

Recognition and Award Programs

Recognition is a basic human need. A program of awards should be designed to meet this need. Ideally the award should not be the goal of 4-H work. An awards program may motivate the "achievers" who are actually seeking recognition by achieving goals set by themselves or others.

1. Club Level:

1A: End of Year Pin:

Each member, upon satisfactory completing a year in 4-H work will receive a pin designating the number of years completed. "Completion" usually means at least one project carried to completion and turning in a 4-H record book, and participation in some other 4-H activity. Leaders will submit a list of eligible members to the UCCE Office and pick up the necessary pins, which consist of small round green pins with a number that coincides with the year ended.

1B: End of Year Stripe

Members 9 - 12: white stripe on green background.

Junior Leaders and Teen Leaders (13 - 19): green stripe on white background.

Member or junior/teen leaders who teach a project: gold stripe on green or white background respectively.

1C: 100% Attendance Pin

Given to those members who have attended 100% of all community club meetings. (some clubs give a meeting grace for illness, bad weather, etc.) 100% attendance pins may be purchased through National 4-H supply.

1D: Club Record Book Seals

Gold, blue and red seals are available for each record book turned in. Clubs may or may not choose to use seals. Guides or standards for seals are set by each club and should be planned to help strengthen the Club's program. Members who receive a gold seal at the club level can have their record book judged at the county level.

1E: Project Medal: Bronze

A project medal is awarded to 4-H members in recognition of work well done and growth in that project. The knowledge a member has gained in the project subject matter will be determined by an interview,

Eligibility requirements: a member may ask to be considered for a medal, a project lead may recommend a member, or the community club leader or other leaders may recommend a member.

Bronze Medal:

- Three years in a project, and has completed project materials or
- Thirteen years or older as of January 1 of the program year.

- A simple informal interview should be held at the club level. Members should show growth in their project. This should be measured in part in relationship to 1) member's ability, 2) adult support, and 3) size or increase in the project over time. A list of successful bronze interviewees is to be turned in to the UCCE Office by March.

1F: Other awards the club may decide to use as incentive

2. County Level:

2A: Personal Development Medal

Intended as the first interview medal a member receives. An interview may be scheduled with the 4-H Staff person. The interview questions cover general 4-H knowledge. If the interview is successful, the member will be awarded the medal at the county award ceremony in the spring.

2B: *Project Medal: Silver, Gold*

A project medal is awarded to 4-H members in recognition of work well done and growth in that project. The knowledge a member has gained in the project subject matter will be determined by an interview,

Eligibility requirements: a member may ask to be considered for a medal, a project lead may recommend a member, or the community club leader or other leaders may recommend a member.

Silver Medal:

- Five years in the project or
- Thirteen years or older as on January 1 of the program year, and has completed two years in the project.
- Has knowledge well beyond the regular project materials. Members may have specialized in one aspect of the project.

Gold Medal:

- Six years in the project or
- Thirteen years or older as of January 1 of the program year, and has completed three years in the project.
- Member has knowledge well beyond the project material and has developed the project to a commercial undertaking, an avocation or lifetime hobby, or has skills beyond the competency of the average adult.

It is not necessary to have a bronze medal to apply for a higher medal. Only one medal may be earned by a member in a club year. (A silver or gold project medal applicant eligible for more than one medal must choose the project area in which they wish to apply, i.e., foods and nutrition or horse. If the member should choose to be considered in the food and nutrition project, but does not achieve the award, the member will not be eligible to apply for the horse project award) record books do not enter into project medal judging.

2C: Record Book Medals

4-H members who receive a gold seal at the club level judging (for accuracy and completion) may submit their record book for county judging. Only gold medals are awarded for the top county winner in each category. Categories are based on the members strongest project. Senior record books (members 13 and older) who receive a gold medal in their project areas at the county level are eligible to send their record books to sectional record book judging.

2D: Star Achievements in record books: Bronze, Silver, Gold,

Star ranks provide opportunity for 4-H members to measure personal development and achievement in projects, activities and leadership. Star ranks can be earned by any member who meets the requirements outlined below.

Bronze, Silver and Gold Stars are awarded for meeting the set standards found on the Personal Development Form. At years end, when the record book is turned in, the Community Club Leader verifies star qualifications. If a member qualifies for a star ranking, the Community Club Leader submits the members name to the UCCE 4-H Office who will supply the felt star.

2E: County Presentation Day Awards

Members participate in the county presentation day held each spring. Members can do single or group presentations and are awarded gold medals or gold, blue and red seals. Members receiving gold medals or seals may compete at the sectional level.

2F: Scholarships

Council career Development Scholarship: Four, \$150.00 scholarships are offered by the Santa Cruz County 4-H Club Council each year. The scholarships are to be used for career development, including college, trade school, an apprentice program or other specific program designated for career preparation. Selection will be done by interview. Applicants must be enrolled in 4-H during the program year they make application and live within the county, have completed their sophomore year in high school, submit a scholarship application form and current high school transcripts.

State Leadership Conference Scholarship: \$100.00 to attend State Leadership conference. An application and interview must be completed. A limit of 4 scholarships per year are given and 1 scholarship per member.

2G: Emerald Star Achievement

The Santa Cruz County 4-H Council Awards Committee identifies the need to give recognition to older members who plan, prepare, supervise, complete and evaluate a special 4-H undertaking to be of service to 4-H, a community or a special need. Any 4-H member can apply who is:

1. In good standing and at least twelve years old as of January 1 of the current 4-H year.

2. Has a minimum of two years of club work, and
3. Has not previously completed an Emerald Star project.

2H: All-Star

4-H All-Star is the highest ranks can be achieved at the county level. An All-Star is recognized for his/her outstanding level of 4-H achievement and is offered the opportunity for new growth and leadership. The requirements to become an All-Star are:

1. Must be at least 15 years old by January 1 on the current program year.
2. Must have a Gold Star.
3. Must have turned in a 4-H Record Book on the approved format and submit to a personal interview.
4. Must have one more year of enrollment eligibility as a youth member in the 4-H program.

3. Sectional Level:

3A: Sectional Presentation Medal

Members participating in the sectional presentation day can do single or group presentations and are awarded gold medals or blue and red seals. Members receiving gold medals may compete at the state level.

3B: Record Books

Members who receive a gold medal at County record book judging may compete at the state level given they meet the following criteria:

Applicants must have reached the age of 14 prior to January 1st and be no older than 19 years old by December 31st of the current 4-H year to be eligible to apply. Applicant must be currently enrolled in the project/activity in which they are applying. Previous state winners in a project/activity are not eligible to apply in the same project/activity, but may apply in another.

4. State Level:

4A: State Ambassadors

Each year, outstanding 4-H youth members and adult volunteer leaders of the California 4-H Youth Development Program are selected to the statewide 4-H State Ambassador Program. Selection is the highest service opportunity attainable in the California 4-H Youth Development Program and is awarded based on demonstrated ability in citizenship, leadership, and total achievement in the 4-H Program. Selection of State Ambassador members and advisors also reflects the diversity of the regions and counties from which they are drawn.

State Ambassador candidates must have completed at least one year as a California 4-H member, and be at least 16 years of age, yet no older than 18 as of The year they serve as an Ambassador. Applications are available in November and are due in March to the State 4-H Office.

- 4B: State record book winners – seniors
Members who receive a gold medal at the Sectional record book judging may compete at the state level given they meet the following criteria:

Applicants must have reached the age of 14 prior to January 1st and be no older than 19 years old by December 31st of the current 4-H year to be eligible to apply. Applicant must be currently enrolled in the project/activity in which they are applying. Previous state winners in a project/activity are not eligible to apply in the same project/activity, but may apply in another.

- 4C: *Scholarships*
See State 4-H incentives and Recognition Handbook

- 4D: National 4-H Conference
Members who are a minimum of sixteen years of age or a junior in high school, but not older than 19 at the time of the conference may apply for the National 4-H Conference. Applications are available in August and are due in December. .

The goal of the National 4-H Conference is to help selected youth and adults develop their maximum potential by providing opportunities to participate actively in 4-H program development outside California and at a national level.

- 4E: *California Computer Corps*
The purpose of the California Computer Corps is to increase the use and awareness of technology in the 4-H Youth Development Program through training and education.

Membership is a one-year commitment from January to December, with an optional second year. If a member wishes to continue on the CA 4-H Comp Corps after the second year, they must reapply. Applicants must be age 15 or older (as of January 1 of the year applying). Applications are available in August and are due on October 15 at the State 4-H Office.