

Overview of 4-H Recognition

As of Fall 2023

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 <https://lanaster.unl.edu/4h/awards> and at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County office.

Project Completion Certificates

Achievement:

Successful completion of a 4-H project.

Who gives the recognition: 4-H leaders may present to their club members. For independent members, anyone

may present to the 4-H'er. Project Completion Certificates are available from the Extension office or completed online and printed.

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, trophies or buckles).

Who gives the recognition and when:

Top exhibits are decided by judges and 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 the annual 4-H Achievement Celebration.



Lancaster County 4-H 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 the Extension office by Jan. 3.

Who gives the recognition and when: Lancaster County 4-H presents certificates during the annual 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. In Lancaster County, completed Plan & Report forms are due to the Extension office by Jan. 3.

Who gives the recognition and when: Lancaster County 4-H presents certificates and pins for levels 1–5. Level 6 recipients are presented a certificate and diamond clover pin by the state 4-H office. Certificates and pins are presented during the annual Lancaster County 4-H Achievement Celebration (usually held in February).

Nebraska 4-H Gives Back

Achievement: A 4-H member or team completes a major service-learning project that benefits their community. 4-H members invest over 100 hours of service.

Additional Info: The project includes an initial proposal and final report that are both approved and reviewed in a two-step process.

Who gives the recognition and when: Nebraska 4-H awards certificates once the project is completed, as well as a \$100 award. Lancaster County recipients are also recognized at the annual Lancaster County 4-H Achievement Celebration.

Nebraska 4-H Achievement Application

Achievement: Completing an Achievement Application which includes a record of significant accomplishments in four areas; 4-H Experiences, Leadership Experiences, Community Involvement/Service Learning Experiences and Career Spark.

Additional Info: The Achievement Application has two versions: junior for ages 8–14 (county only) and senior for ages 15–18 (county and state).

County recognition: Lancaster County 4-H'ers who complete an Achievement Application and submit it to Lancaster4H@unl.edu by Jan. 3 will be recognized at Lancaster County 4-H Achievement Celebration (usually held in February).

State recognition: Nebraska 4-H utilizes the senior application to select delegates for National 4-H Conference (info at <https://4h.unl.edu/conference>) and 4-H Congress (info at <https://4h.unl.edu/congress>). The Nebraska 4-H Foundation utilizes the senior application for awarding scholarships (info at <https://www.ne4hfoundation.org/scholarships>). Applications must be emailed to 4HAchieves@unl.edu by Jan. 5.

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 — Lancaster County 4-H automatically keeps track of this information.

Lancaster County 4-H Council Leadership Award — This award recognizes youth in grades 10–12 who show outstanding qualities in servant leadership. Forms are due to the Extension office by Jan. 3.

Lancaster County 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. Forms are due to the Extension office by Jan. 3.

Nebraska 4-H Livestock Achievement Program — recognizes Members of Excellence across all 4-H livestock project areas, including: beef, sheep, meat goat, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goat, rabbit and poultry. There are two age levels: Intermediates (ages 10–13) and Seniors (ages 14–18). A series of five steps are required by June 15 through the end of August.

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 January–mid-July. The more hours invested, the more valuable the reward! Forms are due to the Extension office in late July.

Scholarships — there are many state and local college scholarships available to high school seniors who are active in 4-H. Deadline for statewide scholarships vary; deadline Lancaster County scholarships is Jan. 3. Lancaster County 4-H Council offers a limited number of 4-H Camp scholarships — preference given to applications submitted by May 1.

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 the Extension office by Jan. 3.

Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards — Nebraska 4-H Foundation's Governor's Agricultural Excellence Awards sponsored by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority recognizes 4-H clubs for their efforts to serve their communities. Recognition is in the form of a \$500 grant issued to the club's treasury to be used as described in the award application form completed by the club. For more information, go to www.ne4hfoundation.org/governors-ag-excellence-award. Deadline is usually April 1.

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.

Lancaster County Meritorious Service to 4-H 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 by Jan. 3 and a plaque is presented at 4-H Achievement Celebration.