
4-H LEADS FOR LEADERS

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

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Leader's Guide



Awards have played an important part in 4-H since its beginning. Then, as now, awards attracted and won public support for 4-H. The early emphasis was placed on the quantity of crops or animals produced and on the publicity value of the activity. In recent years, more emphasis has been placed on quality of work and on the development of the boy or girl taking part.

Awards presently are used in 4-H to create interest, motivate and recognize young people for their achievement. Pins, medals, certificates, ribbons, trips and scholarships are among the many awards made available by 4-H supporters.

There is much discussion about the value of competition. Many feel it is over-emphasized or that competition is such a part of life that 4-H should help youth learn to cope. Whatever your beliefs, the following are general guidelines to apply to awards:

- All awards should develop the winner. In other words, the prize in itself is not the important thing. It is only by motivating learning, and promoting growth and development on the part of the winner, that it justifies itself.
- The value of all prizes should be in line with the effort expended.
- Adapt awards to the mental development, needs and desires of the club members.
- When possible, divide the awards to include more members who achieve. Offer many small prizes rather than a small number of large prizes.

- Be sure that rules are fair, understandable and defensible; judges are competent; and the award program challenges all participants with standards high enough to insure an earnest struggle on the part of the individual.

Although many young people are highly motivated by awards, others are reluctant to compete because they don't know enough about the program, don't feel competent or fear they may not win.

Each member should have full knowledge of the awards and the requirements prior to the selection of winners. (No boys or girls can be motivated by something unknown to them.) Cooperative Extension agents will give you information on awards programs throughout the year.

Though every youth may not be interested in the awards system, all members need to be recognized for their efforts.

Leaders who work closely with 4-H members know when to encourage them to participate in awards programs and when to give recognition in other ways. Nearly every youth responds to a word of praise or encouragement, a smile of approval or a pat on the back.

County Awards

The following awards may be made in each Colorado county.

Member Certificates

Members who complete a 4-H project will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment each year. The leader may be asked to supply the Cooperative Extension County office with names of members in their club who qualify for completion certificates. They may be presented at county or club achievement programs.

Member Pins

Counties may provide pins for members and leaders who meet certain requirements. The pins are ordered from the National 4-H Council by Extension agents. Although there is no uniform pin program throughout the state, it is recommended that the following be used:

- bronze pins for the completion of the first year (either design A or design L pins may be used);
- silver pins for the completion of the fifth year (design A bearing the word "fifth" is recommended); and
- gold pins (design P-8, P-9, P-10, etc.) may be awarded to members completing eight years or more of 4-H work.

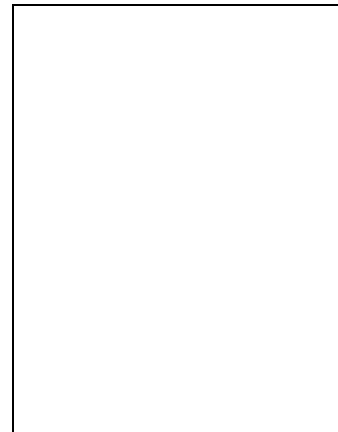
- Junior Leadership Pin. The pin may be awarded upon completion of one year of junior leadership. County programs determine the qualifications for this award.

Most counties recognize volunteers for their years of service. While a variety of methods may be used, the following are available for consideration.

Leader Certificates

Certificates are provided by the state 4-H office for the following leadership service:

- 5 years Silver Clover
- 10 years Gold Clover
- 15 years Pearl Clover
- 20 years Diamond Clover
- 25 years Emerald Clover
- 30 years Ruby Clover
- 35 years Sapphire Clover
- 40 years Clover Award
- 45 years Clover Award
- 50 years Clover Award



Corresponding leader pins are available for purchase from National 4-H Council.

State and National Awards for Members

State contests are held during State 4-H Conference and state fair in which county winners compete for top honors in demonstrations; fashion revue; judging of livestock, horses, dairy and home economics; public speaking; and others. Many members also are selected for special recognition on the basis of exhibits at state fair or records submitted for state judging in July.

Participants in state contests must have passed their 14th birthday by January 1 of the current year.

Awards presented include the following:

Cash Awards and Trophies

Some cash awards and trophies are given for exhibits, contests and records. Check the announcement for each program for the recognition available.

Trips

Trips beyond the county or state boundaries become more numerous each year. Some of these include:

- trips to participate in regional or national contests;
- award trips to Western Regional 4-H Roundup (Denver) or National 4-H Youth Congress;
- educational trips to National 4-H Conference (Washington D.C.), Citizenship—Washington Focus (Washington, D.C.), National Institute of Cooperative Education and others;
- ambassador responsibilities to promote 4-H; and
- international opportunities through the IFYE, Japanese exchange, and 4-H Caravan programs.

Scholarships

Scholarships are offered through many sources to encourage 4-H members to do good work and to assist them with colleges, universities and trade schools.

State Awards for Leaders

Leaders are selected to attend many of the events the members attend (4-H Roundup, Citizenship—Washington Focus, National 4-H Congress and National 4-H Youth Conference). They also may attend the state leader forum and Western Regional 4-H Leader Forum (some scholarships available).

