

4-H Member Alternative Records



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Alternative Records

All Alternative Records must be approved by both the leader/mentor and the 4-H Educator.

Why keep a 4-H Record?

- A completed Member Record is one of the requirements to be a member in good standing.
- Records help you remember what you have done and accomplished.
- Records help you plan and set goals for what you will do in the future.
- Record keeping is an important life skill that will be useful in your personal life and career.

UVM 4-H recognizes that we all learn and express ourselves differently and we do not want record-keeping to deter someone from fully participating in 4-H activities. We welcome creativity and new ideas to documenting 4-H projects and experiences!

What is an Alternative Record?

The Alternative Record option has been available for years and can be found on page two of the Member Record Book. The information below simply provides some specifics of how to take advantage of this option.

Alternative Records provide 4-Hers with an opportunity to communicate their own learning in a way that makes sense to them. They can demonstrate their knowledge in a more personal, engaging and interactive way as they learn to develop 21st Century Literacy skills. There are many creative ways for members to demonstrate what they have learned and accomplished over the 4-H year outside of the traditional Member Record Book. They can integrate infographics, animations, 3-D projects, videos, or news reports. They can give presentations using Prezi or Powerpoint, create a Pixton or ToonDoo comic, create their own websites or digital stories, or create a blog or a scrapbook. The possibilities are endless and should reflect the members' interest and current proficiency with programs and technology. Below is a partial list of examples of what is possible. Digital records can be submitted via CDROM, flash drive, Google Docs or on a website. All Alternative Record submissions will be considered for presentation and/or exhibit on Awards Night.

- **Create Videos:** Members can make a video to demonstrate their learning. It can include acting or singing or they can create an animation or a documentary to show what they have accomplished. The video can also be part of a larger Powerpoint, or other, presentation.
- **Create a Comic Strip:** Members can use the online cartoon creating tools such as ToonDoo to create a cartoon to illustrate their understanding of a concept.
- **Create presentations/slideshows:** Members can use tools like Prezi or PowerPoint to present their records. If you know how to use Prezi, you can create maps of texts, images, videos, graphics, etc., and present them in a nonlinear way.
- **Use Graphic Organizers:** A graphic organizer is a visual display that members can use to demonstrate relationships between facts, concepts or ideas. They can build upon a visual map or diagram and guide their own thinking. Brainstorming webs, concept maps, mind maps and Venn diagrams are some of the types of graphic organizers.
- **Write a Blog Post:** This one is great for the creative writers. Writing blogs allows members to write for a real audience who might respond and ask questions. They can add appropriate images and include a reflection on their learning.
- **Create Digital Portfolios:** There is a lot of creative potential in digital portfolios as a tool to demonstrate learning and provides a fun opportunity for members to take charge of what they learn and how they present their learning. Digital portfolios are great organizational tool for the members who like to share all of their work, awards, certificates, pictures, etc.

NOTE:

- Any record can be modified, and accommodations can be made, in consultation with the 4-H Educator and the State Livestock Educator.
- All records must be kept up to date and ready for clinics, regional and state days.

Alternative Record Requirements

Alternative record books must include the following items:

- ▶ Goals
- ▶ Information about what the member did/learned/explored
- ▶ Reflected/reflection piece (akin to the My 4-H Story)
- ▶ Name, club name, date, project name, number of years in project, and club leader name
- ▶ *If you are replacing a traditional livestock or shooting sports record and are hoping to apply for national trips and competitions, please consider including some of the data that's asked for in a traditional record. As an example, creatively listing your competition/show history and growth helps a committee understand how a 4-H member has progressed with the project animal. Other projects may look at other aspects like knowledge of health history or even club leadership.*

For additional questions about projects and project record, call your county 4-H Educator or the 4-H State office at 1-800-571-0668.