

Eaton County 4-H Awards Handbook



Awards and Recognition

Recognition for “a job well done” is an important part of a 4-H experience and is another opportunity for youth to learn and showcase their growth. Awards acknowledge and affirm the personal growth of the individual. This also adds a dimension of responsibility to the individual and to others.

There are two important things to remember about awards:

- ❖ It is an honor to be nominated for and/or to receive an award. It is honorable to accept and carry out the responsibility of the award.
- ❖ An award is recognition of the things you have achieved in the past. After you have received your award, it is time to set new goals for tomorrow. All 4-H awards are given for accomplishments in the prior 4-H program year.

Who is eligible for awards?

Any 4-H members and/or leaders are eligible to apply or be nominated depending on the given award. For each award, there are specific requirements. Please read all the award information thoroughly. The leader and parent are encouraged to assume an active supporting role in helping 4-H members complete their application.

Where do I find award applications?

Award applications are handed out to club administrative leaders at the Sunday meeting of fair week. Fillable PDF versions of the forms can be found at

https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_associations_and_committees/4_h_advisory_council#awards.

When are they due?

Award nominations are generally due in the fall around September 15 to the Eaton County MSU Extension office.

How are award selections made?

Eaton County 4-H awards are managed by the Eaton County 4-H Council and their awards committee. Awards are selected based on if the applicant is qualified for the award (fits year requirements, etc. depending on the award) and then the applicant information is reviewed to determine if the information meets the purpose of the award.

When are awards presented?

All awards are presented at the annual 4-H Participation Celebration event sponsored by 4-H Council. All those receiving recognition at the event will receive a post card invitation in the mail approximately one month prior to the event date.

Member Awards

Young Achiever Award

Any 4-H member 8 – 11 years of age is eligible for this award. The award is sponsored by the Eaton County 4-H Council. A 4-H'er can receive the award in one project area per year and cannot receive this award for the same project area more than once. Members are nominated by their administrative or project leader or members may self-nominate. If a member is nominated in more than two areas, member must choose which two areas to apply for. No more than two nomination forms should be submitted. Forms must be completed and returned to the Eaton County MSU Extension office. The awards committee will review the forms and select award recipients.

County Medals and Honorable Mention Certificates

Leaders are encouraged to nominate eligible or deserving 4-H members for county medals. All youth need to be recognized for their accomplishments. County medals are one form of recognition; they can help build self-esteem and encourage members to continue to strive for higher goals. County medals are given to 4-H members who have greatly improved their skills in a particular project(s) or whose project involvement has been significant and successful. Any 4-H member 12 – 19 years of age is eligible for county project medals. The medals are provided by the State 4-H Youth Programs and the Eaton County 4-H Council. There are medals for most 4-H projects. Only one medal is awarded in each project area per year. A 4-H member will not be awarded more than two (2) county medals in a calendar year, or receive the same award medal in the same project two consecutive times. Honorable Mention certificates are selected as the first runner up for the project area. Member must have at least two years of 4-H experience in the project area and currently completed the project for which he/she is nominated. Members are nominated by their administrative or project leader or members may self-nominate. If a member is nominated in more than three areas, member must choose which three areas to apply for. No more than three nomination forms should be submitted. Forms must be completed and returned to the Eaton County MSU Extension office. The awards committee will review the forms and select award recipients.

Achievement, Leadership, or Citizenship

Achievement, leadership, or citizenship are county medal project areas that receive special recognition and have their own application form that is separate from other county medals. Achievement emphasizes leadership, citizenship, knowledge and application of skills learned in 4-H and how the member has helped

others and/or their club. Citizenship emphasizes 4-H activities in community service, the ability to work and get along with others, and being a good citizen. Leadership emphasizes active 4-H leadership experience and willingness to accept new leadership responsibilities. Members must have at least two years of 4-H experience for these awards.

Key Club Award

Any 4-H member 15 – 19 years of age may apply for this award. Members must have completed three years of club work, have taken at least two 4-H projects, completed a teen leadership project and participated in three regional (state sponsored) and/or state 4-H events. A 4-H member may only receive this awards once during their 4-H career.

“I Dare You” Leadership Award

Any 4-H member who is in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade is eligible for this award. The award is sponsored by the Eaton County 4-H Council and the American Youth Foundation. The award is presented as recognition of excellence in character and well balanced personal development qualities of constructive leadership. Members must be nominated in writing. Nominations may be made by other 4-H members, leaders, parents, or Extension staff members. It may be awarded to two members annually. A 4-H member may only receive this award once during their 4-H career.

Outstanding Teen Leader Award

Up to four members 13 – 19 years of age who demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities may receive this award. Members must complete a Teen Leader report form. The Teen Leader report form (available at the Extension office) must be completed and turned in with the nomination form. Nominations must be in writing. It should be a brief summary (no more than 250 words) describing the member’s experiences, training, and involvement in the teen leader project. Nominations may be made by other 4-H members, leaders, parents, or Extension staff members. Final selection will be made by the awards committee.

To be considered for an Outstanding Teen Leader award, all teens will be required to complete the Teen Leader report form and do a Teen Leader interview at the fair.

Completion Award

Awarded to any club member who completed his/her years as a 4-H'er and who has been in 4-H for at least eight years. The list of eligible youth is pulled from 4-H Online by those who have aged out (were 19 in the program year being awarded) and been in 4-H for at least eight years; however, club leaders are encouraged to submit names of eligible members especially for members who have not aged out but have completed eight years and are not planning to return. The Eaton County 4-H Council sponsors the award.

Volunteer Awards

Volunteer Pins and Certificates

4-H volunteers are honored and presented with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30...year pins and certificates at the annual Volunteer Celebration. All first year leaders are recognized and presented with a first year pin as well.

Outstanding Leader Award

The Eaton County 4-H Council sponsors "Outstanding Leader Awards". Nominations, in 250 words or less, should be submitted to the Eaton County MSU Extension office. Please include in the nomination the significance of the leader's involvement and their contribution to the club its members and the county 4-H program as a whole. Nominations may be submitted by 4-H members, other 4-H leaders, parents and Extension staff members. Selection of award recipients will be made by someone outside of the 4-H program. Any project or administrative leader may be nominated.

Club Awards

Community Service Award

In an effort to increase and recognize community service activities, this award is given by the Eaton County 4-H Council. Up to three clubs are selected to receive the award. To apply, submit a summary that includes a list and a description of the club's community service projects. At least 50% of the club members must participate for a project to qualify. The time frame covered is from September 1 to August 31. Summaries need to be submitted to the Eaton County MSU Extension office. Nominations may be submitted by members and/or leaders.

Club Recreation Award

This award is to encourage more clubs to include recreation in their meetings and yearly program. The award is given by the Eaton County 4-H Council. To be eligible for the award, 50% of the club members must participate in the activities. To apply, submit a list and description of recreational activities the club did. The time frame covered is from September 1 to August 31 of the current year. Nominations need to be submitted to the Eaton County MSU Extension office. Nominations may be submitted by members and/or leaders.