

4-H

Dog Obedience Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The 4-H Dog Obedience Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project.

Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. Through your project you will acquire an understanding of the principals of dog handling, obedience, and working on and off a leash.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- ❖ The 4-H Publications Catalog lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- ❖ The 4-H Educational Resources Lending Library at your county 4-H office includes other books, videos and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- ❖ Check to see if there are any local dog groups or organizations in your community that conduct educational activities and dog shows. Local breeders are excellent sources of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ❖ Level I - "Explorer", you begin to learn about many different aspects of Dog Obedience.
- ❖ Level II - "Producer", you practice and refine the many skills involved in a Canine Good Citizenship Certificate.
- ❖ Level III - "Consumer", you become an experienced in on and off leash work.
- ❖ Level IV - "Leader", allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ❖ Level V - "Researcher", you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of Dog Obedience, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement and notify the 4-H office.

Dog Obedience Proficiency

Level I - Explorer

Date Completed _____

(Sub Novice – All work on leash)

- ____1. Explain how to choose an appropriate training (choke) collar.
- ____2. Explain how to choose an appropriate leash.
- ____3. Demonstrate how to put the training collar on correctly.
- ____4. Demonstrate how to hold the leash correctly.
- ____5. Demonstrate the proper heel position.
- ____6. Demonstrate the proper sit position.
- ____7. Demonstrate the figure 8.
- ____8. Demonstrate the stand for examination.
- ____9. Demonstrate the recall & finish.
- ____10. Demonstrate the long one minute sit.
- ____11. Demonstrate the long three minute down.
- ____12. Explain the safety rules regarding this project.
- ____13. Explain what vaccinations your dog is required to have to participate in this project.
- ____14. Enter your dog in the Sub Novice class at a 4-H show or Fair.

Member's Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____

Date: _____

KEEP IN YOUR RECORD BOOK WITH YOUR PROJECT RECORDS.

Dog Obedience Proficiency

Level II - Producer

Date Completed _____

(AKC Canine Good Citizen Certificate)

- ____1. License your dog with the appropriate agency (Animal Control, Humane Society, City, etc.)
- ____2. Explain what the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program is.
- ____3. Demonstrate that your dog will “Accept a Friendly Stranger”.
- ____4. Demonstrate that your dog will “Sit Politely for Petting”.
- ____5. Demonstrate that you maintain your dog in good health by his “Appearance and Grooming”.
- ____6. Demonstrate that your dog will “Go Out for a Walk”, on a loose leash.
- ____7. Demonstrate that your dog will “Walk Through a Crowd.”
- ____8. Demonstrate that your dog will “Sit and Down on Command/Staying in Place”.
- ____9. Demonstrate that your dog will “Come When Called.”
- ____10. Demonstrate that your dog will “Not React to Another Dog”.
- ____11. Demonstrate that your dog will “Not React to Distractions”.
- ____12. Demonstrate that your dog will behave during “Supervised Separation”.
- ____13. Enter your dog in, and successfully pass, the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test.

Member’s Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Leader’s Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Dog Obedience Proficiency

Level III - Consumer

Date Completed _____

(Novice – On & Off Leash Work)

- ____1. Demonstrate the correction for forging.
- ____2. Demonstrate the correction for lagging.
- ____3. Demonstrate the correction for heeling wide.
- ____4. Demonstrate the correction for crowding.
- ____5. Demonstrate the temptation correction.
- ____6. Demonstrate off leash heeling.
- ____7. Demonstrate off leash figure 8 pattern.
- ____8. Demonstrate the off leash recall, from 30 feet away.
- ____9. Demonstrate the off leash long one minute sit, from 30 feet away.
- ____10. Demonstrate the off leash, long three minute down, from 30 feet away.
- ____11. Demonstrate competency in showmanship for your animal.
- ____12. Share your knowledge by giving a demonstration to your project on one aspect of novice training.
- ____13. Exhibit your dog in the novice class, and receive a qualifying score, at a 4-H, AKC, Fair or Fun Match.

Member's Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Dog Obedience Proficiency

Level IV - Leader

Date Completed _____

(Graduate Novice – All work off leash)

- ____1. Serve as Junior or Teen Leader in this project for one year.
- ____2. Assist members in constructing needed equipment for this project.
- ____3. Teach other members Obedience or Showmanship.
- ____4. Do demonstration, at the training classes, related to the obedience project.
- ____5. Assist at a show as a ring steward, or set-up, registration, etc.
- ____6. Demonstrate the down on recall.
- ____7. Demonstrate the long three minute sit, handler out of site.
- ____8. Demonstrate the long five-minute down, handler out of site.
- ____9. Exhibit your dog in the graduate novice class at a 4-H, AKC, Fair or Fun Match.

Member's Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Dog Obedience Proficiency

Level V - Researcher

Date Completed _____

- _____ 1. Report on the results of two different methods of which you used to teach the same exercise. Compare the results.

- _____ 2. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on a topic approved by your leader.
Possibilities include:
 - The American kennel club.
 - How can your dog become an obedience trial champion?
 - History of your dog's breed.
 - Service dogs and their training.
 - How to choose the right breed for you and find your next dog.

- _____ 3. Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or educational event.

Member's Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the _____ Proficiency
in _____ County.

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Leader's Signature

NOTES

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Leader Tips for Utilizing the 4-H Project Proficiency Program

The goal of the Lake County 4-H Proficiency program is to give members recognition and rewards in a timely manner and in a variety of ways to meet the diverse needs of today's youth.

It is also designed to assist youth in measuring themselves against 'standards of excellence' Each proficiency is comprised of five skill levels and should be designed to increase in scope and difficulty. The levels are:

- ❖ Level I – Explorer
- ❖ Level II – Producer
- ❖ Level III – Consumer
- ❖ Level IV – Leader
- ❖ Level V – Researcher

The proficiencies are three-fold in purpose:

To provide youth opportunities to sample a broad array of experiences, measure personal progress, and become self-directed learners.

To provide a standard of excellence where members are recognized for knowledge and skills they have mastered.

To provide guidelines for leaders to enhance and expand project content and experiences.

The Proficiency program is **not** designed to be an award, or a prize for the best in competition. Instead, members are **rewarded** for their personal progress. The intent of the proficiency program is to increase performance, while allowing members to be motivated, to be creative and to take risks.

The proficiencies are not a test. Youth should not be quizzed at the end of each 4-H year to determine how much they have learned. The proficiencies should be given to each youth member as a set of goals that they, as individuals, can work toward over one or more years. Completion of all five levels of a proficiency indicates "mastery of a subject."

The proficiency program is voluntary. Not all youth will find this type of activity rewarding. Many youth enter projects with their own goals. They join to learn a specific skill or group of skills, but not to achieve mastery of a subject. Additionally, not all project leaders will choose to go into such depth for each subject area. Completion of Level I – Explorer, may be all that is offered by a particular project leader.

We encourage leaders to give proficiency guides to members sometime during the first or second year in a project. At this point, the leader allows the member to determine which skills and/or knowledge areas he or she wants to master. Youth members can work on skills in several levels at the same time. The leader's job is to check each item in a level when the member has completed it.

For the skill areas which require demonstration, youth members may demonstrate individually to the leader (project or teen), the group, or the club at a local meeting. Members are not required to demonstrate in front of a group as we are measuring mastery of a subject, not public speaking ability. Some leaders leave time at the end of each project meeting for members to work on their proficiencies.

Leaders are cautioned not to accept a questionable answer. This indicates an incomplete mastery of the particular skill or body of knowledge. If the youth member is unsure of the correct method or term, use this time to teach the individual and allow member a month to think about it and review. The youth member will return with the knowledge learned and present it with confidence.

Allow a significant amount of time (one month) to lapse between the time a skill is taught and a member demonstrates mastery. This allows time to practice and achieve mastery, not merely reflect on a newly learned skill.

Reward immediately! Recognition is most meaningful when it is presented immediately following a learning experience. Initial and date each item as the member completes the skill. When all items in a level are completed, sign the Certificate of Achievement and notify your County 4-H Office.

A Proficiency medal, will be sponsored by the Lake County Council and awarded at the county achievement program when a skill level is completed. Youth may receive more than one medal per year. They may do this by completing two or more consecutive levels in one project area, or by completing one level in two or more projects.

For members to qualify for proficiency awards they must complete all the requirements below and give a 4-H presentation during the 4-H year.

- ❖ Have up-to-date and complete enrollment packet and enrollment fees on file at the 4-H office.
- ❖ Attend 80% of club and project meetings.
- ❖ Members must provide 4-H Records to the club leader for project completion verification. Records must include Personal Development Report and Annual Project Report form for each project a member is applying for a Proficiency Award, and the completed Proficiency Form.