- ▶ Give junior leaders additional responsibilities and opportunities for development
- ▶ Encourage older members to continue in 4-H Club Work

Advancement programs have been developed to suggest activities and establish standards to help 4-H members and club leaders set goals and measure progress. They are applicable to those projects that do not lend themselves to graded divisions, such as the phases in foods and clothing projects. Advancement programs have been developed for the horse, beef, dairy, sheep, swine, rabbit, poultry, garden, forestry, gun safety, and photography projects and may be developed for others.

The advancement program is especially adapted to large livestock or outdoor clubs that have members enrolled in several projects and with a spread of ages. Co-leaders or junior leaders can work with the various projects and advancement levels. Thus the members are divided into small work groups of their own ability and interest levels.

Advancement Program Steps

The steps are written so that a nine year old can start working on Step 1. Older members will also start with Step 1, but they may complete it in a few weeks or months and move on to higher steps. A 4-H member may advance as fast as he can satisfactorily complete the requirements of each progressive step.

Much of the information needed will be found in the project literature, especially for the early steps. The advanced steps will require the use of adult bulletins and other references.

Work on other steps can be started before passing the first step, but final approval of the steps must be in order.

Presenting the Advancement Program

This is a voluntary program. You will want to present the advancement program at the beginning of each club year and discuss it several times during the club year. Copies of the various advancement programs are available from your County Extension Office for each member. Order them after the members have agreed and accepted the program. They may not all wish to start the advancement program at the same time. Ask parents to become familiar with the program and assist as needed.

Program Chairman or Committee

Valuable training and experience can be gained by 4-H members when they are interviewed by persons other than their regular club leaders. This experience helps prepare them for job and scholarship interviews.

You may arrange for an advancement chairman or committee to review a member after he has completed the required jobs for a year. The advancement chairman or committee needs to be familiar with the 4-H program and its objectives and the project area. Too much delay in scheduling the interview after the club member is ready can be discouraging, especially for younger members.

The advancement chairman or committee will approve the advancement when they are satisfied that the member is ready for the next step. Step 4 must be approved by the county Extension agent or someone approved by him.

Advancement Certificates

4-H Advancement Certificates are available from your County Extension Office. When a 4-H member has completed a Step, send the signed worksheet to your 4-H Extension agent. He will prepare an Advancement Certificate and will return the advancement manual with the certificate to you.

Earning an Advancement Certificate deserves public recognition. Check with your 4-H agent concerning the handling of newspaper and radio releases in your county. Advancement Certificates can be presented at

