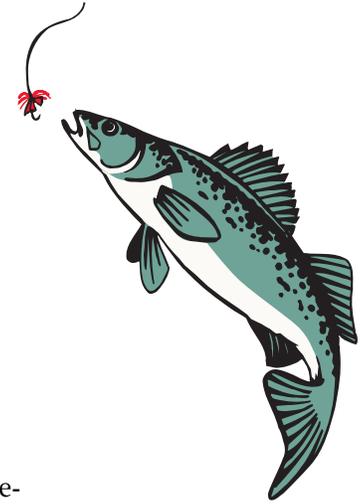




Oregon 4-H Aquatic Ecology and Sportfishing Advancement Program



Oregon 4-H Advancement Programs

An introduction for leaders, parents, and members

4-H advancement programs consist of a series of steps that provide a framework for progressive learning within a specific project area. Advancement programs encourage 4-H members to learn at their own speed based on their interests and abilities. Advancement programs are self-paced, and age- and skill-level appropriate. Advancement programs can also be a tremendous help to members as they set their goals each year. In addition, advancement programs are useful to Junior Leaders and more experienced 4-H members who wish to work with younger or less experienced members.

Benefits of 4-H advancement programs

Advancement programs:

- Make projects more interesting
- Assist members in setting and achieving goals
- Encourage self-paced learning
- Help members learn more about their projects
- Encourage age-appropriate skill level building
- Provide new, enjoyable experiences
- Help prepare members for participation in certain activities and events
- Provide recognition for work done well
- Provide incentive to members to stay in a project over a longer period of time

Life skill development and 4-H advancement programs

Participating in 4-H advancement programs is instrumental in the development of life skills, a major emphasis of 4-H programming. Young people who participate in 4-H are not just gaining knowledge about their project area, they also develop skills they will use throughout their life. Specifically, the 4-H advancement programs are designed to develop life skills in:

- Learning to learn
- Making decisions

- Keeping records
- Planning and organizing
- Achieving goals
- Completing a project or task
- Communicating
- Being responsible
- Developing self-esteem

About the advancement program steps

The advancement steps are written to provide a learning sequence for all members. Although all members should start with Step 1, the advancement program is designed so a 4-H member may advance as fast as he or she desires based on interest, effort, and ability. A fourth- or fifth-grade 4-H member may take 2 or 3 years to complete Step 1; an eighth- or ninth-grade member may complete one or two steps in a year.

Members should work on one step at a time. There are, however, times when a member may accomplish an activity in another step before completing the step on which he or she is working. Recognize that if there is considerable difference in the level of skill within a group, members may be working on several levels of the program at one time. Much of the information leaders and members need to complete advancement steps can be found in project materials. In advanced steps, members will need to refer to other sources.

Recording progress in the advancement program

Leaders should encourage members to keep the advancement program with their records. Doing so allows leaders and members to evaluate the 4-H experience, review progress, and establish goals for the future. Upon completing an activity, the member fills in the date and has the leader initial the record.

Reviewing advancement progress

Once a member has completed an advancement step, the leader should then arrange for a review of the experience. This review often is conducted through an interview process.

If it is feasible, the interview can be conducted by someone other than the leader. It is a valuable experience for members to be interviewed by others who have expertise in a particular area. Such interviews help prepare members for job interviews and other life experiences.

Leaders also may want to arrange for an advancement chairperson or committee to review each member soon after he or she has completed the step requirements.

The review is also an excellent opportunity to involve parents in club activities. Several parents can serve on the committee and two or three of them can conduct the interviews. The interviewers should be familiar with the 4-H program, its objectives, and the project area.

The advancement chairperson or committee should approve the advancement only when they are satisfied the member is ready to continue to the next step.

How to use the advancement program

The advancement program should be presented at the beginning of the 4-H year.

Review what was done last year

Before deciding on specific things to include in the club program, leaders should review what the members and club did previously. A review will allow discussion on the following questions:

- “What did we do?”
- “What did we like?”
- “What needs improvement or expansion?”
- “Was everyone involved?”

Review the members’ present interests

Encourage members and parents to express their interests, needs, and goals. This allows them to feel important and to be committed to the final club program.

Share county/statewide special programs

Tell your members about activities available to them through your county or the state. Share your special interests with members and parents. This allows members and parents to learn about new opportunities and helps determine whether the club should set specific goals related to them.

Develop your program

If your group of 4-H participants is small, all the members should be involved in determining the group goals for the year. If the group is large, a special committee may identify the goals for the year’s program.

Base your goals on the current members’ range of grades, levels of achievement, and interests. Design the program to meet the needs and interests of each member. Establish goals to meet the interests and needs of youth, to allow individual achievement for each member, and to be within range of accomplishment for each member.

If your club has a wide range of grades, interests, and abilities, divide the club into small groups to work with a Junior Leader. This enhances the learning and satisfaction of all members.

Recognizing advancement

The National 4-H Recognition Model (below) shows five different ways to recognize 4-H members.

1. Participation

This type of recognition program emphasizes the importance of acknowledging young people who have been involved in 4-H educational experiences. For some youth, participation in a 4-H learning experience is an accomplishment.

2. Progress toward self-set goals

Parents and other adults can help youth set realistic goals. Recognition for progress toward self-set goals, no matter how small, is an integral part of this type of recognition.



**National 4-H
Recognition Model**

3. Achievement of standards of excellence

Standards of excellence are established by experts in a given area. By measuring personal progress against standards of excellence, youth can gain insight into their own efforts and abilities.

4. Peer competition

Peer competition is a part of the model for recognition. This type of recognition subjectively identifies, in a concrete time and place, the best team or individual. It is a strong motivator for some youth but is inappropriate for youth under age eight.

5. Cooperation

Learning and working together promotes high achievement. Cooperation may take advantage of all the skills represented in the group, as well as the process by which the group approaches the learning task/goal. Everyone is rewarded.

Advancement certificates

The 4-H Advancement Program is an excellent way to promote and recognize members' efforts in progressing toward self-set goals and achieving standards of excellence through learning. Advancement certificates that are customized for each project area are available from your local OSU Extension office. Contact a county 4-H staff member to request advancement certificates in your project area.

Earning an advancement certificate deserves recognition. When members have completed a level of advancement, recognize it. This could be done at an achievement meeting or other community event. Extension 4-H staff members also can help leaders prepare pieces for newspaper and radio releases on the members' achievement.

This section written by Mary Arnold, Extension 4-H youth development specialist, Oregon State University.

Personal Development Options

Choose a different Fishing 4-H option each time. You may repeat General 4-H options for credit in different steps.



General 4-H

1. Lead the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge at a 4-H meeting.
2. Preside at a meeting of your 4-H club.
3. Present a demonstration or illustrated talk to a group other than your club.
4. Serve as a host for a 4-H meeting. See that everyone is welcomed and made comfortable.
5. Participate in a community service project.
6. Serve as the chair of a club committee.
7. Serve as an officer in your club.
8. Serve as a junior or teen leader.
9. Organize a club fundraiser.
10. Work a shift at a county fair fundraising.
11. Attend a Leadership Retreat.
12. Attend "Know Your State Government."
13. Attend OSU Summer Conference.
14. Run for a Leaders' Association Office.
15. Apply to be an Oregon 4-H Ambassador.
16. Write a thank-you note to someone who has benefitted your club. Explain how their contribution helped you and the other members of your club.
17. Develop a system for checking out equipment belonging to your club.

Fishing 4-H

1. Give a talk to your club on fishing ethics.
2. Give a presentation and demonstration on fishing safety.
3. Write an article about fishing and aquatic ecology for the county 4-H newsletter.
4. Collect fly tying or other materials for your 4-H club.
5. Co-teach a fishing-related class at a county event.
6. Serve as an assistant or participate in a fishing-related demonstration at a fair.
7. Arrange for a "specialty" speaker to attend one of your 4-H club meetings.
8. Visit an aquatic area. Collect trash to fill a paper grocery bag, and then dispose of it properly.
9. Research and give a club report on a current issue affecting Oregon's fisheries.
10. Participate in a community service project to protect or enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
11. Explain why it is important to be a responsible angler. Share this information with younger members.
12. Research and share how Northwest Native Americans valued and used fisheries prior to pioneer settlement.
13. Attend and report to the club on an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) public meeting.

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Published April 2005.