

4-H Award and Recognition Program for Champaign, Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion Counties

Updated August 23, 2023



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION FOR MEMBERS AND CLUBS

- Access the most recent My 4-H Experience Award at: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/participate/awards-scholarships/illinois-4-h-experience-award-individuals>
- Find more information about Awards at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/awards-recognition>
- Access the **County Award Application** at: <https://go.illinois.edu/2023CFIVAwardApp>

Awards to Apply For	Awards to Nominate Someone For
<p>NON-COMPETITIVE AWARDS (County Level)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Experience Award • Record Book Award <p>COMPETITIVE AWARDS (County Level)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top First Year 4-H'er • Community Service Award • Communications Award • Leadership Award • Personal Growth Award • Project Mastery Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Golden Needle ○ Mary Miller <i>First year Foods and Nutrition</i> (Vermilion only) ○ Electricity Achievement Award • Officer Awards <p>CLUB AWARDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State 4-H Application 	<p>FOR YOUTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Dare You • Live Like Luke (Champaign only) • Lingley Leadership (Vermilion only) <p>FOR ADULTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-H Alumni Award • Friend of 4-H • Otto Miller Outstanding 4-H Volunteer (Vermilion only) <p>FOR ANYONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Spirit Award

NON-COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Record Book

- Upload a PDF of your record book in the [County Awards Application](#)
- There MAY be an opportunity to submit a hard copy of your record book.
- Reviewers will provide feedback and comments.

My Experience Award

- Upload a PDF of the My Experience Award Application in the [County Awards Application](#)

- Receive a medallion. Level received is based on the rubric included in the application provided by the State 4-H Office. Bronze, Silver, and Gold Clovers will have their experiences reviewed and approved by the club leader and local office. Diamond and Emerald Clovers will be reviewed and approved at the state level. Levels may be repeated.
- There is no limit to how many 4-H'ers can receive these awards each year.

COMPETITIVE AWARDS

All competitive awards require a short 150-200 word essay. This essay should emphasize activities related to the award they participated in during the past 4-H year and can refer to earlier experiences that laid the foundation for their current 4-H involvement. Additionally, they all require you to answer these questions in a 4-8 sentence paragraphs.

- Tell us about your participation in 4-H Events/Activities
- Tell us about your participation in Community/School Activities/Events (non 4-H related)
- Highly encouraged to include a picture of yourself to use for awards recognition.

Community Service Award

- What 4-H community service projects did you participate in this year? Which was your favorite project and why?
- What did you learn from your 4-H community service activities or the people you worked with? What was the impact on your community?
- Did you make any mistakes during your projects? What did you learn from those mistakes? What advice would you give someone starting on this project?

Leadership Award

- How have your 4-H Leadership experiences impacted you? Give an example.
- What have you learned from being a leader? What skills have you developed?
- What mistakes have you made and how did you learn from them?
- What goals did you set for yourself and how did you achieve them?
- What impact has your leadership had on your community

Project Mastery Award (essay should only focus on ONE project area)

Tip! If your project was Clothing/Textiles, you can select Golden Needle AND Project Learning and write 1 essay for a chance to get two awards! Same goes for Cooking and Mary Miller (in Vermilion County).

- What was your 4-H project? What skills were most important to help you complete the project?
- Who did you work with on this project? Did you help them learn or did they help you? What did you learn from those experiences?
- What were 3 goals you set for your 4-H project? How did you reach those goals?

Please note the Illinois Electricity Achievement Award has a PDF Form to fill out INSTEAD of this essay.

Communications

- How has 4-H helped you learn to communicate? Give examples from the past 4-H year, like Teen Teachers, 4-H Ambassadors/Federation, Speaking for Illinois, presentations to the public or elected officials, TV/Radio/blog/podcast interview.
- How have previous experiences shaped how you communicate with others?
- What advice would you give to new 4-H'ers who want to be better communicators?

Personal Growth

- What 4-H activities did you participate in this year that helped your personal growth? How did they help your personal growth? By personal growth, we mean learning new skills, demonstrated initiative, self-confidence, interpersonal interactions, poise, etc.
- What life skills have you learned from 4-H? What impact have these skills had on your community, family relationships or your future?
- How has your personal growth helped others?

Top First Year 4-H'ers

- What were your first 4-H projects? What skills were most important to help you complete the project?
- What did you learn from your club experience? How do you plan to participate more in your club as you get older?
- What are 3 goals you are setting for your 4-H career? How are you planning to reach those goals?

Officer (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Recreation Leader, Other)

Why should you receive an award for your service as a club officer? In a 150-200 word essay, explain how you helped lead your club, what you accomplished, and share at least one lesson learned.

- Those applying for reporter or other (ie scrapbooker or historian) will be able to upload a supplemental file, like a photo of their favorite scrapbook page.
- Secretary and Treasurer will be required to upload their books.

NOTE: All clubs will also need to upload their Secretary and Treasurer books by clicking the link below and uploading their books or drop a copy off at their local Extension Office.

- [Champaign](#)
- [Ford](#)
- [Iroquois](#)
- [Vermilion](#)

CRITERIA & SELECTION FOR COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Depending on the number of applicants for each category, and how well they score, at a minimum the top 10-30% of scores will receive an award.

Reviewers will score on a rubric based on effort on the application and what information the 4-H'er provides. It will be based on this point structure:

- 4-H Participation – 15 points
- Non 4-H Participation – 15 points
- Skills gained/Experience involvement, Impact on 4-H'er/community – 20 points
- Challenges faced/overcome, Sharing/teaching others – 20 points
- Project goals achieved, impact on future goals – 20 points
- Other: Grammar, spelling, organization, followed directions, etc – 10 points

NOMINATED AWARDS FOR YOUTH

I DARE YOU AWARD (CFIV)

This leadership award was first offered in 1941 by businessman and philanthropist, William H. Danforth, who dared young people to achieve their highest potential and to influence others through lives of service. Youth

must be at least 14 years old and be nominated by their club leader. 4-H members are selected for this award only once. 4-H members, who demonstrate personal integrity, lead well-rounded lives, and possess a willingness to assume responsibility should be considered for this award. Those nominated for this award should be “emerging” leaders – those youth who have the qualities and the abilities to lead, but who may not yet recognize or act on their leadership potential. *Submit 1-2 paragraphs about how their nominee exhibits these qualities.*

LIVE LIKE LUKE (C)

Every Champaign County 4-H club is encouraged to nominate one club member to receive this special award in memory of Luke Miller, an 8-year All School 4-H Club member, who tragically passed away in March 2017. Luke was an officer and passionate about his photography, geology, art, and sportfishing projects. He was instrumental in mentoring younger 4-H’ers in their projects and encouraging them to get involved in other 4-H activities. Each nominated award recipient will receive a #livelikeluke t-shirt. This award will recognize 4-H members based on the qualities Luke showed in his everyday life- Love, Understanding, Kindness, and Encouragement. Youth should exhibit passion in what they enjoy doing, show patience in times of urgency, be respectful of others, and be a friend to all. *Submit 1-2 paragraphs about how their nominee exhibits these qualities. This award should not be based on scholastic or 4-H achievements.*

LINGLEY LEADERSHIP AWARD (V)

Bob and Ellen Lingley were 4-H leaders for many years. They instilled the love of 4-H in their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and in all the lives of the children that were in their club. Through their leadership, many 4-H members strove to make the best better. In honor and in loving memory of Bob and Ellen their family would like to offer this award to 4-H members who are positive role models and show leadership qualities in both their club and in Vermilion County 4-H. *Submit 1-2 paragraphs about how their nominee exhibits these qualities.*

NOMINATED AWARDS FOR ADULTS

4-H ALUMNI AWARD (CFIV)

This special award is given annually to honor one or two past 4-H club members who have an outstanding record of accomplishments related to good citizenship. The recipient need not be an alumnus in their nominating county. It provides recognition to 4-H alumni whose contributions to society exemplify effective citizenship and leadership, success in their chosen careers, and a sustaining interest in 4-H and similar worthy community endeavors such as church, school, public, civic, or youth activities. Members, leaders, and volunteers may make nominations. Medals are provided by the Illinois 4-H Foundation. Submit a letter of recommendation about how their nominee exhibits these qualities.

FRIENDS OF 4-H AWARD (CFIV)

This special award is designed to honor businesses and individuals who have contributed significantly to the local 4-H and Extension program over several years. Members, leaders, and volunteers may make nominations. Submit a letter of recommendation about how their nominee exhibits these qualities.

OTTO MILLER OUTSTANDING 4-H VOLUNTEER AWARD (V)

This special award is designed to honor a special Vermilion County 4-H Volunteer that has gone above and beyond the call of duty as a volunteer during the 2019-2020 4-H year. Members, leaders, and volunteers may make nominations. The recipient will have their name added to the Otto Miller Outstanding Volunteer Plaque in the office and receive a gift in recognition. Submit a letter of recommendation about how their nominee exhibits these qualities.

HALL OF FAME AWARD (CFIV)

Each unit may select one honoree per county annually. The honoree should either be a former 4-H member, current or former 4-H volunteer or supporter, or a past 4-H or Extension staff member. Inductees are invited to the 4-H Recognition Event at the State Fair.

FAMILY SPIRIT AWARD (CFIV)

The 4-H Family Spirit Award is designed to honor a 4-H family that encompasses the 4-H motto in everything they do. They advocate for the 4-H program and strive to better their family and community through 4-H. Submit a letter of recommendation about how their nominee exhibits these qualities.

Do you have questions? Are you interested in how you can apply this information to future applications? Do you need help filling out a section?

CLUB AWARDS

CLUB STATE AWARD

4-H Clubs which excel in their work can compete for state honors in specific award areas. Clubs can complete the [Illinois 4-H Club Award Application](#) in one (or more) of these three areas: Community Service, Leadership, and Project Mastery. Youth members of the club must be involved in preparing the application. Clubs are awarded cash awards from the State 4-H Office.

STATE AWARDS

To view and apply for Illinois State 4-H Awards, please visit <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/participate/awards-scholarships>

We are here to support you! Contact your County EPC and watch for Awards Office Hours to join us for hands-on assistance in completing your record book or submitting awards.

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