



Awards and Recognition Program

The RI 4-H Recognition Model recognizes youth in five different areas:

1. Participation
2. Reaching goals
3. Achieving standards of excellence
4. Peer competition
5. Cooperation

1. **Participation.**

Youth benefit from joining either a group or taking part in an activity. This needs to be encouraged and recognized. When young people join 4-H they receive a 4-H membership card. At the end of each year that they have participated they will receive a seal that can be placed on their 4-H participation certificates. They also receive a pin showing the year completed at the end of the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 10th years. Achievement, Honors and Special Honor awards are given based on the participation of members in a set number and type of activities.

2. **Reaching Goals** that are set in cooperation with an adult mentor.

This allows the goals to differ depending on the interest or ability level of the member. Volunteers working with youth can assist them in setting reasonable goals and assessing progress as a part of the club leadership. A form can be provided to guide the process as they work together.

3. **Achieving Standards of Excellence.**

When a level of quality is reached, any member can receive the award. The blue, red and white awards of the Danish System are a good example of how youth are recognized for quality work. To be fair and promote growth the standards must be clear to the member at the beginning of the project and to the judges when the results are being assessed.

4. **Peer Competition.** A limited number must be selected to win, such as Best of Show, first place or team selection awards. Limited number are selected for some trips due to space or financial limits. Criteria for the selection need to be clear.

5. **Cooperation.** Achieving goals as a member of a team or group. Achieving through cooperation has the greatest impact on learning. Opportunities for youth to learn through cooperation need to be stressed. Working as a team or club to achieve a goal is a good example of how this recognition is achieved.

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KH/MM/HW 7/12

RHODE ISLAND 4-H AWARDS SYSTEM SUMMARY

AWARD	WORK RECOGNIZED	WHEN	WHO AND WHAT TO SUBMIT
Membership Cards	Participation in 4-H	October 30 th	Leader submits 4-H Club re-enrollment forms
Project Completion Certificates	Completed Project	When a project is completed	Leader requests quantities and gives out as the club completes projects and activities to reinforce learning.
4-H Participation Certificate & seals for each year	Completion of 1 st year in 4-H Participation, each year	October 30 th	Leader submits names and quantities needed. These are given at a club meeting or end of year celebration.
Yearly Completion Pins	Completion of 1, 3, 5 and 10 years in 4-H	October 30 th	Leader submits names and quantities needed. These are given at a club meeting or end of year celebration.
4-H Record Cover	1 st Year Records submitted	October 30 th	4-H Member submits to Leader: 4-H record book form and one additional record. Leader submits record with Check-Off Form to 4-H Office.
Achievement, Honors, Special Honors Seals and/or State Medals	Outstanding project work evidenced in records submitted.	October 30 th	Same as above
National 4-H Conference	Outstanding 4-H Leadership	October 30 th	4-Hers 15 as of Jan 1 st ; submit resumes; interview 2-3 delegates sent every other year.
Ribbons, Rosettes, Trophies, Premiums, Certificates	4-H Project Accomplishments at Contests, Fairs, Special Events	Attainment of specific levels of skills and knowledge	Opportunities all year, consult the program information for all events for scoring, deadlines and rules.
Eastern States Exposition Animal Delegate – All-expenses paid for delegates & their animals to attend the ESE 4-H Animal Programs; Ribbons, Rosettes, Special Awards;	Outstanding participation, demonstrated skills and knowledge in a specific animal species.	4-Hers must meet multiple qualifications and deadlines February-August to be considered.	IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A 4-H ANIMAL PROGRAM DELEGATE CONTACT THE 4-H OFFICE. Deadlines start as early as February for the September show. So contact us early if you are interested to make sure you don't miss a requirement or deadline.
*Check with 4-H Staff on other 4-H Project Awards			

RI 4-H Club Awards and Incentives

4-H Club Excellence Award	Club supplies gift basket for 4-H Clubs who have achieved a specific level of participation & project completion,...	October 30 th	Leader completes and submits 4-H Club Excellence Award Application to State 4-H Office.
Eastern States Exposition, New England Center 4-H Program Representatives	3-day Trip to Eastern States Exposition for clubs to show their projects off. Members demonstrate projects, perform stage acts. All-expenses paid!	August 25th Selection; ESE in September	Leader requests club to participate; members must be 10 years old to stay in the 4-H Dormitory.
Eastern States Exposition, 4-H Day Passes	Incentive: Free Admission passes available for 4-H Members for 4-H Day at the "Big E"	Tickets available in Early September; Tickets valid on 1 st Saturday of ESE.	4-H Leaders, Parents, Members call State 4-H Office requesting tickets.

4-H Volunteer Awards and Recognition

4-H Volunteer Yearly Completion Awards – Certificates and Pins	Certificates of Completion for years served as a 4-H Volunteer are awarded to all volunteers annually. Special Pin awards are presented for 1, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, and 50 years.	September; updated with 4-H Re-enrollment process.	List determined by the State 4-H Office; 4-H Volunteers must keep their enrollment up to date.
4-H Volunteer Achievement Recognition Program: Plaques and Citations	Awarded for outstanding 4-H Volunteer work and service. Awards include: *Outstanding 4-H Club Volunteer *Outstanding 4-H Program Volunteer *4-H Rookie (New Vol) *Friend of 4-H Award, and others	Selection in the Fall; Awards presented at a State 4-H Awards Event.	4-H Clubs, Members, Volunteers and Staff are invited to submit nominations for these awards; selection committee determines final awardees.

Annual 4-H Member Completion Awards

4-H Members are eligible to receive recognition for (1) 4-H Enrollment, (2) 4-H Project Completion, (3) 4-H Record Submission, and (4) 4-H Participation.

(1) 4-H Enrollment:

- **All Members** receive **4-H Membership Cards** each year after the 4-H Leader has completed the 4-H Re-enrollment Process in the fall.

(2) Project Completion Certificates:

- **All 4-H Members** are eligible to receive a **Project Completion Certificate** whenever they complete a project, anytime in the year. The 4-H Club Leader requests from the State 4-H Office how many they will need and uses them as needed throughout the year. Certificates are presented to Members at a Club Meeting or special event by the 4-H Leader.

(3) 4-H Record Submission:

- Members **submitting 4-H Records to the State 4-H Office for the FIRST TIME**, will receive an “official” **4-H Member’s Record Book Cover** in which to keep their 4-H Project Records.

(4) 4-H Participation Awards:

At the end of the 4-H year (**October 30**), the 4-H Leader submits a list of those members who **have attended more than half of the meetings and activities**. **Members receive the following awards:**

- **A Rhode Island 4-H Club Participation Certificate (1st Year Members)**
- **A Small Green Participation Seal to put on the Participation Certificate (all members, every year)**
- **4-H Yearly Completion Pins:** Awarded to 4-H Members completing their **1st, 3rd, 5th and 10th years in 4-H.**

4-H Member Record Books Instructions

Each year in October, 4-H Members submit a record of their 4-H project work to their 4-H Club Leader. All forms are available to download at www.uri.edu/4H. Go to the links tab. The 4-H Member submits a completed **4-H Record Book Form, Sections 1-11 and ONE of the following: 4-H Animal Project Record** (required of all 4-H Members raising animals), **a journal, a photo/picture story (with captions), a videotape or audio tape**, a combination portfolio, or another mechanism that shows in detail the 4-Hers work.

In some instances alternatives to the Record book form are accepted. Please consult with 4-H staff for when this would be appropriate or if you have a member with special needs.

The 4-H Leader and Member review the record together, looking at the goals the 4-H Member set at the beginning of each project, and evaluating the progress made towards those goals. The 4-H Record Book is then signed by the 4-H Member, Parent and 4-H Leader.

The 4-H Leader then completes the Rhode Island 4-H Record Book Check-Off form to evaluate the Member's eligibility for four levels of awards. The Rhode Island 4-H Record Book Check-Off form is then attached to the Member's record Book and submitted to the State 4-H Office by October 30th.

Understanding the Levels

4-H Members submitting these records are eligible to receive a **4-H SEAL for the highest 4-H Accomplishment Levels they reach each year:**

Level 1: Achievement Seal

Youth must have completed at least one project and done one 4-H activity.

Level 2: Honors Seal

Youth must have completed two or more projects, 3 - 4-H activities and a presentation.

Level 3: Special Honors Seal

Youth must have completed two or more projects, 4 - 4-H activities, 2 presentations and 1 community service.

Level 4: State Medals

Youth must have completed two or more projects, 4 - 4-H activities, 2 presentations, 3 community service and 2 leadership activities. State Medals are awarded for outstanding work in a specific project area with evidence of in-depth leadership and community service.

Definitions:

4-H Project: A project is a subject studied and/or worked on at least 6 different times with a likely conclusion that knowledge gained would be displayed in a presentation, showing or exhibit. The projects list is on the member enrollment form on the URI 4-H website.

4-H Activity: A 4-H activity is an event, workshop or meeting where 4-H learning or social activity takes place. Activities can be competitive or non-competitive, on the club level, state or regional. These should be listed in your 4-H Contests or Other 4-H events sections.

4-H Presentation: When a 4-Her presents information orally that they have gained through 4-H or about 4-H in general to others. Examples: demonstrations, talks to groups, public speaking workshops, Big E New England Center, livestock showmanship, judging with reasons.

Community Service: Activities or services a member did individually or with their club for a town or community. Anything done for no personal, family or club gain would qualify. Examples: food basket collection, volunteering for a grange, community clean-ups .

Leadership: When the 4-H member is able to apply his/her learned life skills by sharing/teaching them with others, or shows ability to plan, organize and carry through on events or activities with others. Hint: these must be listed in the Club Offices & Committees section or the Leadership section of the record book. Examples: Club Exhibit Committee- in charge of setting up and getting club exhibit to each fair.

4-H Story: A 1-4 page opportunity for 4-Hers to explain more about their 4-H activities and the main project(s) they are seeking a medal in, or to show growth and learning or explain about a specific instance or situation that shaped their 4-H experience that year. The more details you include the better understanding the judge will have of your work.

We will have higher expectations for older 4-Hers. Older 4-Hers are expected to do more in depth leadership, community service and presentations than younger youth.

Hints:

If you learned or studied about an animal but did not own, manage, or care for a live animal list veterinary science or agriculture to gain recognition for your project work.

Do not put ribbons in the book. Instead take a picture of you, the ribbon and your project. Put no more than 10 Front and Back pages of Additional Records into your book. Judges need to see your best work.

4-HERS MUST WRITE OR TYPE THEIR OWN RECORD BOOK! IF THE YOUTH HAS SPECIAL NEEDS CONTACT THE 4-H OFFICE FOR ALTERNATIVES.