



Introducing the Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program

Nebraska 4-H is excited to introduce the 4-H Diamond Clover Recognition Program. Designed to complement our dynamic 4-H tradition, this noncompetitive program recognizes the accomplishments of 4-H members from 8–19 years of age.

Through the Diamond Clover Program, Nebraska 4-H recognizes young people for their accomplishments and life skill development. It offers the opportunity for youth to practice the life skills they are learning and be rewarded for their work. The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Recognition Program is designed to assist all 4-H members in their 4-H journey to becoming capable, contributing and competent adults.



Patricia A. Hendricks, Ph.D., Iowa State University Extension

Nebraska 4-H is pleased to provide the Diamond Clover Recognition Program as a resource for 4-H'ers and those who help them achieve their life skill goals.

— Elizabeth A. Birnstihl, Nebraska 4-H Program Administrator





Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program Encourages Youth to Engage in a Variety of Projects and Activities

The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program is designed to encourage 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 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 is a new, statewide form of recognition and is not intended as a replacement for existing recognition programs. Participation in this program should be considered optional, as requiring 4-H members to participate is not appropriate.



Benefits of Diamond Clover Program

For youth:

- Recognition improves self esteem of youth
- Enhance the progress toward self-set goals
- Develops life skills
- Encourages and supports lifelong learning
- Provides opportunities for youth/adult partnerships
- Resumé building

For volunteers/adults:

- Provide achievement opportunities to 4-H members
- Encourages positive and progressive leadership in youth
- Promotes retention and recruitment for 4-H membership
- Engages 4-H members in a variety of educational projects and activities
- For all members

For communities:

- 4-H develops competent, caring and contributing citizens
- Prepares youth and adult leadership in the community
- Provides source of community pride

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

Frequently Asked Questions



At What Level do 4-H Members Begin?

The program is designed for 4-H members ages 8 and up to begin at Level 1 and progress through Level 6, one level per year, achieving each recognition level only once. Youth who are older when joining 4-H may begin at a higher level (2–4) as is mutually agreeable to the participant and the parent/guardian or leader. In order for a 4-H'er to begin at Level 5 or 6, the extension staff must also be in agreement.

What are the Requirements of Each Level?

Levels 1–6 requires participants complete a specified number of accomplishments (or more). The 4-H member chooses from the accomplishments listed for each level. The accomplishments are age appropriate and increase in quantity and difficulty for each level. The accomplishments have been created to enable any 4-H member, no matter how they are involved in 4-H, to be successful. Parents/guardians, leaders and extension staff may suggest other accomplishments — comparable to those provided — to improve the individual learning experience of each 4-H member.

Level 6 also requires a major service-learning project that benefits a 4-H member's community. 4-H members should plan on investing over 100 hours of service. It may take up to 24-months to complete the project. Note: the Level 6 service-learning project must be completed by the end of 4-H membership eligibility.

How are Accomplishments Documented?

All Diamond Clover Program Levels use a Plan & Report form. The forms are available on the Nebraska 4-H Web site (<http://4h.unl.edu>) or at your local county extension office. They are available in two electronic formats: as fill-in pdfs (anyone with Adobe Reader 7 or 8 can fill-in, save and print the pdf files) and Microsoft Word. 4-H members may also legibly handwrite on the forms.

At the beginning of the 4-H year (timing is somewhat flexible), 4-H members complete the front page (PLAN portion) of the Plan & Report form. Participants print, sign and save the plan to accompany the report at the end of the 4-H year. 4-H members may fill out the REPORT portion of the form as they complete their accomplishments throughout the year, or at the end of the 4-H year. At the end of the year (check with your extension office for deadline), print, sign and mail your Plan & Report form to your extension office.

Level 6 uses additional forms for the service-learning project. These forms are also available on the 4-H Web site or at your extension office.

Who Approves the Forms?

Levels 1–4 require the approval of a 4-H member's parent/guardian. If the 4-H member belongs to a 4-H club, club leader approval is also required (if 4-H member belongs to more than one club, choose one leader to work with). Levels 5 and 6 require the approval of a local county extension staff member. For the Level 6 service-learning project, proposal and final report forms require the approval of a locally appointed Diamond Clover Advisory Committee and the State 4-H Program Administrator (or designee).

Is Completing a Project Necessary to Complete a Level?

Since valuable learning experiences occur from completion of 4-H projects, parent/guardian and/or leader should encourage members to complete at least one project at each level. However, as an option 4-H members may be involved in a 4-H group or activity not related to project work.

What Does Completing a Variety of Projects Mean?

4-H members are encouraged to choose at least one project from a different project category for each level. While a 4-H member may enroll in a beef project every year, they are strongly encouraged to explore different projects to individually benefit from the 4-H experience.

Is it Possible for a 4-H Member's Plan to be Amended?

Yes. Due to unforeseen circumstances (loss of an animal, loss of a garden from drought, etc.), a 4-H member may amend their plan. Levels 1–4 can be amended by agreement between the 4-H member and parent/guardian and/or leader. Levels 5 and 6 may be amended by agreement between the 4-H member, parent/guardian, and/or leader and local county extension office.

How and When are Successful 4-H Members Recognized?

4-H members will obtain a certificate of achievement at the end of the 4-H year once they have completed a level. Levels 1 through 5 are awarded by the local county extension office. Some counties may choose to recognize recipients at achievement nights, county fair celebrations or similar events. Level 6 – Diamond recipients will be presented a certificate and diamond clover pin by the state 4-H office. The state 4-H Web site will list all youth who have earned the Diamond Level.

What is the Origin of the Diamond Clover Program?

Maryland 4-H introduced a Diamond Clover 4-H Award Program in 2004. 4-H Educator Dan Tabler (now retired) had the original vision and was the primary author.

Level Accomplishments



For each level, the Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover program provides a list of accomplishments from which 4-H'ers choose their goals. The accomplishments are age appropriate and increase in quantity and difficulty for each level. At the beginning of the 4-H year, participants PLAN what to accomplish and at the end of the 4-H year, they REPORT on their completed accomplishments. Successful completion of a Level's Plan & Report form results in a 4-H'er earning that level of the Diamond Clover program (Level 6 also requires a service-learning project).

Level 1 – Amethyst

Anticipated for ages 8–9

Accomplish at least 3 of the following in a 4-H year:

- ◆ Learn the 4-H Pledge, Motto and Colors
- ◆ Attend at least 60% of club/project meetings
- ◆ Attend at least one local 4-H activity or event (i.e. educational program, contest, county fair)
- ◆ Host a meeting, provide refreshments, lead a game or give a report
- ◆ Help with 4-H promotion (i.e. hand out 4-H window clings, make 4-H bookmarks for libraries, wear 4-H T-shirt, give out seed packets with “4-H Helps You Grow” labels)
- ◆ Complete at least one 4-H project
- ◆ Complete your 4-H Career Portfolio for the year
- ◆ Bring a friend to a 4-H meeting or activity
- ◆ Other (appropriate for Level 1) _____

Level 2 – Aquamarine

Anticipated for ages 10–11

Accomplish at least 4 of the following in a 4-H year:

- ◆ Attend at least 60% of club/project meetings
- ◆ Compete in a local 4-H contest
- ◆ Participate in at least two local 4-H activities or events (i.e. county educational program, county fair)
- ◆ Help with a club or community service-learning project
- ◆ Help with a 4-H promotion (i.e. decorate windows for 4-H week/month, write and deliver PSA, design & distribute 4-H poster, small animal fair at senior center or daycare)
- ◆ Attend a 4-H day, resident camp, conference or overnight experience
- ◆ Complete at least one 4-H project
- ◆ Complete your 4-H Career Portfolio for the year
- ◆ Recruit a new 4-H member
- ◆ Other (appropriate for Level 2) _____

Level 3 – Ruby

Anticipated for ages 12–13

Accomplish at least 5 of the following in a 4-H year:

- ◆ Attend at least 60% of club/project meetings
- ◆ Help with a club or community service-learning project
- ◆ Assist with a 4-H promotion (i.e. parade float, classroom visits, carnival booth, thank you to “Friends of 4-H”)
- ◆ Participate in a 4-H communications event (i.e. speech, oral reasons, presentations)
- ◆ Participate in at least two local 4-H activities or events (i.e. county educational program, county fair)
- ◆ Attend a 4-H resident camp or overnight experience
- ◆ Attend at least one regional, district or state 4-H event (i.e. PASE, Life Challenge, State Fair)
- ◆ Complete at least one 4-H project from a new project area
- ◆ Complete your 4-H Career Portfolio for the year
- ◆ Recruit a new 4-H member
- ◆ Other (appropriate for Level 3) _____

Level 4 – Sapphire

Anticipated for ages 14–15

Accomplish at least 6 of the following in a 4-H year:

- ◆ Attend at least 60% of club/project meetings
- ◆ Serve as a 4-H officer or committee chair
- ◆ Provide leadership for a club or community service-learning project
- ◆ Organize a 4-H promotion activity (i.e. newspaper ads or feature story, teaching 4-H skills (rocketry, cooking, etc) to other groups, 4-H balloon lift-off, kids games during community event)
- ◆ Participate in a 4-H communications contest (i.e. speech, oral reasons, presentations)
- ◆ Participate in at least three county 4-H activities or events (i.e. county educational program, county fair)
- ◆ Serve as a volunteer at a 4-H event
- ◆ Attend at least one regional, district or state 4-H event
- ◆ Help a younger member with their project, presentation or learning the 4-H pledge
- ◆ Attend an overnight 4-H camp
- ◆ Complete at least one 4-H project from a new project area
- ◆ Complete your 4-H Career Portfolio for the year
- ◆ Complete a career exploration activity
- ◆ Recruit a new 4-H member
- ◆ Other (appropriate for Level 4) _____

Level 5 – Emerald

Anticipated for ages 15–17

Accomplish at least 7 of the following in a 4-H year:

- ◆ Attend at least 60% of club/project meetings
- ◆ Serve as a 4-H officer, committee chair, or on 4-H Council
- ◆ Provide leadership for a club or community service-learning project
- ◆ Organize a 4-H promotion activity (i.e. achievement presentation, after-school workshop, be little green at community event, host an appreciation open house)
- ◆ Provide leadership for a 4-H educational program, activity or event
- ◆ Participate in a 4-H communications contest (i.e. speech, oral reasons, presentations)
- ◆ Attend at least one state 4-H event
- ◆ Help a younger member with a project, exhibit, presentation, etc.
- ◆ Attend an overnight 4-H camp
- ◆ Serve as a county or state 4-H camp counselor
- ◆ Complete at least one 4-H project from a new project area
- ◆ Complete your 4-H Career Portfolio for the year
- ◆ Complete a career exploration activity
- ◆ Recruit a new 4-H member
- ◆ Other (appropriate for Level 5) _____

“Level 6 – Diamond” on next page

Level 6 – Diamond

Anticipated for ages 16 & up

Complete at least 8 of the following accomplishments (Part 1) and conduct a Diamond Clover Service-Learning Project (Part 2) which should be completed over a 24-month time frame.



PART 1

- ◇ Attend at least 60% of club/project meetings
- ◇ Serve as a 4-H officer, committee chair, or on 4-H Council
- ◇ Chair a 4-H Promotion Activity (4-H mini fair/parade, multi-county junior leader, billboard, project workshop)
- ◇ Provide leadership for a 4-H educational program, activity or event
- ◇ Participate in a 4-H communications contest (i.e. speech, oral reasons, presentations)
- ◇ Attend at least one state/multi-state/national 4-H event
- ◇ Help a younger member with a project, exhibit, presentation, etc.
- ◇ Attend an overnight 4-H camp
- ◇ Serve as a county or state 4-H camp counselor
- ◇ Complete at least one 4-H project from a new project area
- ◇ Complete your 4-H Career Portfolio for the year
- ◇ Complete a career exploration activity
- ◇ Serve on a district/state/national advisory committee/board
- ◇ Help organize a new 4-H club
- ◇ Other (appropriate for level 6) _____

PART 2 – DIAMOND CLOVER SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECT

This is the major service-learning project of the Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover Program and requires the 4-H'er to complete a project that benefits his/her community. The 4-H'er will submit a detailed proposal that includes:

1. Overview
2. Resources
3. Timeline
4. Time Log
5. Approvals and Permits
6. Letters of Support
7. Evaluation Plan
8. Documentation Plan

When the proposal is approved, the local Diamond Clover Program Committee will forward it to the State 4-H Program Administrator (or designee) for a final signature.

When the service-learning project is complete, a final report will be required outlining what was accomplished.