



Tulare County 4-H Ruby Star

Tulare County 4-H Youth Development Program

In addition to the star ranks (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Sapphire) achieved through the Personal Development Report (PDR), Emerald Stars, All Stars, and Ruby Stars are available on a leadership development level. Emerald Star is a leadership plan designed for leadership beyond the club level. All Star is the highest rank at the county level. Ruby Star, the newest rank, is for older members who have achieved the rank of Emerald Star and/or All Star and wish to complete a leadership plan on a county level or above.

High school and older aged members are encouraged to work in a more independent environment. Older members that have developed skills can share with younger members. Teens are seen working on projects more independently, developing leadership plans and carrying out those plans, providing information and resources to others in the program. At this level, there must be overall guidelines, general direction, and assistance, but highly independent and individualized plans and programs. The plan of proposed leadership should be offered on a county, sub-sectional, sectional or state level.

The Ruby Star Program focuses on planning and evaluation skills, carrying out assignments, and working on a countywide or broader basis. Although some past Emerald Star projects have been broad enough in scope for a Ruby Star project, Ruby Star projects should generally be on a level above and beyond the type of leadership plans used for Emerald Star projects.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must have achieved the Emerald Star or All Star Rank. Applicants may work individually or in a team of 2, but individual projects are highly recommended. Team partners must be working on the same star rank. (No mixed Emerald/Ruby Star projects.)



How can I become a Ruby Star?



1. Complete and submit a Ruby Star application, recommendations and plan and set up an interview time. Select an adult who is not a relative to serve as your mentor. Use the Leadership Project Plan to develop your plans.
2. Participate in entrance interview and have your plan approved.
3. Advertise (in *Guidelines*) and implement your approved plan.
4. Exhibit display board (tri-fold, free-standing) highlighting your plan at the Fresno District Fair or 4-H Fair.
5. Compile your final report and Leadership Project Completion for review. Submit your reports to the 4-H Office Prior to your final interview.
6. Present your plan and the results to County Council.

- Attend Achievement Night to be recognized and receive your star. Exhibit your display board.

WHAT DOES COMPLETING A RUBY STAR MEAN?

Ruby Star is different, in many respects, from the other stars. Ruby Star is based on a leadership plan, and on how it is completed. Ruby Star is a process in which plans are developed with prior approval. These plans are to be of proposed leadership on county level or above. The back page of this form is to be used to follow your progress on the Ruby Star Project. The Ruby Star Application is used to request a topic and schedule an interview appointment time. A separate Leadership Plan and Goal Setting Form is used for the detailed plans. A Leadership Completion Report Form is used when completing the project.

The important factors to consider in choosing a Ruby Star Plan are:

- Is it useful, needed, and not duplicating existing programs?
- Does it demonstrate your leadership at the county level?
- Is the scope (cost, time, skills, and other resources needed) manageable?
- Is the time schedule feasible?
- If the activity needs financing, how will you obtain the needed funds?
(Ask 4-H staff if they can offer assistance.)

Topics for Ruby Stars

Topics for Ruby Star Plans can vary, they will generally fit into the following categories: Projects, Events, Publications or Educational Resources.

Some examples of topics are listed below. Please remember that these are only examples. Keep in mind that items which relate to your main project area will be the most beneficial to you in project competition and recognition.

PROJECTS

- Lead a county- or section-wide project

EVENTS

- Work on an event committee
- Hold a project show or field day
- Hold a judging activity
- Conduct a project workshop

PUBLICATIONS

- Project manuals
- Workbooks
- Handouts/flyers

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- Make a slide show
- Make a video tape
- Make leader teaching aids
- Make a Power Point presentation

OTHER

Present a series of programs or talks about 4-H
Do promotional activities for a 4-H program
Assist new members with Demonstrations, Records, and other 4-H activities

Suggested Time Line

APPROX. COMPLETION TIME	MEMBER	Ruby STAR COMMITTEE
One month	Inform -- Ask for topic and set up interview/consultation time Develop Plans using Leadership Planning and Goal Setting form.	1. Send confirmation letter for topic, 2. copy of plan and report to complete 3. date for interview/ consultation. Resource contacts, committee chair, etc.
Two-six months	After approval, implement plan.	
One month	Complete final report for committee review, written report and or presentation.	Review, redo and/or approve Report.

The final report will include the Leadership Report Form, but will also need to have additional materials for the review committee. A separate copy of the Leadership Plan and Report Forms should be included in your 4-H record book. The Ruby Star Report should include what the project was, how many participated or benefited from the project, who helped, how it was promoted - with samples of handouts, flyers, event notebooks, or other project notes and materials.

Notes:

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Think about what you want to do for your project.
2. Talk to your community club leader about your idea, he or she will need to sign your application.
3. Ask an adult to act as your advisor during this project. (This person can be a teacher, 4-H leader, or any adult who is not a relative.)

Then follow the steps in the chart below. *Remember to keep this chart handy and use it to keep track of each step as it is completed and to remind you of what you need to do next.*

Name _____ Ruby Star Project _____

Steps	What to do	Due Date Submit to 4-H Office	Date Submitted	Turned forms in to: (mailed, 4-H Advisor, Secretary, etc.)	Date Completed /Approved
Step 1 APPLY	Ruby Star application (idea of what you want to do) Interview/Share – idea/topic	Member's choice			
Step 2 PLAN	4-H Leadership Project and Goal Setting Form Submit a <i>Guidelines</i> Article about your plan.	Member's Choice 15 th of month prior to month article is to run.			
Step 3 DO	Conduct your Ruby Star Project				
Step 4 REPORT	Share results: Put together final report with documentation of project: event binder, pictures, handbook, samples, evaluation from your mentor, a poster (must exhibit at the fair or other County 4-H event), etc. 4-H Leadership Report Complete form (make 2 copies)	Following project completion Submit one with final report and one with record book.			
Step 5 Present	Present project to County Council.	Request agenda item at least two weeks prior to County Council.			
Step 6 Award	Attend Achievement Night for County Recognition and to receive Star. Exhibit display board.				

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Ruby Star Application - Step 1

TO APPLY

Complete the following steps --

1. Complete and submit Ruby Star Application Form, Leadership Project Planning and Goal Setting Form.
2. Request an interview time prior to a County Council meeting.
3. After plan approval, write and submit an article for *Guidelines* to advertise your project.
4. Conduct project.
5. Submit final report including a Leadership Project Completion Report Form.
6. Present project and outcome to County Council.
7. Ruby Star is awarded at Achievement Night

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Club _____ Year in 4-H _____ Year in Leadership Project _____

Suggested time(s) for interview: _____

1. Describe the leadership project you would like to conduct as a Ruby Star:

2. Goals and Objectives -

a.) What do you want to do and accomplish? What will you learn? _____

b.) What will others do and learn from this project? _____

3. How do you feel you are prepared to conduct this project? _____

4. Who will be your mentor for this project?* _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Member's Signature

Mentor's Signature

RETURN THIS FORM TO THE 4-H OFFICE

*Mentor/Advisor and parent/guardian to send a written confidential recommendation form to 4-H office prior to the interview.

