

Top Ten Tricks and Tips to Keep 4-H Record Books from Wrecking Your Summer and Your 4-H Experience while Decreasing Tension in Your Home.

- 10. Don't procrastinate, I know easier said than done.** The record book deadline is not a moving target. Since the beginning of time (or it seems) record books have been due the first Friday in August, so why wait? Record books are meant to be completed over the length of your project. Working on your record book throughout the year is far less stressful than rushing at the end. Plus, you will get more out of this experience.
- 9. Focus on what you're good at** and don't dwell on what you don't enjoy about record books. Everyone has tasks we look forward to completing and others we dread. So if you love writing stories or creating a scrap book focus on that and it won't seem like a chore!
- 8. Consider a peer tutor (aka a 4-H Junior Leader)** There are many 4-H members who excel at record books, chances are one is in your club.
- 7. Attend a Record Book 101 Clinic.** By attending one of the Record Book 101 Clinics, offered through the Extension Office, you will obtain all the materials required to complete a record book. Also the, oh so scary, Permanent Record will be demystified.
- 6. Understand what is on the line!** Do you know if you do not get at least a white ribbon or above you are unable to participate at fair?
- 5. Record books = \$\$\$\$.** Who knew keeping good records since you were in fourth grade could be your cash cow for college. Your Permanent Record (which directly reflects your involvement in 4-H) is 60% of your score when applying for local 4-H Scholarships.
- 4. Parents: Be a guider not a doer!** Record books are your child's responsibility not yours. This does not mean leave your fourth grader to fend for themselves. You may guide them (or better yet see #8) but the work must be completed by the member. This includes all of the writing and typing. If you complete a section of the record book for your child it's not only unfair to your child but other 4-H members in their class. Also, what life skill is your child learning?!?!
- 3. Set Goals!** All project records include a space for members to set a goal or write about what they would like to learn this year. Include record books in your goal for this year.
- 2. Technology is on your side!** Say goodbye to typewriters and hello to fillable online documents. Visit the OSU Lake County Extension website for links to a copy of a fillable permanent record and project records. Updating, editing and saving your records will now be a breeze!
- 1. Understand the true relevance of record books,** Record books are not a form of punishment set forth by the 4-H Leaders Association or Extension Office staff because we are mean and want to ruin your summer. Completing records and book keeping are a truly valid life skill. As adults we use the skills you are learning daily, get good at it now.