

# Vermilion 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.

- 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 (can be found online at <http://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards> by clicking on Illinois 4-H Experience Award for Individuals) listing *experiences* during one year in these 4 areas to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019:**

- 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 complete 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 as of 9/1/18** 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. Applications will be due to the county office **October 1, 2019**. These will be due to the State by November 1, 2019. The application can be found at <http://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards> (click Illinois 4-H State Award).

**Vermilion County 4-H Award-** Youth ages **8-14 as of 9/1/18** are encouraged to complete a *Vermilion 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. Prizes are TBD. Applications will be due to the county office **September 20, 2019**.

Vermilion 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 at the Vermilion County 4-H Fair and submit a completed 4-H EEC Electricity Award Application. 4-H members may only win this award one time during their 4-H career. Applications are due to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**. This application can be found online at <http://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards> (click on Illinois 4-H Electricity Achievement Award).
  - **Golden Needle Award**-4-H'ers enrolled in a sewing project that exhibit a constructed garment or article in the Vermilion County Sewing and Textiles Show and completes a *Vermilion 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 a 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Applications are due to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.
  - **Mary Miller Award**-The Mary Miller Memorial Award was created by her husband, Mr. Otto Miller to be presented in her memory. Mary Miller was a long time 4-H leader and 4-H supporter. To qualify for this award, the 4-H members must 8-12 years of age (4-H age), be enrolled in a food and nutrition project for the first time and complete the *Vermilion County 4-*

*H Award Application.* Members need to check the box on their county award application if they wish to apply for this award and include a 2<sup>nd</sup> 4-H Story focusing on the member's food and nutrition project. Up to ten awards are available in this category because Mr. Otto Miller had ten living daughters when he established this award. Application are due to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.

- **Top 10 First Year Members**-First year members (ages 8 to 14) as of 9/1/18 are encouraged to apply for the Top 10 First Year Award. Selection is based on a completed *Vermilion 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. Applications are due to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.

- 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. Essays are due to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.

**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. Completed secretary's books are due to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.

**Treasurer**-Submit the treasurer book, bank statements, and all supplemental material. The audit must be completed and signed. Treasurer books receiving a 90% and above will receive a special award. Completed treasurer's books are due to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.

**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. Reporters receiving a 90% and above will receive a special award. Completed reporter's record is due to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.

**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. Scrapbooks receiving a 90% and above will receive a special award. Completed club scrapbooks are due to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.

- **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 by **October 1, 2019** to the county Extension office. Each county can select 3 applicants to compete for state recognition. This application can be found online at <http://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards> (click on Illinois 4-H Key Award).
- **4-H Veterinary Science Award Application**- Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to submit this application. Be between the ages of 15 and 18 (inclusive) 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 the Veterinary Science project **at least three years** (current year included). Completed application must be submitted to the County office by **October 1, 2019**. The application can be found online at <http://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards> (click on Illinois 4-H Veterinary Science Award).

### **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. Nominations must be submitted to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.
- **Lingley Leadership Award**-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. All Vermilion County 4-H leaders are encouraged to nominate one 4-H member from their respective club to be considered for this award. 4-H members can range in age from 8-18. Nominees should be a positive role model and proactive leader in their 4-H club and community. Leaders will receive a nomination form in their end of the year packets. Nominations must be submitted to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.

### 3. Awards for Clubs

- **State 4-H Club/Group Awards-** The Illinois 4-H Recognition program focuses on three areas of recognition. Applications are due to the county office by **September 20, 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 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. Application can be found online at <http://4h.extension.illinois.edu/members/awards> (click on 4-H Club Recognition).

### Awards and Recognition for Adults

- **Vermilion 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 Vermilion 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 Vermilion County 4-H website. Members, leaders, and volunteers may make nominations. Medals are provided by the Illinois 4-H Foundation. Nominations must be submitted to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.
- **Vermilion 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 Vermilion County 4-H website. A plaque will be awarded. Nominations must be submitted to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.

- **Otto Miller Outstanding Volunteer Award**-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 2018-2019 4-H year. Members, leaders, and volunteers may make nominations. Nomination forms will be included in the leaders' end of the year packet and are available on the Vermilion County 4-H website. The recipient will have their name added to the Otto Miller Outstanding Volunteer Plaque in the office and receive a gift in recognition. Nominations must be submitted to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.
- **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.

## **Awards and Recognition for Families**

- **Family Spirit Award**-The Vermilion 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 Vermilion County 4-H website. A plaque will be awarded to the family. Nominations must be submitted to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.

## **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 Vermilion County Extension Office at 217.442.8615 or downloaded from: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/downloads/54655.pdf> . Please reference the instruction sheet for record books for more information. Record books must be signed by the leader before submitting them to the Extension office.

- **Crops**-All members taking a crops project are required to complete a crops record to Exhibit at the 4-H Fair. 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 members receiving 90% and above.
- **Dog**-Members may submit dog records to be judged. Awards will be given to members receiving 90% and above.
- **Horse**-Members may submit horse records to be judged. Awards will be given to members receiving 90% and above.

All record books are due to the Extension office by **September 20, 2019**.

### **Recognition for Ten-Year 4-H Members**

- **Ten Year 4-H Member Award**-4-H members with ten years of membership will receive an award for their involvement and dedication to the 4-H Youth Development Program.