



Oregon 4-H Dog Advancement Program

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.

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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 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 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.

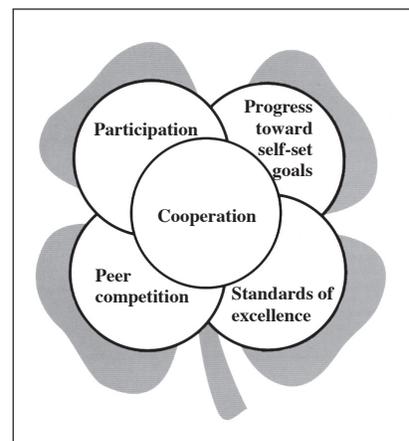
Base your goals on the current year members’ range of grades,

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 outlines five different ways to recognize 4-H members.



National 4-H Recognition Model

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.

3. Achievement of standards of excellence. Experts in a given

area establish standards of excellence. 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 member's 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.

The introduction was written by Mary Arnold, Extension 4-H youth development specialist, Oregon State University.

Using the advancement program in the 4-H Dog Project

The 4-H dog advancement program will:

- Make your project more interesting
- Help you learn about dogs, dog care, obedience, companionship, showing your dog, and the responsibilities of dog ownership
- Help you develop greater skill with dogs
- Provide you new, enjoyable experiences
- Allow you to advance according to your ability, interest, and enthusiasm

The 4-H dog advancement program is an important part of your dog project. It should be included as part of your project records. Many answers to the questions asked in the advancement program can be found in the 4-H dog care materials. Additional information may be found in other publications on dogs, usually available at your library.

As you complete each option, fill in the date and have your leader or examiner [junior leader, parent, or other designated person(s)] initial it. When you have completed the required number of options for a step, you will qualify for an attractive advancement certificate.

When you have passed Step 1, go on in turn to Steps 2, 3, 4, and 5. You can do options for higher steps while you are working on a lower step, but you can't qualify for the higher step until you have qualified for all preceding steps.

Study each option carefully. Enjoy a new challenge.

If you don't have a dog, you may borrow or use someone else's dog to complete the advancement program.

Note that you may elect to substitute skill and personal development options of your own choice, not listed in this program, by first obtaining your leader's permission. *Options designated with an asterisk (*) cannot be substituted.*

Step 1

This is the first step in the 4-H dog advancement program. When you have completed 12 skill options, 4 personal development options, and 1 citizen pride option, you are qualified to complete Step 1.

Skill Options

	Date passed	Approved by
1. Name five ways dogs serve people.	_____	_____
*2. Tell the background of your breed or breed-type.	_____	_____
*3. Explain the sets of teeth a dog will grow. How many are permanent teeth and how many are temporary?	_____	_____
4. Locate and identify the hock, loin, shoulder, and muzzle.	_____	_____
5. Does it hurt a dog or injure it to bolt or gulp its food? Give two reasons why or why not.	_____	_____
6. Dogs are said to have "nose brains." What does this mean? What things might a dog learn by smelling "sign posts" such as auto tires or fire plugs? (Name at least three.)	_____	_____
7. Why does a dog have or not have a tail? What is it used for?	_____	_____
8. Explain why it's possible to housebreak a dog but not a cow, monkey, or bird.	_____	_____
9. Name the seven groups of dogs recognized by the American Kennel Club and name a breed from each group.	_____	_____
10. Demonstrate how you groom your dog.	_____	_____
*11. What do you feed your dog and why?	_____	_____
12. Show how to put a slip collar and leash on your dog.	_____	_____
13. When and where should you take your puppy out to exercise (toilet)?	_____	_____
*14. Name three safety practices in caring for a dog.	_____	_____
*15. Demonstrate how to show your dog's bite.	_____	_____

Personal Development Options

(Select two or more options from page 9.)

*1. Give a demonstration or illustrated talk to your club (minimum of 3 minutes).	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. Keep a record on your dog.	_____	_____

Citizen Pride Option

(select from page 10)

1. _____	_____	_____
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Name of club member is qualified and has completed all requirements for Step 1 of the 4-H dog advancement program.

Age

Date

Approved by club advancement chairperson or committee

Approved by club leader

Step 2

This is the second step in the 4-H dog advancement program. When you have completed 12 skill options, 5 personal development options, and 1 citizen pride option, you are qualified to complete step 2.

Skill Options

	Date passed	Approved by
1. Name the requirements a dog must meet before being registered in AKC.	_____	_____
*2. Be able to name and locate the external parts of a dog.	_____	_____
3. Name the basic types of sporting dogs.	_____	_____
*4. Demonstrate how you measure your dog and how to trim toenails.	_____	_____
5. Name two types of hounds and tell what AKC group they are in.	_____	_____
*6. Show how to sit, down, heel, recall, stand, and stay your dog.	_____	_____
7. Explain the term "gestation."	_____	_____
8. Learn, correctly spell, and define the terms "spayed" and "neutered."	_____	_____
9. Learn, correctly spell, and define the terms "purebred," "registered," "crossbred," and "mongrel."	_____	_____
10. Demonstrate how to clean your dog's ears.	_____	_____
11. How long ago was the dog domesticated? The common ancestor of the dog is a long-extinct animal called _____ (spell correctly). What present day animal did it resemble?	_____	_____
12. What are mammary glands?	_____	_____
13. It has been estimated that there are approximately how many breeds of dogs in the world? How many breeds does the AKC recognize today?	_____	_____
14. Tell what you can do to help your dog accept the touch of a stranger.	_____	_____
15. Demonstrate how to use mousetraps to discourage a dog from getting in waste baskets or on chairs.	_____	_____
16. Show how to keep a dog from chewing on things.	_____	_____
17. What three methods could you use to cure your puppy of jumping on you?	_____	_____

Personal Development Options

(select from page 9)

*1. Give a demonstration or illustrated talk to your club (minimum of 5 minutes).	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. Keep a record on your dog.	_____	_____

Citizen Pride Option

(select from page 10)

1. _____	_____	_____
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<i>Name of club member is qualified and has completed all requirements for Step 2 of the 4-H dog advancement program.</i>	<i>Age</i>
	<i>Date</i>

<i>Approved by club advancement chairperson or committee</i>	<i>Approved by club leader</i>
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Step 3

This is the third step in the 4-H dog advancement program. When you have completed 12 skill options, 6 personal development options, and 2 citizen pride options, you are qualified to complete Step 3.

Skill Options

	Date passed	Approved by
*1. What vaccinations does a dog need and why?	_____	_____
2. If you are the owner of a dog, list at least three other dog responsibilities besides feeding, grooming, and immunity protection.	_____	_____
3. Dog owners have legal responsibilities. Name two that apply to you.	_____	_____
*4. What is the meaning of "leash law"?	_____	_____
5. Where is the city and/or county animal shelter nearest you located? What is its function?	_____	_____
6. Is there a local Humane Society in your area? What is its function?	_____	_____
7. What preparation would you make before you bring a puppy home?	_____	_____
*8. What happens when a dog is picked up by a dog control officer? How many days would you have to reclaim your dog? What happens if you don't go get it?	_____	_____
*9. Before getting a dog, what three things will you want to inquire about?	_____	_____
*10. Name and spell correctly four insects or parasites that are common with dogs.	_____	_____
11. Demonstrate how to properly pick up a puppy.	_____	_____
12. The initials AKC stand for _____ . In what city and state is its home office _____ ?	_____	_____
*13. All dogs should be licensed. How can your license help you, and what two things must the license-issuing agency do for you in return for your license fee?	_____	_____
14. Should you use the previous owner's dog diet the first day or two for your new puppy? Why?	_____	_____
15. Tell or show how to introduce a dog to chickens or other animals.	_____	_____
16. Teach your dog a trick and show it to the members in your club.	_____	_____
17. Give a detailed report on the life cycle of a parasite of dogs.	_____	_____

Personal Development Options

(select from page 9)

*1. Give a demonstration or illustrated talk to your club or a group (minimum of 15 minutes).	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. Keep a record on your dog.	_____	_____

Citizen Pride Options

(select from page 10)

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____

Name of club member is qualified and has completed all requirements for
Step 3 of the 4-H dog advancement program.

Age

Date

Approved by club advancement chairperson or committee

Approved by club leader

Step 4

This is the fourth step in the 4-H dog advancement program. When you have completed 12 skill options, 7 personal development options, and 2 citizen pride options, you are qualified to complete Step 4.

Skill Options

	Date passed	Approved by
*1. What are the nutrition requirements for a dog? Give the advantage and disadvantage of canned, dry, and semi-moist dog food; and table scraps as a meal for your dog.	_____	_____
2. Explain how you would feed a puppy 2 to 3 months of age (amount, frequency, and type of food).	_____	_____
*3. What is DHLPP? When should it be given to your dog? How long does the booster last?	_____	_____
*4. What is rabies? When should your dog have its first rabies vaccination? How often should it be repeated? How is this infection transmitted?	_____	_____
*5. Name five types of worms dogs may have. If you suspect worms, what procedure can you use to make certain? Will the same medicine be effective for treatment of all worms?	_____	_____
6. Demonstrate how to give a dog a pill.	_____	_____
7. What is heartworm? Where is it found? How do you control it?	_____	_____
8. What is ringworm? Is it contagious? How is it controlled?	_____	_____
9. Demonstrate how to prepare a spot where a puppy can relieve itself and tell why dogs shouldn't be paper-trained or taught to use the basement. Tell what methods to use to correct a dog when it relieves itself in the wrong area.	_____	_____
*10. Diagram and describe the digestive system of the dog.	_____	_____
11. How much and how often should you feed a mature dog each day when feeding dry dog food? when feeding canned dog food?	_____	_____
12. Are porkchop bones good for your dog? Chicken bones? Between meal snacks? Leftovers from the table? Why?	_____	_____
13. Show how to give liquid to your dog.	_____	_____
14. Tell how to rid a dog of four different external parasites.	_____	_____
15. Demonstrate how you have taught your dog to work off leash, retrieve, or jump.	_____	_____
16. Develop an emergency first aid kit for dogs and demonstrate how to use it.	_____	_____

Personal Development Options

1. Prepare a paper (300 words or more) and present it to your club.	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. Keep a record on your dog.	_____	_____

Citizen Pride Options

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____

Name of club member is qualified and has completed all requirements for Step 4 of the 4-H dog advancement program.

 Age

 Date

 Approved by club advancement chairperson or committee

 Approved by club leader

Step 5

This is the fifth step in the 4-H dog advancement program. When you have completed 10 skill options, 7 personal development options, and 3 citizen pride options, you are qualified to complete Step 5.

Skill Options	Date passed	Approved by
*1. Show the tools and demonstrate how to groom your dog.	_____	_____
2. What is the best tool for removing loose or shedding hair? Show how it should be done.	_____	_____
*3. Show or tell how to bathe a dog. Include how to determine when a dog should get a bath, the temperature bathwater should be, and the choice of soap or shampoo.	_____	_____
4. Your dog's hair is sometimes referred to as its insulated blanket. Why?	_____	_____
*5. Diagram and describe the reproductive system of a dog.	_____	_____
6. Demonstrate how to clean your dog's teeth.	_____	_____
7. A dog that barks too much is a nuisance. How would you stop this bad habit?	_____	_____
8. Demonstrate how you taught your dog to seek or find an article by direction or scent.	_____	_____
9. Can you name five words beginning with the letter "P" that we find helpful in dog training?	_____	_____
10. Tell how you would travel with your dog. Include preparation before travel and what to do during travel.	_____	_____
11. Put an emergency muzzle on your dog and tell why one should be used when giving first aid to a dog.	_____	_____
12. Diagram and describe the internal parts of the dog.	_____	_____
13. Diagram and describe the skeletal parts of the dog.	_____	_____
14. Give a report on dog parasites, internal and external. Have samples, if possible.	_____	_____
15. Name five characteristics to look for when selecting a puppy from a litter.	_____	_____
16. Name seven careers associated with the dog world.	_____	_____

Personal Development Options

1. Prepare a paper (300 words or more) on a topic related to dog care and responsibility, and present it to another group.	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. Keep a record on your dog.	_____	_____

Citizen Pride Options

1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____

Name of club member is qualified and has completed all requirements for Step 5 of the 4-H dog advancement program.

Age

Date

Approved by club advancement chairperson or committee

Approved by club leader

Personal Development Options

(Choose different options for each step)

1. Lead the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge at a meeting.
2. Lead a song or a game at a meeting.
3. Preside at a meeting.
- *4. Write a news story for a local paper.
- *5. Write a column for your club's newsletter.
- *6. Participate in a radio or television program.
7. Serve as a host at a meeting, making sure everyone is welcomed and made comfortable.
8. Serve as chairperson of a committee.
9. Participate in a judging or identification contest.
- *10. Serve as a junior leader.
- *11. Serve as a teen leader.
12. Attend 4-H Camp.
- *13. Attend 4-H Summer Conference at OSU.
- *14. Be a Teen Counselor at Camp.
15. Serve on the Teen Staff at State Fair.
- *16. Serve as clerk, chairman, ring steward, or apprentice judge at a match or show.
- *17. Develop a display related to your dog project.
18. Make arrangements for a tour by your club.
19. Arrange for a film to be shown at your club meeting.
20. Secure a speaker for a club meeting.
21. Participate in the program for your club's achievement night.
- *22. Visit a grooming shop, pet store, kennels, or another training class and report to the members some things you learned from your visit.
23. Plan a fun activity for your club separate from a regular meeting.
24. Plan a learning activity for your club, e.g., dog judging contest, parasite I.D. night.
- *25. Participate in a drill team, race, relay, or costume parade with your dog.
- *26. Give a presentation to your 4-H group or other group.
27. Raise a Guide Dog Puppy.
28. Help to organize and/or work for a match.
- *29. Explore a career associated with dogs, and report on that career to your club.
- *30. Develop some options of your own with your leader's approval.

Citizen Pride Options

- *1. Participate in a Community Service Project.
- *2. Participate in a Community Pride Project.
- *3. Prepare a display (pictures, clippings, things) that would be educational or helpful in stressing:
 - Clean air, clean land, or clean water
 - Conserving natural resources
 - Conserving energy
 - Practicing safety
 - Other
- *4. Prepare a slide presentation with commentary on the above topics.
- *5. Help bring a bit of cheer to a shut-in, a rest home, a hospital patient, an elderly person, etc. Ideas: Give a telephone call, send a card or letter, prepare a tray favor, visit, read to or play with the lonely, take a gift, cookies, flowers, etc.
- *6. Do something to improve your neighborhood, even if it's cleaning your own front yard.
- *7. Help the aged in securing their pet license or taking the animal for vaccinations.
- *8. Do a chore for someone who needs help.
- *9. Take part in a program that will emphasize making the home, community, country, or world a better place to live and enjoy life.
- *10. Help in some way to educate the public in pet owner responsibilities and pet problems, offering some solutions.
- *11. Help organize a pet show or parade.
- *12. Visit with a county official about the 4-H dog program.
- *13. Organize a community dog wash.
- *14. Develop your own option with your leader's approval.

**These may be repeated in different steps.*

This publication was developed in August 1974 by Nancy Rand, 4-H leader, Josephine County, and Duane Johnson, Extension 4-H youth development specialist emeritus, Oregon State University; assisted by the Development Committee for the 4-H Dog Care Project. It was revised in 1985 by Linda Eng and Ann Dickerson, 4-H leaders, Benton County and revised in 2005 by members of the 4-H Dog Project Development Committee.

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