

Ford 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. Winners will be announced at the Achievement Celebration in the fall, unless otherwise stated. Cloverbuds are not eligible for awards. Award information and applications can be found on the Ford-Iroquois 4-H website <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/iroquois4h/2391.html>

- 1. Non-Competitive Awards for Members-** Members receive recognition for their general participation in the program (experience). There is no competition for these awards. Members will submit the My Illinois 4-H Experience Application listing experiences during the past year in the areas of participation, community service, leadership, and project learning. 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.

- 2. Competitive Awards for Members-** Members who excel in their project and leadership work may also choose to apply for the following competitive awards. In competitive awards, there are typically one or two winners selected.
 - **Ford County 4-H Award-** Youth ages 8-14 are encouraged to complete a *Ford County 4-H Award Application*. This award recognizes 4-Hers 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. Choose one (1) 4-H Story Option from the options listed on the application. Use only the current 4-H year's work in the application. Applications will be judged in two age categories, 8-10 and 11-14.
 - **Illinois 4-H Award-** Youth ages 15-18 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.
 - **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 *Ford County 4-H Award Application*. 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 and include a 2nd 4-H Story focusing on the member's electricity project. No additional cover sheet is required.

- **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 or handwritten, but all additional sections of the secretary's book must be completed. Books receiving an "excellent" in all criteria 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. Applications are due in December to the county office. More information will be sent out in the e-news in fall. Each county can select 3 applicants to compete for state recognition.

Leader Nominated Awards

- **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.

Awards for Clubs

- **State 4-H Club Awards-** Clubs may choose to compete for state recognition by completing the “Excel Level Recognition for Clubs” documenting the club activities in one of the selected areas: Community Service, Leadership, or Project Learning.

Awards and Recognition for Adults

- **Ford 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 4-H members in Ford 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 Ford County 4-H website. Members, leaders, and volunteers may make nominations.
- **Ford 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. Nominations forms will be included in the leaders’ end of year packet and are available on the Ford County 4-H website. A plaque will be given.
- **Ford County 4-H Family Spirit Award** – The Ford County 4-H Family Spirit 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 Ford-Iroquois Counties 4-H website. A plaque will be given at the Achievement Celebration in the fall.
- **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 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 tool for college and scholarship applications. It is suggested to use a three-ring binder to compile the record book data. Divider tabs can help organize the required information. Please reference the instruction sheet for more information. Record books must be signed by the member, parent or guardian, and leader.
- **Crops-** Members taking a crops project are required to complete a crops record and bring it to 4-H project judging at the fair. Members are eligible for additional awards after records are reviewed by Extension staff. This can be found online at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/iroquois4h/2401.html>
- **Livestock-** Members may submit 4-H or FFA records to be judged. Awards will be given to the top records winners. This can be found online at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/iroquois4h/2401.html>

Forms are available by contacting the Extension Office at 815.268.4051 or downloaded from: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/iroquois4h/2401.html>