

## **University of Illinois Extension DeWitt/Macon/Piatt Unit Award List and Descriptions**

There are many award areas in which 4-H members and clubs can receive recognition for all of their hard work. The following is a list of the different award areas and a description of each. Winners will be recognized at our 4-H Achievement Celebration in October.

All forms are available on our unit website: [go.illinois.edu/dmp](http://go.illinois.edu/dmp)

### **Member Awards and Recognition**

- **County 4-H Award Application (8-14 year olds)**

This award recognizes 4-H'ers who excel in their 4-H year based on their involvement with projects, programs, other community activities and events, and participation in 4-H events/activities. Youth may choose to do 1 4-H story per award area application (community service, communications, leadership, personal growth, and/or project mastery).

- **Community Service-** Focus of your 4-H work in service to/for others. Work should focus on what you have done as an individual
- **Communications-** Focus of your 4-H work in the art of communicating with others, including but not limited to public presentations, 4-H Ambassadors, Speaking for Illinois 4-H, television/radio interviews, etc.
- **Leadership-** Focus on the development of your leadership skills, including offices held, committees served on, programs lead, and public presentations on behalf of 4-H
- **Personal Growth-** Focus on your own personal growth through participating in the 4-H program. This could include, but is not limited to growth in skills, demonstrated initiative, self-confidence, interpersonal interactions, poise, etc.
- **Project Mastery-** Focus on your 4-H work in your primary project (i.e. woodworking, photography, and beef). Only one project should be included in the application and members should not submit an application in more than one "project mastery" area.

- **State 4-H Award Application (15-18 year olds)**

Youth ages 15-18 are encouraged to complete the Illinois 4-H Award Application to apply for State 4-H Awards in the areas of Community Service, Communications, Leadership, Personal Growth, and Project Mastery (see above for descriptions). Award winners will have the opportunity to choose their award from one of three options: 1) Trip to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA, 2) College Scholarship, or 3) Scholarship to help cover expenses to a national 4-H event/conference such as Citizenship Washing Focus, National 4-H Dairy Conference, or a national 4-H competitive event to which the awardee is eligible to attend.

- **4-H Experience Level Recognition**

Recognition of members and clubs who are involved in a diverse spectrum of 4-H experiences (club, county, multi-county, state, national & international). Place a checkmark next to each action that was completed during the current 4-H year (September-August). Then write a short description of how the action was completed (dates, name of event, etc...). Experience Level Recognition is not competitive. All members who reach at least a Bronze Clover status will receive an award.

- **4-H Club Officer Recognition**

**President or Vice President-** Write an essay about your leadership as the club's president or vice president. Include your involvement in preparing the club agenda, planning programs, assisting members, holding officer meetings, planning club programs, arranging guest speakers, etc. which might give a clue into how you personally led your 4-H club. The top president and vice president will receive a special award.

**Secretary-** Submit the secretary book and all supplemental material. The secretary's book may be typed instead of handwritten, but all additional sections of the secretary's book must be completed. Books receiving a 90% and above all receive a special award.

**Treasurer-** Submit the treasurer book, bank statements, and all supplemental material. The audit must be completed and signed. Treasurer books receiving an "excellent" in all criteria will receive a special award.

**Reporter:** Submit all club reports in a binder or folder. Include actual copies or photocopies of the newspaper stories or press releases that appeared in the newspaper, pictures of members at any 4-H activity or event, copies of any 4-H program or flyer for a club event, and a summary sheet that tells how many stories, articles or press releases you have written during the 4-H year. The top reporter will receive a special award.

**Scrapbook-** Submit the club scrapbook. Scrapbooks will be judged on the preservation of the 4-H club's memories, interesting and variety of page layouts, chronological or thematic order of pages, neatness, correct spelling, and appropriate journaling on the pages. The top scrapbook will receive a special award.

- **Key Award (16-18 year olds) -** This state recognition is to reward those who exhibit outstanding 4-H leadership, community service, and mentoring during their 4-H career. A member may receive this recognition once. Each county can select three applicants to compete for state recognition.
- **Illinois 4-H Veterinary Science Award-** This award is sponsored by the Auxiliary to the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association. Applicants must meet the following

criteria in order to submit this application: be between ages 15-18 by September 1 of the 4-H year in which they are applying, be currently enrolled in the Veterinary Science project, and have been enrolled in Veterinary Science project at least three years (current year included). Once a year 4-H member has received this award, they may not re-apply. The winner will receive a \$200 cash award. The state winner will be invited to the annual 4-H Recognition Event to be recognized.

- **I Dare You Award-** This county award is leader nominated. 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 to be nominated. 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.
- **Electricity Achievement Award-** The Energy Education Council provides one plaque to each county recognizing one 4-H member’s outstanding achievements in electricity. To be considered for this award, 4-H members must have constructed and displayed an electrical exhibit and completed and turned in their DeWitt/Macon/Piatt County 4-H Award Application focusing on their electricity project under the Project Mastery award area. 4-H members may only win this award one time during their 4-H career. Members need to check the box on their county award application if they wish to apply for this award.
- **Top 10 First Year Members-** First year members (ages 8-14) are encouraged to apply. Selection is based on their completed DeWitt/Macon/Piatt County 4-H Award Application in a project area and an additional essay focusing on the theme “Why I should be considered Top 10.” Please indicate that you are applying for the award on your award application form. Cloverbuds are not eligible for this award and may apply in their first official year as a 4-H member.
- **4-H Second Year Outstanding Award Application**  
Second year members may apply for this award. Please fill out the form. The top application will receive an award.
- **Cloverbud Recognition**  
Draw a picture or write about your favorite part of 4-H Cloverbuds this year. All Cloverbuds who submit a picture or writing will be recognized.

## Adult Awards

- **4-H Leader of the Year Award-** County award- Anyone may nominate one or more leaders for the 4-H Leader of the Year Award. This award will go to a leader who has gone above and beyond to help our 4-H members *to make the best better*
- **4-H Alumni Award-** County Award- 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. They do not have to have been members in your county growing up. 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.
- **Friend of 4-H Award-** County Award- 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. A plaque will be awarded.
- **4-H Family Spirit Award-** County Award- This award is designed to honor a 4-H family that encompass 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. A plaque will be awarded.

## Club Awards

- **Clover Club Challenge** - Complete one or more 'BINGOs' on the form to receive a club award. BINGOs may go up/down, across, or diagonal. Fill in details to show how the club completed the action on the backside of the application.
- **Citizenship Club Report-** Answer questions to explain how your club was involved in Citizenship activities this year. The top clubs will be recognized.
- **Club Excel State Award-** 4-H Clubs that 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 areas: Community Service, Leadership, and Project Mastery. Youth members of the club must be involved in preparing the application. Clubs are awarded cash awards.