



The El Paso County 4-H STAR Award Requirements

The STAR award stands for “Stellar Tabletop All-Around Recognition” and is an award that recognizes the top 4-H members enrolled in 4-H Tabletop projects in El Paso County. These winners receive special recognition at El Paso County 4-H Achievement Celebration.

Tabletop projects refer to the General Projects and Consumer Science Projects, specifically the non-livestock or small animal projects. Junior, Intermediate and Senior 4-H members are all eligible to receive a STAR Award.

Step One: Qualify

To qualify as a STAR Award Candidate, members must compete in a county contest and enroll in 2 Tabletop projects (or 2 units within a project) and receive a Blue (or higher) award in both. Please see all details below.

A. Compete in a County Contest.

While it is necessary to receive a minimum of a Blue ribbon on a fair entry to qualify, it is not necessary to receive a blue ribbon in a contest. *Participation alone is your qualifier for further advancement towards a STAR award. However, points for blue or higher ribbons will be given and will increase your standing in the competition.*

The following are contests that qualify towards the STAR Award:

- Speech Contests
- Demonstrations & Illustrated Talks
- El Paso County Contest Performing Arts
- El Paso County Contest Bakeology
- Creative Cooks
- Cake Decorating Contest
- Fashion Revue
- El Paso County 4-H County Competition, (4-H Shooting Sports)
- 4-H Robotics Competition (usually held in June)
- 4-H Rocket Fly Day (based on availability)
- Family Consumer Science Team (FCS)
- Parliamentary Procedure Team

B. Enroll and complete 2 tabletop projects or 2 separate units within a project, exhibit at the El Paso County Fair, and receive a Blue or above ribbon in both.

- STAR Award Candidates will only earn the highest ribbon point values for their top two entries per project area.
 - For Example: In Clothing Construction Unit 1, if a member entered 3 items in Unit 1, the top 2 ribbons would be counted towards their STAR award totals.
 - For Example: In 4-H Shooting Sports, if a member exhibits in multiple disciplines, the top 2 ribbons (regardless of discipline) would be counted towards their STAR Award totals.
 - For Example: In Food Preservation Unit 3, if a member entered 5 items in Unit 3 – Boiling Water Canning, the top 2 ribbons would be counted towards their STAR award totals.

STAR Award – HOW TO QUALIFY	
Qualifications	Specific Requirements
Enroll & Complete 2 General & Consumer Science (Tabletop) Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must receive a Blue ribbon or above on both projects at the El Paso County Fair. • Enrolling & completing 2 separate units with a General Consumer Science (Tabletop) project AND receiving a Blue ribbon or above on both, also qualify.
Compete in an El Paso County Contest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech Contests* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Impromptu or Prepared speech • Demonstration & Illustrated Talks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All standard classes, and Horse Demo/Speech • Interpretive Reading • County Contest Performing Arts • County Contest Bakology • Creative Cooks • Cake Decorating Contest • Fashion Revue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All standard classes, and Modeling for Fun • El Paso County 4-H County Competition (4-H Shooting Sports) • 4-H Robotics Competition • 4-H Rocket Fly Day (based on availability) • Family Consumer Science Team (FCS) • Parliamentary Procedure Team

*Team Speech events qualify, and each member will receive the same points as their teammates.

Step Two: STAR Candidate Nomination

Members that qualify as a STAR Award Candidate (based on the qualifying criteria listed above) will be notified by the Committee shortly after the completion of the El Paso County Fair.

Candidates must complete The El Paso County STAR Activity Chart by Friday, **September 4, 2026** and email the completed chart to Jen Loewen at: JenniferLoewen@elpasoco.com to remain eligible for the STAR award.

Step Three: Final Interview & Award Determination

Once all STAR Activity Charts are submitted, up to 5 candidates in each age division will be selected to interview based on the number of points earned on the Activity Chart, Contests and Exhibits at County and State Fair. (please see points chart below). Points can be earned in several areas.

STAR Award – TOP 5 CANDIDATES SELECTION PROCESS	
Contest Area	Point Total Possible
El Paso County Fair, General & Consumer Science (Tabletop) Exhibit Placement Points	County Blue Ribbon = 1 point County Reserve Champion = 2 points County Champion = 3 points
El Paso County Contest(s) Placement Points	County Blue Ribbon = 1 point County Reserve Champion = 2 points County Champion = 3 points
El Paso County Fair County Competition 4-H Shooting Sports Contest Participation	Qualifying for State = 1 point County Reserve Champion = 2 points County Champion = 3 points
Colorado State Robotics Competition*	Qualifying for State = 1 point County Reserve Champion = 2 points County Champion = 3 points
Colorado 4-H State Conference Competition Placement Points (Impromptu Speech, Horse Public Speaking, Horse Demonstration)	State Placement 3 rd – 10 th = 1 point State Reserve Champion = 2 points State Champion = 3 points
Colorado State Fair Rocket Fly Day Contest Participation (based on availability)	1 point
Colorado State Fair Exhibit Placement Points	State Placement 3 rd – 10 th = 1 point State Reserve Champion = 2 points State Champion = 3 points
Colorado State Fair Contest Placement Points	State Blue Ribbon = 1 point State Reserve Champion = 2 points State Champion = 3 points
El Paso County STAR Activity Chart Points	Number of points earned = Number of additional points received

*Robotics Teams qualify, and each member will receive the same points as their teammates.

Once the final candidates have been determined in each age division based on the total number of points earned, these candidates will be notified and invited to interview with the Tabletop Advisory Committee during the STAR Award Interviews.

During these interviews, candidates will be judged on their **Activity Chart Placing, Interview with the Tabletop Committee, a 4-H Knowledge Quiz and a Representative Record Book.**

STAR Award interviews are normally held in the evening during the 3rd week of September. Members will receive an email invitation to participate.

Candidates will be judged on the following components during the STAR interview:

A. **Activity Chart:** Activity Charts must be submitted by **Friday, September 4, 2026** to Jen Loewen at: JenniferLoewen@elpasoco.com.

a. [Activity Charts can be accessed on the El Paso County 4-H Website by clicking here.](#)

Activity Charts will be scored according to the total amount of points earned. The areas considered will be participation in the following areas:

- 4-H Leadership
- Community service
- County 4-H Involvement
- 4-H Camps and Conferences
- "Above and Beyond" 4-H participation

B. **Record Book:** Candidates will receive points based on the scoring of a Record Book of their choice which they will bring with them on the scheduled STAR Interview. A panel of Tabletop Committee members will score their **Record Book according to the [El Paso County Tabletop E-Record Rubric](#) for the book.** The Record Book MUST be of a Tabletop Project submitted at County Fair that year.

C. **4-H Knowledge Quiz:** Candidates will receive points based on their score on a Quiz of 4-H Knowledge. Questions will be based on the [article-style study guide, found here](#). Please scroll down to the STAR Award section.

D. **STAR Award Interview:** Candidates will be interviewed and scored by a panel of three Tabletop Committee Members. The questions asked will be the same for all candidates along with 2 impromptu questions selected by the committee prior to the interviews. [The Interview Scoresheet can be viewed here.](#)

Final Selection is based on the total points received on the Activity Record/Involvement, Record Book, 4-H Knowledge Quiz, and the Interview. Based on these results, a Bronze, Silver and Gold STAR award winner will be selected in each age division. These award winners will be announced and awarded during the El Paso County 4-H Achievement Celebration.

The Tabletop Committee's decision will be final. Questions up until that time can be addressed to the 4-H County Specialist, or the Tabletop Committee Chair.



EL PASO COUNTY 4-H TABLETOP STAR AWARD



YOU could be eligible to Compete for the Tabletop STAR Award -- Get Qualified Today!



STEP 1:
Enroll in 2 or More
Tabletop Projects!

Select Projects
by **April 1**

To qualify as a STAR Award Candidate, members must enroll in 2 Tabletop projects (or 2 units within a project) **AND receive a Blue award in BOTH** at the El Paso County Fair. You **MUST** enroll in your Tabletop projects by April 1, 2026!



STEP 3:
Fill out/return your
STAR Activity Chart!

STAR Chart Due
**Friday,
September 4**

Once you've qualified by participating in a County Contest and receiving 2 or more Blue awards, you will need to fill out your El Paso County STAR Activity Chart. These points will be totaled and added to your final point total!



STEP 5:
Top 5 Candidates are
Selected to Interview!

Interviews Held
**3rd Week of
September**

Once the Top 5 Candidates in each age division are selected based on their point totals, candidates will be invited to interview with the Tabletop Advisory Committee! Candidates will:

- Interview with the Committee
- Take a 4-H Knowledge Quiz
- Bring in a Representative E-Record from the current year

Find all Award Details at:
<https://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu/4-h-family-resources/>



County Contest
is held **Saturday
April 11**

STEP 2:
Participate in a
County Contest!

To qualify as a STAR Award Candidate, members must participate in a County Contest or a County Contest held during the El Paso County Fair. Participation in the 4-H Shooting Sports Competition & Robotics/Rocketry Contest count too! Enrollment for the County Contest starts in **March, 2026**, El Paso County Fair Registration starts in **May, 2026**

Points Talled in
**1st Week of
September**

STEP 4:
Point Totals are Talled
by the Committee!

In the 1st week of September, the Tabletop Advisory Committee will tally all the points earned by Candidates in several areas:

- STAR Activity Charts
- County Fair Awards received
- State Fair Awards received
- County Competition Awards received

4-H Achievement
Awards is in
October!

STEP 6:
Attend 4-H
Achievement Awards!



Attend the 4-H Achievement Awards Ceremony--the Top 3 Candidates in each age division will be awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze STAR Awards!



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