

# SUTTER-YUBA COUNTIES GUIDE TO 4-H HATS



The 4-H Hat is a source of pride in the California 4-H Program. We are the only state to have a 4-H Club Hat and uniform. Many members use a Hat to place their achievement pins on, to wear at 4-H events and when showing animals at fairs. A 4-H Hat is not required for membership in 4-H, or for participating in any 4-H activity, event, or meeting. But, the Yuba Sutter Fair requires us to wear our Hats as part of the 4-H Uniform.

## WHICH HAT TO WEAR

There are two colors of 4-H Hats and some members are confused as to which Hat to wear. There are Green Hats and White Hats.

- **Green Hats** are for Junior 4-H members, which are 13 years old and younger - generally members in eighth grade and younger.
- **White Hats** are for Senior 4-H members, 4-H members who have graduated from the eighth grade, or are 14 years old and older. *Many 4-H members switch to a white Hat after they have graduated from eighth grade for the fair. This is fine because our 4-H year actually starts in July and by the end of July at the fair they are officially Senior members.*

## LEFT SIDE OF THE HAT

The left side of the Hat is where you place your stars and any medals and pins you've earned.

- Stars are placed on the front left side of the Hat. The stars 4-H members can earn are Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Emerald and All Star. **It is very important to know that members should only wear one star on their hat and it should be the highest star rank they have achieved.** The exception to this is if you are an All Star or Emerald Star. If you are an All Star or Emerald Star you would wear your current star rank and the All Star or Emerald Star on your Hat. This is the only time you would wear more than one Star on your Hat.
- The Jr. /Teen Leader emblems are placed behind the stars. Your Hi 4-H Patch, if you are in Hi 4-H, is placed after the Jr. /Teen Leader emblems. These patches are only worn while the member is serving as a Junior or Teen Leader or in Hi 4-H, and should be removed if you are no longer serving.



## RIGHT SIDE OF THE HAT

The right side of the Hat is where you place your year stripes and pins.

A year stripe and year pin is earned for each year completed in 4-H.

- Junior and Primary Members (8th grade and below) wear a white stripe on green background for that year.
  - Jr. Leaders (6th, 7th, 8th grades) wear a gold stripe on green background for that year.
  - Senior Members (9th grade and up) wear a green stripe with a white background for that year.
  - Teen Leaders (9th grade and up) wear a gold stripe on white background.
- Year pins are fastened to the Hat above the stripe, starting with the first year pins next to the 4-H clover.
  - The 100% attendance pin, if earned, should be fastened to the Hat below the stripe of the year earned.
  - It is suggested that if you are an officer you wear your officer pin above the year pin or anywhere above the stripes on the right side of the Hat.
  - It is suggested that if you win Outstanding 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Member you should put your pin on the year stripe in which you won. If you prefer, you can put it on the left side of the Hat.



## MEDALS/PINS

Medals may be worn on either side of the Hat, but it is recommended that they be worn primarily on the left side of the Hat.

Some examples of medals you would wear on the left side of your Hat are Fashion Revue pins, 5 Presentation Pins, Camp Medals, Spring Fair Medals, Proficiency Awards, Record Book Medals, and Clean Barn Awards.

There are many opportunities to win and earn 4-H pins and medals throughout the year. You earn stars by completing your record book and getting points for different types of participation. The Hat should always be in good taste and not overly decorated. Non-4-H pins such as soccer pins or school achievement pins, ribbons or awards should not be worn on your 4-H Hat. You should only wear things you have earned in 4-H on your 4-H Hat.

## KEEPING IT ALL TOGETHER

To keep things organized you should store your scarf or tie inside of your Hat. If you wear a scarf, it is a good idea to pin a large safety pin inside your Hat to hold your white ring for your scarf. When you are done wearing your scarf or tie, fold it up and put it back inside of your Hat. If you wear a scarf put the ring back on the pin.

If you don't have time to attach your pins, medals and stripes to your Hat right away it's a good idea to create a Hat kit. We suggest getting a zip lock bag that you can keep all of your loose items in with your Hat until it's time to attach them. You should purchase thread that is the same color as your Hat and keep it with your extra pins, stripes and stars. This will make it easier to keep track of everything and make sure your Hat is always ready to go.

## LOST/REPLACEMENT ITEMS

If you lose a year pin, you can contact your Community Club Leader as they might have a few extra on hand. Year pins are also available to pick up no cost at the 4-H Office. Other lost or misplaced pins will be charged a replacement fee by the 4-H Office. The 4-H Office has many items available for purchase year-round, including hats, scarves, ties, stripes, and officer pins.



This handout was created by Emma C. and Nicholai R. of the Franklin 4-H Club as part of their 2014-2015 Emerald Star Project.

