



Oceana County 4-H Youth Council Volunteer Awards



The Oceana County 4-H Youth Council Volunteer Awards are presented annually in recognition of the extraordinary efforts made by 4-H volunteers, leaders and parents. Nominations are accepted now through September 16th at **4 p.m. via drop off/email/fax**. You may self-nominate for any award *except* the mentor award. The recipients will be recognized at the annual Leaders Appreciation Banquet.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

★ **Lifetime Achievement**

Recognition for dedication to the 4-H Program through active service.

★ **Sportsmanship**

Recognition for exemplifying the MI 4-H definition of a good sport by demonstrating respect for animals (if applicable), respect for opponents, respect for the traditions of the sport, and respect for others.

★ **Service**

Recognition for service to the Oceana County 4-H Programs in 2025-2026.

★ **Horizon**

Recognition for demonstrating successful participation in a new program area or event.

★ **Mentor**

Recognition for impact in a 4-H member's life above and beyond volunteer expectations.

MUST BE NOMINATED BY A 4-H YOUTH MEMBER

ELIGIBILITY: *Current 4-H Volunteer*

To nominate, please complete the attached form and a written statement of 200-500 words, supporting why the nominee deserves to be recognized for their acts of outstanding leadership and service. Be specific on the attached form with examples in a bullet point format. See the *Tips for Writing a Nomination* page for guidance.

Each nomination must be accompanied by this cover page, the award nomination form, and a written statement.

Nominee's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Role in 4-H: VOLUNTEER LEADER PARENT

Nominator's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Relationship to Nominee: _____

Reference Name (for further information, if required): _____

Phone: _____ Relationship to Nominee: _____

All information contained herein is true and accurate.

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____



4-H LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT Award



Nominee Name: _____

**THIS APPLICATION MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO LETTERS OF SUPPORT
ONE FROM THE MSUE OFFICE STAFF & ONE FROM A 4-H COMMUNITY
MEMBER.**

1. Length of Service to 4-H Please be as accurate as possible.	Please list:
2. Areas of Service to 4-H Please be as accurate as possible	Please list examples:
3. Community Impact Please list the ways this individual's service has benefitted the local community (4-H and beyond.)	Please list examples:
4. Demonstrations of Character Examples of Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.	Please list examples:

Please attach a brief statement supporting your nomination (200-500 words), and two letters of support. Include additional details that will inform the review committee of the nominee's gifts of service to 4-H and Oceana County.



Oceana County 4-H HORIZON Award



Nominee Name: _____

This application must be reflective of a program within 5 years of it's inception, or a program that has seen revitalization due to the nominee's efforts. The nominee's efforts must demonstrate participant growth (new volunteers and 4-H members) and community impact.

1. Name of 4-H Club, Community Event, or Service Project	Please list:
2. Length of Program Please be as accurate as possible.	Please list:
3. Community Impact Please list the ways this individual's service and the new program has benefitted the local community (4-H and beyond.)	Please list examples:
4. Participant Growth Contact the office for assistance with collecting data.	Please list examples:

Please attach a brief statement supporting your nomination (200-500 words.)
Include additional details that will inform the review committee of the nominee's gifts of innovation and service to 4-H and Oceana County.



Oceana County 4-H VOLUNTEER SPORTSMANSHIP Award



Nominee Name: _____

Include how the individual exemplified the MI 4-H definition of a good sport by demonstrating respect for animals, respect for opponents, respect for the traditions of the sport, and respect for others.

1. Length of Service and Areas of Service to 4-H Please be as accurate as possible.	Please list:
2. Displays respect for animals (<i>If applicable.</i>) Exercises good animal management through proper healthcare and nutrition, as well as fair training practices.	Please list examples:
3. Displays respect for opponents & other clubs. Sportsmanlike competitors recognize and appreciate a well-prepared, challenging opponent who can bring out the best in them and share that appreciation with their opponents.	Please list examples:
4. Displays respect for "The Game." This includes respecting and following the rules of the event. It also includes always trying one's best, using skill and training to achieve positive results, and appreciating the training process.	Please list examples:
5. Displays respect for others.	Please list examples:

Please attach a brief statement supporting your nomination (200-500 words.)
Include additional details that will inform the review committee of the nominee's sportsmanship and gifts of service to 4-H and Oceana County.



Oceana County 4-H SERVICE Award



Nominee Name: _____

This award is intended to recognize the service and volunteer efforts made by adult members of the Oceana County 4-H community during the 2025-2026 4-H year. **MUST INCLUDE ONE ADDITIONAL LETTER OF SUPPORT.**

1. Length of Service to 4-H Please be as accurate as possible.	Please list:
2. Areas of Service to 4-H Please be as accurate as possible	Please list examples:
3. Community Impact Please list the ways this individual's service has benefitted the local community (4-H and beyond.)	Please list examples:
4. Demonstrations of Character Examples of Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.	Please list examples:

Please attach a brief statement supporting your nomination (200-500 words), and one letter of support. Include additional details that will inform the review committee of the nominee's gifts of service to 4-H and Oceana County.



Oceana County 4-H MENTOR Award



Nominee Name: _____

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY A 4-H YOUTH MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING.

1. Length of Time you have known your mentor. Please be as accurate as possible.	Please list:
2. Areas of Service to 4-H by your mentor Please be as accurate as possible	Please list examples:
3. Personal Impact Please list the ways this individual's service has benefitted you (4-H and beyond.)	Please list examples:

Please attach a brief statement supporting your nomination (200-500 words.)
Include additional details of time, support, guidance and extra effort that will inform the review committee of the nominee's gifts to 4-H and yourself as a mentee.



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Tips for Writing an Effective Award Nomination

Abridged version adapted from the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

- 1) Nominators play a crucial role in the nominating process. Nominations that are well-written and thorough may be more likely to result in the volunteer receiving an award.
- 2) Remember, all nominations are evaluated and scored by multiple reviewers - at the local level. Reviewers may not know anything about the nominee, other than what is on the nomination form, so the more thorough and well-written the nomination is – the better.
- 3) Reviewers rely on the nominator's descriptive words and examples to assist them in determining and understanding the volunteer's attributes and contributions.
- 4) Be concise and direct. Write the nomination from the heart, but provide information that is clear, concise and easy to read. Reinforce what you are saying with observations, facts and concrete examples. Too much information can be as harmful as too little information.
- 5) Include numbers. How many hours has the volunteer donated? How much money did they raise? How many students were helped? How many meals were delivered? Statistics can help reinforce the accomplishments of the nominee.
- 6) Be sure to describe why your nominee's commitment, accomplishments and special skills/qualities are distinguishable over other volunteers. Share what stands out and what truly makes this volunteer outstanding and worthy of the award.
- 7) Reviewers will want to have a clear understanding of the nominee's outstanding volunteer accomplishments that have made an impact in helping to meet critical needs in their community. Remember to provide specific details and cite examples in the appropriate section of the nomination form.
- 8) Be sure to proofread your statements. Grammatical errors and misspelled words detract from the quality of the nomination.

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