



Buffalo County 4-H Awards, Scholarships, and Recognition



Your Guide to Receiving Recognition in 4-H

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension educational programs abide with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

4-H Awards, Scholarships & Recognition

The 4-H program offers a lot of different awards to give youth and adults the incentive to keep “Making the Best, Better.” During the month of October, 4-H’ers may use their career portfolios to apply for awards. The 4-H application is an organized presentation of what has been learned and accomplished in 4-H. When accurately and carefully assembled, it is a useful tool for determining progress and personal growth. Award selection is based on the growth, leadership and citizenship that a 4-H’er has shown in their projects. There are several different types of awards that are available for youth.

Why apply for an award?

- To receive recognition. You’ve worked hard each year on your projects and learned through your activities. Here is your opportunity to receive recognition for your efforts.
- To keep track of your accomplishments. Filling out a career portfolio does take some work, but it also gives you a record of the types of things you’ve learned and done in 4-H. Your portfolio will serve as a vital resource when applying for college scholarships and creating your resume.
- To set new goals. You’ll be able to see where you can continue to learn and improve in your projects.

You may also nominate others for an award, such as a Friend of 4-H or a 4-H Alumni. This is a chance to give others recognition for their dedication and service to 4-H.

WHAT AWARDS CAN I APPLY FOR?

Depending upon your age and experience in 4-H, there are several different types and levels of awards that you are eligible to apply for.

MEMBER AWARDS

☆ **County Medals** – You may receive a medal for a project that you are currently enrolled in. Medals are based on what you learned in your project and how you continued to show growth in the project each year. You may receive a county medal for a project area only once. Medals are given to 4-H’ers who show learning, growth, and dedication in a certain project area. 4-H’ers of any age may apply for a County award by checking the project area on the 4-H Record Book Cover Sheet. **Each 4-H’er may apply for up to 3 county medals each year.**

☆ **District and State Awards** – Once you have received a county medal and are at least 13 years old (4-H age), your record book may be selected for District Competition. As Districts, career portfolios may be sent to State. State winners receive a trip to National 4-H Congress. Once you have participated in National Congress, you are no longer eligible to apply for an award at the district or state levels. **Each 4-H’er may only apply in 2 areas each year.**

☆ **Beaver Creekers Award**

This award is two \$50 cash awards to recognize excellence of 4-H'ers who compete in county, district, state, and national contests, who have developed leadership skills, who have livestock production knowledge. One \$50 cash award will be presented to a 4-H youth in the intermediate age group (11-13) and one \$50 cash award to a 4-H youth in the senior age group (14-19).

Award Requirements: Compete in at least 2 of the following areas: Speech, Presentations, and Livestock Judging. Mandatory participation in livestock showmanship (in one of the following divisions: cattle, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goats and meat goats). A 4-H Career Portfolio must be completed. Check the award area on the 4-H Record Book Cover Sheet to be considered for this award. This award can only be given one time to an individual competing in each age division.

☆ **Buffalo Belles Horsemanship Award**

This award is one \$50 cash award for each age category: 8-13 and 14-18 in the current year. The selection is based on enrollment in the 4-H Horse project, attendance of club meetings, participation in local horse shows and county fair. To apply, 4-H'ers must complete the "Light Horse Project Record Book" and write an essay on "What my 4-H horse project means to me." Submission of a Career Portfolio is not required for this award.

☆ **Tracy Van Camp Award**

In honor of Tracy Van Camp, who served as an Extension educator in Buffalo County, the Buffalo County Fair Board honors an individual in the Family & Consumer Science area. The award rotates among Outstanding Exhibitors in the Clothing, Foods, Home Environment and Human Development area. The Outstanding Exhibitor Awards in these areas are determined at County fair time, but the Tracy Van Camp Award is given at the Buffalo County 4-H Recognition Celebration.

☆ **Gloria Hanna Memorial Award**

Award criteria includes involvement in pre-fair contests, County fair exhibits, family and consumer science experiences, leadership and community service. 4-H'ers must complete a career portfolio in order to apply. Two \$100 cash prizes are awarded based on age. Two age groups are 8-11 year-old category and 12 and older category.

☆ **Diamond Clover Awards**

The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program encourages 4-H youth to engage in a variety of projects and activities that will enable members to acquire the life skills necessary to lead successful lives as competent, caring and contributing citizens. The program's overall goal is to provide 4-H members a rich and diverse learning experience. The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program is designed for all ages of 4-H members. The program consists of six levels that require a 4-H member to plan and report a broad range of age-appropriate accomplishments. The program is designed to enable every 4-H member willing to exert the effort an opportunity to be recognized, regardless of how they are involved in 4-H. The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program levels are illustrated below. 4-H members may begin participation in the Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program at any time of the year. To begin the Diamond Clover Program, a 4-H member must complete the Plan portion of the Plan & Report form. This is saved and attached to the Report Portion of the form that is filled out and turned into the local county extension office at the end of the year. 4-H members will obtain a certificate of achievement at the end of the 4-H year (October – December) once they have completed a level. Levels 1 through 5 are awarded by the local county UNL Extension office. Level 6 Diamond recipients will be presented a

certificate and a diamond clover pin by the Nebraska State 4-H office. Found at <http://4h.unl.edu/diamondclover>.

NEBRASKA 4-H DIAMOND CLOVER PROGRAM LEVELS

	Corresponding Gemstone Identifier	Anticipated for	Complete at least
Level 1	Amethyst	ages 8–9	3 accomplishments
Level 2	Aquamarine	ages 10–11	4 accomplishments
Level 3	Ruby	ages 12–13	5 accomplishments
Level 4	Sapphire	ages 14–15	6 accomplishments
Level 5	Emerald	ages 15–17	7 accomplishments
Level 6	Diamond	ages 16 & up	8 accomplishments and a service-learning project

☆ Longevity 4-H Awards

Certificates of recognition are awarded 4-H members who have completed 3 years of membership. Recognition pins are awarded 4-H members who have completed 5 and 10 years of membership. These award certificates and pins are given at the Buffalo County 4-H Recognition Celebration.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are available at the Buffalo County Extension office and are due to the Extension Office on or about March 1.

Buffalo County 4-H Scholarship

Buffalo County 4-H Council provides a \$500 scholarship to six 4-H'er currently enrolled in the Buffalo County 4-H program. Selection is based upon the member's 4-H involvement and achievements.

Andy and Nevabelle Howe Scholarship

The scholarship is for \$150 and will go to a freshman at any Nebraska state college, university or technical school who is a Buffalo County male 4-H member or former male member with at least two years of 4-H crop work. The scholarship is awarded based on need and 4-H achievements. The recipient is selected by personal interview with scholarship committee. Recipient must notify the Buffalo County Extension office of acceptance by August 15 and use the scholarship within six months after the date of acceptance. The money will be sent directly to bursar of the selected school.

Bankers Association Scholarship

The scholarship is for \$500 and will be awarded to one male and one female. The applicant must be a Buffalo County 4-H or FFA member and be a senior in high school. The scholarship must be used to attend a vocational, technical or academic school, college or university. The recipient will also be selected based on academic achievement and financial need.

Buffalo Belles Horseman Scholarship

The scholarship is for \$200 and will be awarded to a Buffalo County 4-H'er enrolled in the Buffalo County 4-H Horse program for the current year and the previous two years. The

application must be accompanied by a brief essay centered on 4-H experiences and their value to the 4-H'ers future. Scholarship must be used to attend a vocational, technical or academic school, college/university.

Karen Stafford Swartz Scholarship

The scholarship is for \$200 toward second semester tuition. The applicant must be a female resident of Buffalo County and a current 4-H member with at least five years of 4-H work with emphasis in home economics and livestock projects. The applicant must also be planning to be a full-time freshman student in college. Recipient must notify the Buffalo County Extension office of acceptance by August 1.

Ronald and Jaquelyn Kegley 4-H Scholarship

This scholarship is for \$500 toward fall semester tuition. Applicants must be a current, graduating senior residing in Buffalo County, Nebraska; in the top 50 percent of his/her class; be enrolled full-time in undergraduate study at an accredited, tax-exempt school or institution of higher learning. Selection for this scholarship is based on involvement in 4-H and non-academic extra-curricular activities.

State 4-H Scholarships

Scholarships are available at the State level for graduating seniors. Selection is based upon the following factors: influence of 4-H on individual's selection of future career, 4-H background, financial need, leadership abilities and resourcefulness, desire for further education, and scholastic achievements. The application form can be found at:

<http://4h.unl.edu/scholarships.htm>

ADULT AND LEADER AWARDS

The Friend of 4-H and Alumni Awards are available through nomination only. Nominations may be made by leaders, parents, 4-H'ers or other interested individuals.

Friend of 4-H

This is awarded to individuals who have served 4-H in an extra special way during the past year. The winner may receive this award one year only.

Alumni Award

A former 4-H'er will receive this award. Nominee must demonstrate a successful life in terms of citizenship, career, family, etc., influenced by their involvement in 4-H. Once selected on county level, nominees are eligible to apply for district and state award through the National Alumni Application.

Longevity 4-H Awards

Recognition pins are awarded 4-H leaders 2 years, 5 years, 10 years and 15 years. These award pins are given at the Buffalo County 4-H Recognition Celebration.

CLUB AWARDS

Presentation Contest Club Award

This award is given to the club with the highest percentage of participation in the county 4-H Presentation Contest. The percentage is figured by the number of participants divided by the number of club members.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Most of the member awards can be applied for by completing a Career Portfolio. It is an organized presentation of what has been learned and accomplished in 4-H.

The following materials are required in the portfolio and should be assembled in the order listed below. Include all materials in one application book, even if applying for more than one award. District and State portfolios should be separated out into one book per project area.

1. **Cover**
Standard Acco-type fastener in a stiff 8 ½ x 11 inch binder. These can be purchased at the Extension Office. Do not use a loose-leaf binder.
2. **Pre-printed Tab Dividers**
Help make your application neat and attractive. They can be purchased at the Extension Office.
3. **4-H Record Book Cover Sheet**
-Check all project areas that you are applying under. Be sure to include all application materials for each area marked.
-Must have all signatures completed.
-4-H'ers may apply for 3 county medals and 2 curriculum areas for District consideration
4. **4-H Career Portfolio**
-Section 1-3 are a composite of all 4-H and non-4-H projects/activities throughout the individual's 4-H career.
-It has been designed for use with Microsoft Word or Open Office.
-Additional pages may be added to the form as indicated.
-Should be printed using Times New Roman, 12 point and in landscape form (8 ½" x 11")

5. **The 4-H Curriculum Story**

The 4-H story is an essay of 4-H experiences in a specific curriculum area under consideration. It should emphasize personal growth and development in the selected project or curriculum area, as well as leadership and community service experiences through the nominee's 4-H career.

Separate stories must be included for each applied project area. Six pages maximum per story. Stories do not have to be six pages in length, but cannot be more than six.

It should be typed, double-spaced with 1 ½ inches on the top and 1 inch on the side and bottom margins, Times New Roman, 12 point for printed in the landscape format (8 ½" x 11"). Stories should be written in first person. Gimmicks, such as a pet calf telling the story or other cutesy themes should be avoided. **Be sure to check for spelling, grammar, punctuation and typographical errors.**

Suggested Story Format: The following outline may help in the development of your story, however, do not identify these parts in your story.

Part 1 **Introduction of 4-H'er.**

Include: age, interest, parents and family members, place of residence, when and why you are active in 4-H.

Part 2 **Project/activity information.**

Why it was chosen, what was learned that was not known before, how it has increased in scope, what things have been tried and found to be successful or not so successful, how financing was arranged and indicate profits and losses.

Part 3 **Highlight other 4-H projects and activities.**

List participation in other projects and activities that may have been major learning experiences. Also list special interests and unusual situations encountered.

Part 4 **Describe 4-H influence on leadership/citizenship.**

Describe the most important offices held, committee assignments accepted, what has been learned from working with others, how 4-H has increased interest and participation in community affairs. Also list what was learned from team efforts.

Part 5 **Describe 4-H influence.**

Describe 4-H influence on self-confidence, school/career goals, use of leisure time and future career or project plan.

Remember – Your story should be specific to the curriculum area you are applying. Do not write a general story.

6. **Support Material**

Directions: These materials must provide documentation to support your 4-H Career Portfolio.

- No more than 4 pages of photos.
- Up to 2 additional pages of supporting materials other than photos.
- A maximum of 6 pages.
- All materials must fit within the confines of an 11 by 8½ inches landscaped page.

Photo pages:

- No more than four pages of photos.
- Include a brief caption explaining the picture.
- Make sure to select photos that compliment the curriculum area.
- Action photos provide more impressive documentation of 4-H activities.
- Photos showing year-to-year progress or leadership activities provide excellent documentation of growth.
- Color photocopies, and/or digital photos are acceptable.
- Photocopies of newspaper print pictures are not acceptable.
- Do not overlap photos where one photo must be lifted to see another.

Two Optional Pages of Supporting Material:

- Up to 2 additional pages of supporting materials other than photos.
- Material should relate specifically to 4-H curriculum area.
- Items must fit on 11 x 8½ inches landscaped page.
- Do not include letters of recommendation.
- Do not use newspaper clippings or newspaper articles.
- Photography projects cannot include extra photo pages.
- Do not include specific project record books.

How Can Photographs Strengthen Your 4-H Record?

Photographs:

Helps the judge know the 4-H'er.
Document the project.
Sequences show growth.
Seeing is believing.
Improves chances of winning.

Picture Selection:

Select a picture that shows the 4-H'er in action (active, doing, leading with 4-H'er prominent).
Use high quality photos that are properly cropped for emphasis.
Show major points using as few pictures as possible.
The photo record should show member and project growth and document citizenship and leadership with emphasis on the major project.

- **Placement and Arrangement:**
 - Use space effectively - white space is often helpful. Don't crowd.
 - Organize page in landscape format so book does not have to be turned sideways for viewing.
 - Consider a theme or central idea for each page.

- **Mounting:**
 - Avoid photo corners, white glue, rubber cement and cellophane tape because they allow the pictures to fall off.
 - Start with clean, dry hands and a clean work area.
 - For best results use a photo mounting adhesive for mounting pictures.

- **Captions and Headlines:**
 - Captions explain your pictures. Make the captions neat, concise and legible.
 - Caps and lower case letters are easier to read than all caps.
 - Headlines and captions should not overpower the page but should be large enough to read easily.

PENALIZING CRITERIA FOR THE COUNTY 4-H APPLICATION

The application will be lowered one place in the final ranking if one or more of the following infractions is found:

- 4-H member does not meet the age requirements.
- 4-H County Record Book Cover Sheet with signatures of member, parent, leader and local Extension Staff is not included.
- 4-H story exceeds six pages per project/curriculum area or if a general 4-H story is used rather than relating the story to the specific area.
- Type size and format does not comply with guidelines.
- Project/curriculum area photographs exceed a total of 4 pages.
- Additional materials not requested are included in application, such as news articles, letters, etc.
- Plastic sheets are used on pages.
- Current year's records are not included.

WHEN ARE THEY DUE?

All record books and applications for any type of award are due to the Extension office the first week of October (call the Buffalo County Extension Office for exact date). Record books will be judged by a committee of leaders and Extension staff from another county and will be awarded at the annual 4-H Recognition Celebration in November.

Although the record books are not due until October the process of keeping good records begins long before the deadline. Recording you activities and involvements in 4-H throughout the year will save a lot of time when you fill out your awards applications. One suggestion is to keep a monthly log of your activities.