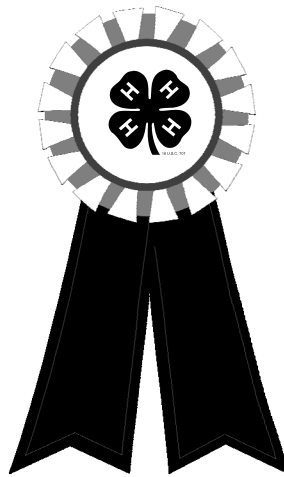


Understanding 4-H Awards: A Guide for Brown/Schuyler 4-H Members



**University of Illinois Extension
Unit 14**

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Forms can be found at:

<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards>

or at our unit website at:

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/abhps/4h/3231.html>

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Any 4-H member, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, or disability may compete in county or state 4-H award programs providing they meet the eligibility requirements.

Philosophy of Illinois 4-H Awards Programs

The mission of the Illinois 4-H Program is to help youth become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. The emphasis is on helping youth learn to learn, use knowledge, develop self and relate to a change.

One strategy or method used to foster human growth and development is the use of recognition. Because people participate in the same activity for different reasons, recognition may have a different meaning to each participant. Therefore, motivating youth requires a comprehensive program of recognition.

To help define the many dimensions of recognition and their implications, a model for recognizing 4-H member accomplishments has been developed. National research on incentives in 4-H produced the “Model for 4-H Recognition”. The model defines four separate but interrelated types of recognition. Each part provides motivation and recognition in a unique way. All four parts used together enables a balanced 4-H recognition program to exist.

The four parts include:

- Participation in Educational Experiences
- Individual Progress Toward Personal Goals
- Achievement of Standards of Excellence
- Results of Peer Competition

Unit 4-H Award Selection Procedures

Unit 14 uses an event called Record Check for award selections. The Record Check committee consists of volunteers who have no personal ties to the award candidates. Unit winners are selected first followed by state nominations. Another committee meets to interview Outstanding Member of the Year candidates.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Permanent Record – Illinois 4-H Member Record (County and State)

The Permanent Record is a continuous record of activities and projects of a 4-H member. Participation in the local 4-H club, enrollment and exhibits, 4-H programs, leadership activities, community activities and honors received in 4-H are put on this record. This record stays with the 4-H member even if the member transfers to another club.

Criteria

- ▶ Members keep the Permanent Record up-to-date.

Application Procedure

- ▶ The Permanent Record must be up-to-date and turned in with the other records in order to be considered for awards. At Record Check, the Permanent Record may be the deciding factor in the placement of awards.
- ▶ Parent and Leader signatures are required on the Permanent Record.



Individual Experience (County)

(Replaces former Standards of Excellence)

To record and recognize 4-H experience and participation of the following four dimensions:

- ⇒ Participation
- ⇒ Community Service
- ⇒ Leadership
- ⇒ Project Learning

Criteria

- ▶ **BRONZE Clover Award**- complete 1 experience in each of the four dimensions
- ▶ **SILVER Clover Award**
- ▶ Completes 2 experiences in each of the four dimensions; at least 2 of those experiences must be at the County level or beyond
- ▶ **GOLD Clover Award**
- ▶ Completes 4 experiences in each of the four dimensions; at least 2 of those experiences must be BEYOND the county level
- ▶ **DIAMOND Clover Award**-
- ▶ Completes 6 or more of the experiences in one dimension; at least 4 of these experiences must be BEYOND the county level
- ▶ **EMERALD Clover Award**
- ▶ Complete 8 or more experiences in one dimension; at least 4 of those experiences must be BEYOND the county level plus at least 2 must be at the National Level

Application Procedure

- ▶ Member must fill out the Individual Experience Level Recognition Form found on our website at: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/abhps/downloads/68229.pdf>
- ▶ Application must be turned in by August 31 of current 4-H year.
- ▶ Signatures must accompany form
- ▶ County office will determine award level achieved based on the form submitted

Individual Project Awards (County)

The Individual 4-H Project Award recognizes the top records in a project area. These are supported by generous donors for the 4-H Fair and Achievement Program.

Criteria

- ▶ Members must have explain what is learned from doing their project area.
- ▶ Member must have exhibited a project for a rating at the 4-H fair.
- ▶ Members may receive this award in more than one project area.

Application Procedure

- ▶ 4-H members may fill out a Individual 4-H Project Award form for each project area (example: one for each of these project areas: Foods, Visual Arts, Beef, Aerospace, Horticulture, Woodworking, etc.) Note: A member may exhibit more than one project in Foods, but only one project will be nominated on the Merchant Award Application.
- ▶ You may use a separate sheet of paper to describe your project story in detail.
- ▶ One page of supporting documents such as photos, drawings, or news articles may be included with the application.
- ▶ A Permanent Record must also be turned in.



Cloverbud Members

Criteria

- ▶ Must be a cloverbud member.

Application Procedure

- ▶ Completed at least one Individual 4-H Project Award application.
- ▶ There is no separate application for this award.

1st Year Members

This award is to recognize first year members and encourage completion of records.

Criteria

- ▶ Must be a cloverbud member.

Application Procedure

- ▶ Completed at least one Individual 4-H Project Award application.

There is no separate application for this award

Recognition of 4-H (soon to be)Alumni—

The Illinois 4-H Alumni Recognition Program 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. This nomination is found on the Nomination form of the Awards Packet.

Objectives:

- ◆ To honor 4-H members who will be aging out of the 4-H member requirements. and whose accomplishments exemplify effective citizenship, leadership, community and public service and success in their chosen careers.
- ◆ To encourage former 4-H members to continue their interest in and cooperation with 4-H and other phases of the Extension program.
- ◆ To highlight the ideals of clearer thinking, greater loyalty, larger service and better living as expressed in the 4-H pledge.
- ◆ To provide youth with living examples of dependable, purposeful citizenship.

Secretary of the Year Award (County)

The responsibility of the office of Secretary requires accurate recording of the minutes of the club meeting and attendance according to the directions in the 4-H Secretary's Book. It may also include recording member participation and business correspondence. One nominated secretary awarded.

Criteria

- ▶ Selection is based on completeness of the secretary's book including member attendance, officers, committees and minutes of all meetings.

Application Procedure

- ▶ Completed club secretary's book turned in by August 31.
- ▶ Neatness, grammar and spelling will be considered.

Treasurer of the Year Award (County)

The office of Treasurer carries the responsibility of accurate handling and accounting of the funds of the 4-H club according to the directions in the 4-H Treasurer's Book. One nominated is awarded.

Criteria

- ▶ The treasurer's book must be complete, accurate, and neat for a checking and/or savings account.
- ▶ **Completed audit with required signatures.**
- ▶ Completed club inventory including items such as gavel, flags, etc.

Application Procedure

- ▶ Completed treasurer's book including audit— submitted by August 31.
- ▶ Copy of the latest bank statement.



Growing 4-H Member Award– (County)

This is for any 4-H member who is involved and participates in many activities at the club and county level during the past 4-H year.

Growing 4-H Foundation- (County)

This is for any 4-H FEDERATION member who actively participates in federation meeting and events, in addition to bringing back information to the club.

4-H Family of the Year (County)

This is a nomination from any 4-H leader, member, staff or community member.

I DARE YOU Award (County)

The I Dare You Award recognizes leadership, scholarship and character for 4-H members ages 15-18 that current year. The “I Dare You” committee of the American Youth Foundation offers this award to units.

Criteria

- ▶ 4-H member demonstrated evidence of outstanding leadership, scholarship, and character.
- ▶ Must be a current 4-H member during the current 4-H year. Example:
- ▶ Nomination(s) made by club leader.
- ▶ One award is presented.

Application Procedure

- ▶ A one-page application must be completed by a club leader per member.
- ▶ Application should address leadership, scholarship and character of the nominee.
- ▶ Supporting documents such as photos and news articles may not be included with the application.
- ▶ Pointers for Preparing the Illinois 4-H Award Application can be found at the end of this book.

STATE AWARDS

Illinois 4-H Award Application (County and State)

The Illinois 4-H Award Application is based on past three years 4-H member’s career. An award is awarded in each area. Below is a listing of award areas:

- ▶ Community Service
- ▶ Communications
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Personal Growth
- ▶ Project Mastery

Criteria

- ▶ Must be enrolled in the project area for 3 years and currently enrolled in project area.
- ▶ Must show continued growth in the project area.
- ▶ Must follow directions on Illinois 4-H Award Application Form-must be typed
- ▶ Submitted to local office by August 31.

Application Procedure

To apply for the Individual Accumulative Area Award members must complete the Illinois 4-H Award Application. Example: A 4-H member turned in a completed application on Sept. 1, 2017 for work completed in the 2016-17 project year. The member was 14 years old on Sept. 1, 2016. Therefore, the application will be considered for the county area awards, but can not move on to State competition because the 4-H member was not 15 years old on Sept. 1, 2016(the year of the project work).



- ▶ Completed Illinois 4-H Award Application. One application may compete for several different awards. However, a different 4-H story is needed for each different area in which the member competes.
- ▶ Members that are 15 years old by Sept. 1 of the project year will have their application move on to State competition.
- ▶ A separate 4-H Story is required for each area applied for.

Illinois State 4-H Key Award (State)

Rewards members exhibiting outstanding community service, communication, eagerness, personal growth, and project mastery during their 4-H involvement in the past .

Criteria

- ▶ 16-18 years of age by September 1
- ▶ 5 page application completed by 4-H member.
- ▶ 2 reference evaluations
- ▶ Signature of 4-H member, parent and staff member.

Application Procedure

- ▶ Fill out form (Leaders Award Packet) or online at <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards> Must be Typed
Form submitted local office —August 31

4-H Premier LCP Award (State)

Rewards members exhibiting outstanding leadership, citizenship, cooperation, and professionalism during the past 4-H program Year

Criteria

- ▶ 4-H members who are at least 17 years of age by December 1st and not 19 by September 1 of the year they submit the application
- ▶ Application includes information about Leadership & citizenship Activities, General 4-H Experiences, Participation in other events, 4-H Goals, Cooperation, Teamwork and Professionalism.
- ▶ 3 Reference Evaluations

Application Procedure

- ▶ Must be typed and turned in by August 31
- ▶ **Award opportunity is to attend the Illinois Farm Bureau and Affiliates two day Premier 20 Leadership Conference.**

4-H Veterinary Science Award (State)

Must be currently enrolled in the Veterinary Science project area; and have been enrolled in Veterinary Science project at least three years.

Members may only win once.

Criteria

Any 4-H members who are between the ages of 15-18 of the by September 1 of the 4-H year they are applying.

- ▶ Properly filled out the application form

Application Procedure

- ▶ Follow application instructions (Found in Leaders Awards Packet) and online at <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards>

4-H Electricity (state)

The Energy Education Council will provide one plaque to each county recognizing one 4-H member's outstanding achievements in electricity.

Criteria

- ▶ Members enrolled and Exhibited an electrical exhibit at the 4-H show

Application Procedure



- ▶ Fill out form by August 31 found in Leaders Awards Packet or online at: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards>

CLUB AWARDS

SCRAPBOOK AWARD (County)

The Scrapbook Award recognizes the creativity of 4-H clubs to tell the story of their club in a scrapbook. Scrapbook should be compiled by a youth member. A award will be distributed at local Achievement program.

Criteria

- ▶ Selection based on creativity, presentation, coverage of all club activity(s).

Application Procedure

- ▶ Submit one scrapbook

Club EXCEL Award (County and State)- replaces Standard of Excellence

Clubs receive a certificate, date patch, and will be submitted to state **Criteria**

- ▶ A copy of the club goals and a calendar of events must be on file in the Extension office.
- ▶ Met at least 9 of the 10 standards on page 4 of the 4-H club Award Application

Application Procedure

- ▶ Completed Illinois 4-H Club Award Application by August 31 (Found in Leaders Awards Packet and online
<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/abhps/downloads/68230.pdf>)
- ▶ Optional: Completed club scrapbook.
- ▶ Optional: Completed “Power of Youth” Community Service Award Application.

“POWER OF YOUTH” COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD (County)

Each year, 4-H clubs identify needs within their community and carry out projects that benefit the community and residents within the community. This award recognizes one club for their community service. The selected club receives up to \$25 (depending on donations for awards)

Criteria

- ▶ Clubs must conduct community service project(s).
- ▶ Focus should be on year-long service learning which provides learning/benefits to both club and community members.
- ▶ A community service project must be youth led and fill a need in the community.

Application Procedure

- ▶ Completed Community Service Award Application form found in Awards packet given to leaders
- ▶ Optional: Club Scrapbook may be referenced.

RECOGNITION FOR 4-H LEADERS AND ALUMNI

4-H LEADER OF THE YEAR (County)

Criteria

- ▶ An outstanding leader as seen through the eyes of a parent, youth or other volunteer.

Application Procedure

- ▶ A nomination letter from leaders, parents, youth or other volunteers.



ADULT LEADERSHIP AWARDS (Unit Level)

- ◆ Appreciate Gift for every Leader—given at achievement
- ◆ Additional recognition for every 5th year volunteering as leaders.

SUPPORTIVE 4-H ALUMNI OF THE YEAR (County)

Criteria

- ▶ An outstanding alumni as seen through the eyes of a leader, parent, youth or other volunteer.

Application Procedure

- ▶ A nomination letter from leaders, parents, youth staff, community members, or other volunteers.

4-H HALL OF FAME (County & State)

Criteria

- ▶ An outstanding leader as seen through the eyes of a leader parent, youth or other volunteer.

Application Procedure

- ▶ Nomination made by staff and submitted to state

Suggestions for Completing Award Applications

- ◆ Start early. It is best that you keep record of your activities and leadership throughout the year. Have a notebook, note cards, folder or place on your calendar that you record important information. Start preparing your award application early enough that you have time to have someone else review it. It is also good to put it aside for a while, looking at it from a fresh perspective later.
- ◆ As you prepare an award application you will want to think about how you will organize the information on your paper so it is easy for the reader to understand exactly what you have done. For example: list the information by year or by project
- ◆ You may want to summarize information instead of listing the same item several times. For example: “foodstand worker, 4 yrs” or “foodstand worker, ‘06-’08”
- ◆ Use **Bold**, *Italics*, Underline, and other fonts to demote headings, emphasize important points, etc.
- ◆ Prioritize the information you have. As you think about the things you have accomplished during your career in 4-H, think about which things are the most important or significant.
- ◆ Make sure those accomplishments are easily seen and understood as someone reads your application. You’ll want to put the most important information early in each section.
- ◆ Indicate the level (L,C, M, S, N, or I) to indicate local, county, multi-county, state, national and international) of your participation or leadership.
- ◆ Use “action verbs”, words that are specific or make it clear what you did. Example: “taught another 4-Her how to sand a model rocket” or “demonstrated how to mix ingredients to two 4-Hers”
- ◆ Quantities and Amounts should be used whenever it will help the reader understand the accomplishment. Example: “Volunteered 36 hours serving meals for Red Cross, ’06 & ’08”
- ◆ Read and follow all rules in the application directions.
- ◆ Remember criteria considered.
- ◆ If completing Livestock or Crop Records, do not leave any area blank.

Pointers for Preparing an Illinois Award Application

Size and Growth of Curriculum Area

Your goal is to show the number and/or variety of projects and number and/or variety within project areas.

- ◆ List the total amount of project work—not just what was exhibited at the fair. (number of animals, dishes, meals, articles made, garments, repairs, activities, etc.)
- ◆ Indicate where project work was accomplished (local, county, multi-county, or state)
- ◆ Include number in audience where applicable, or number of people reached by your project or activity.
- ◆ Include amount of money saved from making the item instead of purchasing, the amount of money earned by using skills learned in 4-H projects (babysitting, repairs, fitting animals, etc)
- ◆ Only list items that directly apply to the curriculum area that you are outlining. Other 4-H projects and activities will be listed later.
- ◆ Size and growth should be listed year by year so that the growth can easily be established.

Knowledge & Skills

Your goal is to explain the types of things you have learned through your 4-H projects and experiences.

- ◆ List specific knowledge and skills gained in this curriculum area.
- ◆ Use active verbs to describe the skills specifically.
- ◆ You may only have a few items to add to this area yearly.
- ◆ You should also show that you are trying new experiences each year.

Participation in Activities

Your goal is to summarize your activities and learning experiences.

- ◆ List 4-H demonstrations, talk, exhibits, radio or TV appearances, newspaper articles written, tours workshops, camps, judging events, field trips, and other participation related to the curriculum area.
- ◆ Be sure to indicate local, county, multi-county or state levels for each item listed.
- ◆ Also include experiences other than 4-H that directly relate to the curriculum area in which you are applying. Be sure that you clearly indicate that these are non-4-H activities.

Part II

Other Leadership Exhibited in 4-H, School and Community

Your goal is to explain the types of extra activities you have been involved in at school or in your community.

- ◆ List 4-H activities that you have planned, organized, or gave direction to others that do not relate to the curriculum area. List specific responsibilities and the number you assisted.
- ◆ Be very specific—use verbs that convey exactly what you did.
- ◆ List all offices held and specific responsibilities.
- ◆ List all committees and specific responsibilities.
- ◆ If possible, include numbers assisted, hours spent or other measurable ways of determining exactly how many you led.
- ◆ Include leadership experiences other than 4-H. Clearly indicate that these are not 4-H activities.