

## **LAPEER COUNTY 4-H AWARDS PROGRAM POLICY**

Lapeer County 4-H Awards Program recognizes the achievements of 4-H members through a County Awards process. Members may receive County Project Medals, All-Around Medals in Achievement, Agriculture, Citizenship, and Leadership, awards/scholarships for county and state level programming participation (Lapeer County 4-H Ambassador Court, 4-H Capitol Experience, National 4-H Congress, Citizenship Washington Focus), as well as the Michigan 4-H Key Club, one of the highest honors a 4-H member can earn.

A County Awards Committee comprised of interested adults and teens who are knowledgeable about 4-H provide guidance for the County Awards Program. To guard against conflict of interest, the committee members do not score award applications. The written application judging is performed by adults outside of the 4-H community. Judges individually score each project medal and county award application and record the scores on score sheets. The scores are averaged to determine the final written application ranking. The averaged application scores for the county awards account for 60% of the total score; interviews will account 40%.

In the fall of each year, nomination forms are emailed to all 4-H families. Leaders, parents, 4-H staff and 4-H'ers may nominate/self-nominate members for awards by completing the nomination forms and returning them to the 4-H office by the specified date (early November). A letter is sent to members, who have been nominated to receive recognition for their 4-H achievements. The letter explains what is required for the member to apply for the awards. Any required forms are also included. A county awards workshop is held to help nominees complete the Medal and Award applications. Members are required to submit the completed applications to the 4-H office by the deadline (early January). Late applications are not accepted. This is necessary to allow the judges enough time to review and score the applications. For scoring purposes, county award forms are identified by number rather than name. County Medal and Award recipients are announced at the annual Spring Achievement/Style Revue closing program.

If you have any questions regarding the Lapeer County 4-H Awards Program, please call the MSU Extension office at 810-667-0343.

## **COUNTY PROJECT MEDALS**

A parent, Lapeer County 4-H Leader or 4-H'er may nominate/self-nominate a youth. Youth complete the Project Medal written application and do not participate in the interviewing process. County Project Medals recognizes achievement in these project areas:

- Beef (**Beef Science**)
  
- **Biological Sciences**
- Aquaculture
- Entomology/Bees
- Judging (*Livestock*)
- Veterinary Science
  
- Poultry (**Birds and Poultry Science**)
  
- Citizenship and Civic Education (**Civic Engagement**)
- Community Service (**Civic Engagement**)
  
- Communications (**Communication and Expressive Arts**)
- Demonstrations (**Communication and Expressive Arts**)
- Hobbies & Collections (**Communication and Expressive Arts**)
- Performing Arts (**Communication and Expressive Arts**)
- Photography (**Communication and Expressive Arts**)
- Public Speaking (**Communication and Expressive Arts**)
- Visual Arts (crafts) (**Communication and Expressive Arts**)
- Wood Science (**Communication and Expressive Arts**)
  
- Cats (**Companion Animal Sciences**)
- Dog Care & Training (**Companion Animal Sciences**)
- Pets (**Companion Animal Sciences**)
- Cavy (**Companion Animal Sciences**)
- Llamas (**Companion Animal Sciences**)
  
- **Consumer and Family Sciences**
- Buymanship (**Consumer and Family Sciences**)
- Clothing (sewing) and Textiles (**Consumer and Family Sciences**)
- Consumer Education (**Consumer and Family Sciences**)
- Child Care (**Consumer and Family Sciences**)
- Family Life (**Consumer and Family Sciences**)
- Fashion Revue (Modeling) (**Consumer and Family Sciences**)
- Home Environment (**Consumer and Family Sciences**)
  
- Dairy (**Dairy Cattle Science**)
  
- Forestry (**Environmental Sciences**)
- Outdoor Education (environment, wildflowers) (**Environmental Sciences**)
- Wildlife & Fisheries (Pheasants, Taxidermy, Birds) (**Environmental Sciences**)
- Shooting Sports (**Environmental Sciences**)
  
- Horse (**Equine Sciences**)
- PEP - Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program (**Equine Science**)
  
- Goats (**Goat Sciences**)
  
- Foods/Nutrition (Food Preparation) (**Healthy Lifestyles**)

- Healthy Living (**Healthy Lifestyles**)
- Safety (**Healthy Lifestyles**)
- Camp Counselor Award (**Leadership and Personal Development**)
- Bicycle (**Leadership and Personal Development**)
- Personal Development (**Leadership and Personal Development**)
- **Plant Sciences**
- Gardening/Horticulture (**Plant Sciences**)
- Rabbits (**Rabbit and Cavy Science**)
- Sheep (**Sheep Science**)
- Swine (**Swine Science**)
- **Technology and Engineering**
- Aerospace (**Technology and Engineering**)
- Computer Technology (**Technology and Engineering**)
- Electricity (**Technology and Engineering**)
- Engines, Tractors & Field Equipment (**Technology and Engineering**)
- Industrial Arts (**Technology and Engineering**)
- Physical Science (**Technology and Engineering**)
- Robotics (**Technology and Engineering**)

**ELIGIBILITY – COUNTY PROJECT MEDALS:**

<b>Project Medal Guidelines</b>	<b>4-H’ers Requirement</b>
Age Eligibility	11-20, 4-H Age (age as of January 1 <sup>st</sup> of 4-H Year)
Minimum # Years’ Experience in Project Area	2
Maximum # of Nominations Allowed per 4-H’er in all Project Medal Areas	Unlimited
Maximum # Project Medals awarded per Area in 4-H Career	2 (with at least 3 years in between medal awards)
# of Project Medals Awarded (all areas) allowed during 4-H Career	Unlimited

**ALL AROUND MEDALS**

Achievement, Agriculture, Citizenship and Leadership All Around Medals are Open to any 4-H’ers at least 13 (4-H age). Youth will complete the County Award form and participate in the interviewing process. Each of the All Around Medals requires that the member demonstrate knowledge, progress, and action in accomplishing their goals across multiple project areas. Members receiving any of these awards will receive a medal in recognition of their accomplishments.

**ACHIEVEMENT:** This is awarded for accomplishing meaningful and worthwhile goals within 4-H through personal effort and hard work. The member should demonstrate achievement across different project areas that take place over time. It includes winning an award such as a state award, a blue ribbon, a grand champion or best of show, but it also includes achieving personal goals such as developing your

own breeding stock, excelling at all parts of a project, i.e. going from a beginning sewer to sewing a complicated garment that has expert craftsmanship, fits well, and is appropriate for the member.

**AGRICULTURE:** This is awarded for demonstrated accomplishments in agriculture as a whole, which includes farm management, cultivating the soil, producing crops, raising livestock and the preparation and marketing of the resulting products.

**CITIZENSHIP:** This is awarded for demonstrating citizenship by being a responsible, contributing member of your community at the club, neighborhood, county, state, national, and international levels. To receive this award, a member should demonstrate a strong character; a concern for the rights and welfare of others; an appreciation of diversity; an understanding of the way government and community organizations work; service to their communities to address problems and help others; the skills, knowledge, and commitment to influence decision making and public policy; an awareness and understanding of public issues, how they are connected across local, national, and global levels, and how one affects and is affected by them. Examples: be a teen member on the county 4-H Council, volunteer for PEP (therapeutic horseback riding for youth with disabilities), attend Capitol Experience, Citizenship Washington Focus, 4-H National Congress and develop projects that put their knowledge into action.

**LEADERSHIP:** This is awarded for demonstrating leadership by learning about leadership; taking responsibility to guide a group from one point to another; to help others meet their goals; to work with others to reach shared goals; and to teach leadership skills to others. Examples: plan and deliver educational programs for clubs or the county 4-H Program; mentor younger members; be a camp counselor; be a club officer; take charge of planning, organizing, doing, and evaluating a community service project, a field trip, a social outing, or other events. It involves taking responsibility for an event or program, getting others to help and following through with it.

**ELIGIBILITY – ALL AROUND MEDALS:**

All Around Guidelines	4-H’ers Requirement
Age Eligibility	At Least 13 (4-H age)
Minimum # Years in 4-H	2
Maximum # of Nominations Allowed per 4-H’er in any All Around areas	Unlimited
Maximum # All Around Medals awarded per Area in 4-H Career	2 (with at least 3 years in between awards)

- Applicants must complete the “COUNTY AWARD APPLICATION” to apply for All Around Medals. *If you are applying for both All Around Medals AND County Awards, only ONE application will need to be completed for both areas.*

## **COUNTY AWARDS**

All county awards are based on member's 4-H achievements. Applicants must complete the county award application as well as participate in the interviewing process. While only one county award form is required regardless of the number of awards for which a member applying, each award requires a separate interview.

### **AMBASSADOR COURT**

Ambassador Court members will be given an opportunity to grow and excel in in this program mainly in the areas of public speaking and community service. Members will be given opportunities to speak in front of groups to promote 4-H and educate other 4-H'ers, as well as providing various community service activities throughout the year. Members of this program will also become role models to all 4-H'ers in the county, as well as the community.

**LAPEER COUNTY 4-H JUNIOR AMBASSADOR COURT:** Open to any 6-8<sup>th</sup> grader currently enrolled in 4-H and has been in 4-H for at least 2 years. Members will participate in county activities and represent the Lapeer County 4-H Program. A 4-H'er can be a member of the Junior Ambassador Court two times.

**LAPEER COUNTY 4-H SENIOR AMBASSADOR COURT:** Open to any 9-11th grader currently enrolled in 4-H and has been in 4-H for at least 2 years. Members will participate in county activities and represent the county 4-H program. A 4-H'er can be a member of the Senior Ambassador Court two times.

*Ambassador Court members are required to sign an agreement to fulfill the responsibilities of their position, as well as be positive role models and representatives for Lapeer County 4-H.*

**MICHIGAN 4-H KEY CLUB:** This is one of the highest honors a member can earn in 4-H. It recognizes outstanding accomplishment and leadership in the 4-H Program. The number of Key Club Awards awarded per county is equal to ½ of 1% of total county membership. The 4-H'er must be 15 years of age on or before Sept. 1 of the current year, have completed 3 calendar years of 4-H work as of January 1 of the current year, completed 4-H projects in at least two areas, participated in three district (state sponsored) and/or state 4-H events, have been recommended by their club leader, as well as completed a Teen Leadership project. Eligible applicants will complete the Michigan 4-H Key Club Award Application and participate in the interviewing process.

**MICHIGAN 4-H CAPITOL EXPERIENCE** (Lansing, MI): Any 4-H member, grade 9-12, is eligible to participate in Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, a 4-day conference, typically held in March, that helps prepare youth for active citizenship by focusing on civic engagement and public policy. Up to 100 teens from around the state converge on Lansing, Michigan to experience state government in action and learn how they can influence policy issues. Participants interact with legislators, state agency staff, lobbyists and other resource people to learn how policy is made. Attendees will:

- Understand the responsibilities of a citizen
- Explore different aspects of a policy issue that may affect individuals and communities
- Explore various careers in public policy
- Attend bill writing session

- Have an in-depth meeting with someone in (or involved with) state government

To learn more about this program, please visit: [http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/4-h\\_capitol\\_experience](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events/4-h_capitol_experience) .

The cost for the trip is typically \$310, which includes meals, lodging, and material fees. Lapeer County 4-H applicants will be applying for a full scholarship funded by Lapeer County 4-H Council (*subject to availability of funds*), less \$50 deposit. Selection is based on overall accomplishments in 4-H and an interview. **\$50 deposit, made payable to 4-H Council, is required with application; applicant will not be allowed to turn in application without deposit.** Deposit check will be returned to applicants not receiving the award. Can only be won once in a member's 4-H career.

**CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS:** (National 4-H Center, Washington, D.C.). Members must be an active 4-H member – 14-19 4-H age. [Citizenship Washington Focus](#) (CWF) is an opportunity to spend an entire week in Washington, DC; including a stop in Gettysburg. For more than 50 years, thousands of high school youth from all across the country have travelled to Washington, DC each summer to partake in the preeminent 4-H citizenship and leadership experience. 4-H'ers learn essential civic leadership skills and leave with the tools that will allow them to bring about real change in their communities. The cost for the trip is typically \$1,200, which includes transportation, lodging, and most meals. Lapeer County 4-H applicants will be applying for a nearly full scholarship funded by Lapeer County 4-H Council (*subject to availability of funds*), less \$250 cost to the delegate. Selection is based on overall accomplishments in 4-H and an interview. A **\$50 deposit, made payable to 4-H Council**, is required with the county award form and will be applied towards the \$250 delegate's cost. **Applicant will not be allowed to turn in application without \$50 deposit.** Deposit Check will be returned to applicants not receiving the award. Can only be won once in a member's 4-H career.

**NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS:** 4-H'er must be 14-18 years (4-H age) on Jan. 1 of this current 4-H year. National 4-H Congress is 4-H's national leadership development workshop beginning the day after Thanksgiving, held in Atlanta, GA. During 4-H Congress, participants attend workshops about leadership development, character education, agriculture, cultural awareness and diversity education, workforce preparation, environmental stewardship, science and technology literacy, and communication-skills development. This is a wonderful leadership and personal growth opportunity for youth. For more information, please visit website: <http://national4-hcongress.com/> . The cost for the trip is typically \$1,500, which covers the delegate's round-trip airfare to Atlanta, registration fee, lodging, meals, a shirt and a group photo. Delegates will also want to bring about \$100 for additional meals and souvenirs. Lapeer County 4-H applicants will be applying for a full scholarship funded by Lapeer County 4-H Council (*subject to availability of funds*). Selection is based on overall accomplishments in 4-H and an interview. **\$50 deposit, made payable to 4-H Council, is required with application; applicant will not be allowed to turn in application without deposit.** Award winner will be given the \$50 deposit as spending money. Deposit check will be returned to other applicants. Can only be won once in a member's 4-H career.