

# Champaign County 4-H Award and Recognition Program

## Awards and Recognition for Members and Clubs

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. All winners will be announced at the Achievement Celebration in October/November, unless otherwise stated. Cloverbuds are not eligible for awards but will receive a participation certificate.

- 1. Non-Competitive Awards for Members-** Members receive recognition for their Experiences in the program. There is no competition for these awards. 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 but each activity/event can only be used once within a level or in a single dimension.

**Engage:** Recognition and inclusion of all members and clubs into the 4-H community

- Certificate of participation

**Experience:** Recognition of members and clubs who are involved in a diverse spectrum of 4-H experiences (club, county, multi-county, state, national, & international levels).

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Members will submit the My Illinois 4-H Experience Application listing *experiences* during one year in these 4 areas to their leader:

- Participation
- Community Service
- Leadership
- Project Learning

**RECOGNITION:** Based on the number of your experiences, achieve one of five levels:

- Bronze Clover- 1 experience in each dimension
- Silver Clover- 2 experiences in each dimension, at least 2 at county level or beyond
- Gold Clover- 4 experiences in each dimension, at least 2 beyond the county level
- Diamond Clover- 6 or more experiences in one dimension, at least 4 beyond the county level
- Emerald Clover- 8 or more experiences in one dimension, at least 4 beyond the county level, plus at least 2 at the state or national level (will not be available for recognition in the Participation dimension)

- 2. Competitive Awards for Members-** Members who Excel in their project and leadership work may also choose to compete for the following competitive awards. In competitive awards, there are typically one or two winners selected.

**Excel:** Recognition of member excellence and club achievements (includes state-level awards and mastery events at all levels)

- **Illinois 4-H Award-** Youth ages 15-18 on September 1 of the current 4-H year are encouraged to complete an *Illinois 4-H Award Application* to apply for State 4-H Awards in the areas of Community Service, Communications, Leadership, Personal Growth, Project Mastery. 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 Washington Focus, National 4-H Dairy Conference, or a national 4-H competitive event to which the awardee is eligible to attend.

**Champaign County 4-H Award-** Youth ages 8-14 on September 1 of the current 4-H year are encouraged to complete a *Champaign County 4-H Award Application*. This award recognizes 4-H'ers who excel in his/her 4-H year based on their involvement with projects, programs, other community/school activities/events, and participation in 4-H events/activities.

The application consists of a 3-page form (one total per youth) and an attached page with a response to one (1) 4-H Story Option (one per award area application). Members may submit in more than one award area. For example, if a member is applying in Project Mastery AND Leadership, he/she needs to provide one 3-page form and attach 2 essays, one focusing on Project Mastery and one focusing on Leadership.

The 1st & 2nd pages must be typed except for the signatures, which must be handwritten. The 4-H Story may be handwritten or typed. Use only the current 4-H year's work in the application. Applications in each of the five award areas are judged in two age categories, 8-10 and 11-14, please indicate on the form. Prizes are TBD.

#### Champaign County 4-H Award Areas

- Community Service – Focus of your 4-H work in service to/for others. Work should focus on what you have done as an individual, not only as a member of your club working on group projects.
  - 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, presentations to elected officials, 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, Beef). Only one project should be included in the application and members should not submit an application in more than one "Project Mastery" area. For award purposes, "project" is defined as those areas of enrollment as listed in the Illinois 4-H Clover or as a county-offered project (i.e. Create Your Own).
- **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 a *Champaign 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. The Project Mastery

essay must focus on the electricity project. No additional 4-H Story is required. No additional cover sheet is required.

- **Golden Needle Award-** 4-H'ers enrolled in a sewing project that exhibit a constructed garment or article in the Champaign County Sewing and Textiles Show and completes a *Champaign County 4-H Award* application form are eligible to apply for this award. Members need to check the box on their county award application if they wish to apply for this award and include an additional 4-H Story focusing on the member's clothing and textiles project. 4-H members may only win this award one time during their 4-H career. A Singer Professional Sewing Kit will be awarded.
- **Top 10 First Year Members-** First year members (ages 8 to 14) on September 1 of the current 4-H year are encouraged to apply for the Top 10 First Year Award. Selection is based on a completed *Champaign County 4-H Award Application* in a project area and an additional essay focusing on the theme "Why I should be considered Top 10." All essays must be typed, using a 12 pt font, or handwritten in blue or black ink on 8 ½ x 11" paper, single sided, in 50-150 words. Please indicate you are applying for the "Top 10 First Year Members" on your award application form. T-shirts and certificates will be awarded. Cloverbuds are not eligible for this award.
- **Officer awards:**
  - 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 will 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 which 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-** This state recognition is for 4-H members, 16 to 18 years of age by September 1 of the 4-H year in which they are applying to reward those who exhibit outstanding 4-H leadership, community service, and mentoring during their 4-H involvement. A member may receive this recognition once during his/her 4-H career. Each county can select 3 applicants to compete for state recognition.

## Leader Nominated Awards

- **Live Like Luke Outstanding 4-H'er Award-** 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. Club leaders should write 1-2 paragraphs about how their nominee exhibits these qualities and attach it to this form to be submitted with the end of the year packet. This award should not be based on scholastic or 4-H achievements.

- **I Dare You Award-** 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. Leaders will receive a nomination form in their end of the year packets. A certificate and book will be awarded.

### 3. Awards for Clubs

- **State 4-H Club Award-** The Illinois 4-H Recognition program focuses on three areas of recognition. Applications are due to the county office by September 16, 2019.

**Engage:** No application is required. The local office will recognize clubs through newsletters, social media highlights, news stories, flag sets, and club charters.

**Experience:** This area offers recognition for clubs which are involved in diverse 4-H experiences.

Leaders and members can “Share Their Story” online at [4-H.illinois.edu](http://4-H.illinois.edu) in the following areas:

Community Service, Leadership, and Project Learning. The local office will recognize clubs through social media highlights and in e-newsletters.

**Excel:** 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.

## Awards and Recognition for Adults

- **Champaign County 4-H Alumni 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 Champaign 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. Nomination forms will be included in the leaders' end of year packet and are available on the Champaign County 4-H website. Members, leaders, and volunteers may make nominations. Medallions are provided by the Illinois 4-H Foundation.

- **Champaign County Friend of 4-H 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. Nomination forms will be included in the leaders' end of year packet and are available on the Champaign County 4-H website.
- **Champaign County 4-H Family Spirit 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. Nomination forms will be included in the leaders' end of year packet and are available on the Champaign County 4-H website.
- **Hall of Fame** –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.

## Record Books

- **4-H Permanent Record Books-** Record keeping is an important part of 4-H work. It helps 4-H members remember what he/she did each year and becomes an excellent reference. It is suggested to use a three-ring binder to compile the record book data. Divider tabs help organize the required information. Forms are available by contacting the Champaign County Extension Office at 217.333.7672.

Please reference the instruction sheet for record books for more information. Record books must be signed and turned in by the leader to the Extension office.

- **Crops-** All members taking a crops project are required to complete a crops record to Exhibit at 4-H Project Expo. Members are eligible for additional awards after records are reviewed by Extension staff.
- **Livestock-** Members may submit 4-H or FFA records to be judged. Awards will be given to the top records winners.
- **Dog-** Members may submit dog records to be judged. Awards will be given to the top records winners.
- **Horse-** Members may submit horse records to be judged. Awards will be given to the top records winners.