



Overview of 4-H Recognition

The Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development program offers many ways to recognize the achievements of 4-H members. Here is an overview of the types of recognition available to Lancaster County 4-H'ers. Forms for many of these awards are online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Programs/award.shtml> and at the Extension office.

Project Completion Certificates

Achievement:

Successful completion of a 4-H project.

Who gives the

recognition: 4-H leaders may choose to present to their club members. For independent members, parents/guardians or anyone may present to the 4-H'er. Project Completion Certificates are available from the Extension office upon request (no charge).

When is the recognition:

Can be presented any time. Usually presented at the end of the 4-H year (after county and state fairs) during a club meeting or presented informally.



Ribbons

Achievement: Youth who exhibit a project at county fair, state fair or other show — or participate in a contest — will receive a ribbon.

Additional Info: 4-H exhibits by youth ages 5–7 receive participation ribbons only. 4-H exhibits by youth age 8–18 are awarded ribbons based on the Danish System of judging in which exhibits are divided into groups and judged according to merit:

- Purple ribbons denote superior exhibits
- Blue ribbons denote excellent exhibits
- Red ribbons denote good exhibits
- White ribbons denote fair quality exhibits

Who determines the recognition:

Judges
When is the recognition: Usually presented during the course of the fair, show or contest.

Special Awards

Achievement: Top exhibits in many county or state fair exhibit areas, and at other shows and contests may receive special awards (certificates, plaques, or trophies).

Who gives the recognition: Judges or superintendents

When is the recognition: Usually presented during the course of the fair, show, or contest.

There are several Lancaster County 4-H Horse Special Awards which are presented during the annual Horse Awards Night.

The Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club awards traveling trophies to the top 4-H clubs participating in the Lancaster County Super Fair — these Outstanding 4-H Clubs are recognized at a Kiwanis meeting as well as at 4-H Achievement Celebration.



Community Service Awards

Achievement: Completing a community service project.

Additional Info: All Lancaster County 4-H members ages 5–18 are eligible to apply for this award which is based on number of hours. There are two categories: age 14 & over and age 13 & under. Record forms can be filled out by club leader, parent/guardian, or 4-H member. Forms are due to Extension by December 31.

Who gives the recognition: Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County presents certificates.

When is the recognition: Certificates are presented during the annual Lancaster County 4-H Achievement Celebration (usually held in February).

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Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program

Achievement: At the beginning of the 4-H year, youth choose goals from a provided list and at the end of the 4-H year, fill out a report which documents their accomplishments.

Additional Info: Youth can progress from Level 1 up to Level 6. Levels 1–4 require the approval of a 4-H member's parent/guardian. If the 4-H member belongs to a 4-H club, club leader approval is also required. Levels 5 and 6 require the approval of a local county Extension staff member. Completed Plan & Report forms are due to Extension by December 31.

Who gives the recognition: Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County presents certificates for levels 1–5. Level 6 recipients will be presented a certificate and diamond clover pin by the state 4-H office.



When is the recognition: Certificates for levels 1–5 are presented during the annual Lancaster County 4-H Achievement Celebration (usually held in February).

Nebraska 4-H Career Portfolios

Achievement: Completing a Career Portfolio which includes a record of personal growth and leadership experiences related to the knowledge learned, skills gained, and community service/volunteer activities experienced through 4-H.

Additional Info: Career Portfolios focus on one of Nebraska 4-H's eight curriculum areas. In Lancaster County, 4-H members who complete two years of a 4-H project may submit a Career Portfolio in that corresponding curriculum area — however, 4-H'ers are encouraged to start their portfolio as soon as they join 4-H. Nebraska 4-H'ers ages 10–18 may submit a portfolio for award, due to Extension by December 31.

Who gives the recognition: Portfolios are judged by a committee. Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County presents certificates and activity scholarships to county winners. Lancaster County 4-H selects the top qualifying career portfolios to advance to state level.

When is the recognition: Certificates for county winners are presented during the annual Lancaster County 4-H Achievement Celebration (usually held in February).



Other Recognition

4-H Pins — 4-H members receive pins at 4-H Achievement Celebration when they become 3 Year Members and when they are Seniors. There are no forms — Extension automatically keeps track of this information.

National Leadership Award — two Lancaster County 4-H members are selected each year. This award recognizes youth ages 15–18 who strive to be their personal best and make a positive difference in their schools, youth groups, 4-H clubs and communities. Anyone can make nominations. Forms are due to Extension by December 31.

Outstanding 4-H Member Award — presented to an individual 14 years of age or older who has excelled in their involvement with the 4-H program. The basis for selection appraises the variety and depth of 4-H activities. Anyone can make nominations. Forms are due to Extension by December 31.

Horse Incentive Awards — any 4-H'er age 8–18 enrolled in a horse project can participate. Youth log their hours spent participating in various horse-related activities from mid-February to the end of June. The more hours invested, the more valuable the reward! Forms are due to Extension mid-July.

Club Awards

Nebraska 4-H Clubs of Excellence — clubs which have met criteria outlined by the state 4-H office are recognized as a "Club of Excellence." Some of the criteria include: choose/elect youth officers, have one club project (related to curriculum) which they do together and complete one community service project. Forms are to be filled out by club leaders and are due to Extension by December 31.

Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards — Sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority in cooperation with the Nebraska 4-H Foundation. These awards recognize 25 4-H clubs each year for the work of the individuals in the club and the community service work of the entire club. Recognition is in the form of \$500 checks to be used as described in the award application form completed by the club. For more information, go to <http://ne4hfoundation.org/recognition>

Recognition for 4-H Volunteers

4-H Pins — 4-H leaders receive pins at 4-H Achievement Celebration when they've volunteered for 2 Years, 5 Years, 10 Years, 15 years, 20 Years, etc. No forms needed.

Heart of 4-H Award — Lancaster County 4-H presents a Heart of 4-H Award to a volunteer each month. These volunteers are recognized for their outstanding volunteer service. Anyone can nominate a volunteer anytime. Form is online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/Programs/volunteeraward.shtml>



Meritorious Service Award — presented to individuals or organizations who have exhibited consistent and strong support of the Lancaster County 4-H program. Anyone can make nominations. Forms are due to Extension by December 31 and a plaque is presented at 4-H Achievement Celebration.