

# Recognition of Excellence Award Opportunities Summary

For Club Members and 4-H Clubs

**September 2008 - August 09**

DuPage County 4-H

## For Members

### ➤ **Recognition of Progress**

Every member receives goal sheets with each project they enroll in. On those sheets, they are to list goals for that particular project and make progress to accomplish those goals. For this award, review each member's progress toward goals in **at least one** project. This review may be done by a project leader or by a group of parents. A member is recognized for progress if they have completed all or some of their goals in at least one project. Members receiving recognition of progress are given a *Certificate* or a *Seal* for the certificate. Certificates are only given once. Seals are given to those who have already received one certificate, but continue to achieve their goals in consecutive years.

### ➤ **Recognition of Achievement of Standards**

Standards of excellence for 4-H projects are outlined in project materials. Generally, the standards are set by those who designed the learning experience. This award identifies performance standards for 4-H members based on their age. Below is a summary of those standards for the various award levels.

#### *Project Achievement (Ages 8-11)*

Standards to achieve include:

- Establish plans for member's project and make a report on project to leader. Independent members must present complete Project Plan to Unit staff.
- Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number determined by club). Independent members must meet with mentor a minimum of four times during the program year.
- Share project experiences by giving talk or demonstration or making an exhibit.

The first year a member completes the performance standards for project achievement, he/she is eligible to receive the *Project Achievement Medal*. For accomplishing the standards in consecutive years, the member can receive the *Project Achievement Certificate* (until the member reaches the next age level).

#### *Service Achievement (Ages 12-14)*

Standards to achieve include:

- Establish plans for member's project and make a report on project to leader. Independent members must present complete Project Plan to Unit staff.
- Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number determined by club). Independent members must meet with mentor a minimum of four times during the program year.
- Share project experiences by giving talk or demonstration or making an exhibit.
- Serve on a committee or hold an office.
- Take part in a community service activity related to member's project.
- Assist group leaders with a special activity, tour or program.

The first year a member completes the performance standards for service achievement, he/she is eligible to receive the *Service Achievement Medal*. For accomplishing the standards in consecutive years, the member can receive the *Service Achievement Certificate* (until the member reaches the next age level).

### *Leadership Achievement (Ages 15-18)*

Standards to achieve include:

- Establish plans for member's project and make a report on project to leader. Independent members must present complete Project Plan to Unit staff.
- Attend at least 2/3 of club meetings (or number determined by club). Independent members must meet with mentor a minimum of four times during the program year.
- Share project experiences by giving talk or demonstration or making an exhibit.
- Serve on a committee or hold an office.
- Take part in a community service activity related to member's project.
- Assist group leaders with a special activity, tour or program.
- Participate in one or more unit, regional or state level learning experiences.
- Provide leadership for project, an activity or for a group.
- Assist in conducting programs at the unit level or beyond.

If the member accomplishes all standards at age 15, he/she should receive the *Leadership Key Ring*. If the member meets all standards at age 16, he/she is to be awarded the *Leadership Notebook*. Members at ages 17 who meet all standards should receive the *Leadership Plaque*. If a member meets all the leadership achievement standards at age 18, they are eligible to receive the *Leadership Key Award*.

### ➤ **Recognition of Competition**

The Illinois 4-H Foundation and its donors will provide *County Project Award Medals*. Members who wish to apply for any of these award opportunities should complete the Illinois 4-H Award Application. The application should be submitted to the DuPage County Extension Office **by Tuesday, September 15, 2009**. The first time a member submits an application and wins in a project area, they receive a *Medal*. If they submit an application in the same area in consecutive years and win, they will receive a county *Blue Award Certificate*.

Award medals are available in the following curriculum areas:

- Achievement –Includes all work done in all project areas throughout 4-H career, not necessarily a specific project or curriculum area)
- Agriculture – Animal Sciences, Plants & Soils, Dairy, Veterinary Science
- Community Involvement and Global Awareness
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Foods, Nutrition and Health
- Home and Family
- Mechanics and Technology
- Personal Development
- Leadership (must be enrolled in leadership project)

Members who win a *Project Medal* and/or *County Blue Award* and are between the ages of 15 and 18 (inclusive) at the time of their enrollment (i.e. September 1 of current year) are eligible to be considered for state 4-H recognition. Award applications for this are due to the DuPage County Extension Office no later than **4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 1 of the current year**.

## For Members

### ➤ **4-H Key Award**

The 4-H Key Award is a statewide recognition program, sponsored for older 4-H members in Illinois. The purpose of the award is to reward members exhibiting outstanding leadership, community service, and mentoring during their 4-H involvement. Applicants must be 4-H members who are 16-18 years of age by September 1 of the 4-H year they submit the application. A maximum of three applications per Extension Unit may be submitted for award consideration each year. A maximum of 30 4-H members will be recognized as State 4-H Key Award Recipients each year. A member may receive this recognition only once; once they have been named as a State 4-H Key Award recipient, they may not reapply. Winner will be recognized at the Illin Summer Academy Celebration Banquet held in June. The Illinois 4-H Foundation, Inc. is the sponsor of this program as part of the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Recognition for Excellence Program. The completed application including the appropriate signatures and the required two Reference Evaluations must be submitted to the Extension Office by **February 1** of the current year.

### ➤ **“I Dare You” Book Award**

4-H members are selected for this award only once. The award recognizes youth 15-18 years old. Selection is based on four-fold development – leadership, scholarship, physical fitness and character. 4-H members must be nominated by a 4-H leader to receive this award. Leaders should complete the *I Dare You Nomination Form* and submit it to the DuPage County Extension Office by **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**.

### ➤ **Electricity Achievement Award**

The Illinois Electrification Council (IEC) will provide one plaque per county recognizing a 4-H member's outstanding achievements in electricity. Selection criteria include the following guidelines: 1) member should have constructed and displayed an electrical exhibit; 2) 4-H member electric project records may or may not be reviewed; and 3) member award is to be presented at the county recognition function. Interested members should complete the enclosed 4-H IEC Electricity Award Application and submit it to the DuPage County Extension Office by **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**.

### ➤ **Illinois Farm Bureau & Affiliates 4-H Premier LCP (Leadership, Citizenship & Professionalism) Award**

Only one winner will be identified to represent DuPage County at the state level competition. Interested participants must complete an application. Applicants must be in their junior or senior year of high school or a college freshmen (or equivalent) when applying. The five (5) 4-H members with the highest cumulative point total on the award application will receive the Outstanding 4-H Premier LCP Award at the 4-H Leadership Convention. Expense-paid trips for a Farm Bureau and Affiliates two-day Young Leaders Conference will be awarded to the top ten (10) 4-H winners available to participate. County applications must be submitted to the DuPage County Extension Office by **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**.

## **Illinois Farm Bureau**

### For Clubs

#### ➤ **Progress Recognition**

A *Progress Award Patch* will be presented to 4-H Clubs/Groups if a copy of the club's annual program/plan was submitted to the Unit Office prior to May 1 of the current year. The patch may be displayed on the club banner. During subsequent years, the club/group can receive a *Blue Award Year Patch* that indicates the year they are receiving the award.

#### ➤ **Recognition of Achievement Standards**

An *Award of Excellence Patch* will be presented to 4-H Clubs/Groups that complete eleven of the fourteen items listed on the enclosed *Illinois 4-H Standards of Excellence for 4-H Groups Form*. The patch may be displayed on the club banner. During subsequent years, the club/group can receive a *Blue Award Year Patch* that indicates the year they are receiving the award. This form must be submitted to DuPage County Extension Office by **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**.

➤ **Secretary Award**

Selected on completeness and neatness of Secretary's Book(s). Certificates awarded to warranted club(s) and individual(s). To be eligible secretary's book must be submitted to the DuPage County Extension Office by **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**.

➤ **Treasurer Award**

Selected on completeness and neatness of Treasurer's Book(s). *Certificates* are awarded to warranted club(s) and individual(s). To be eligible, treasurer's book must be submitted to the DuPage County Extension Office by **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**.

➤ **Historian Award**

Selected on completeness and neatness of club scrapbook. *Certificates* are awarded to warranted club(s) and individual(s). To be eligible, club scrapbook must be submitted to the DuPage County Extension Office by **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**.

Other Awards

➤ **Recognition of 4-H Alumni**

County

One gold plated *Medal of Honor* will be presented to the county 4-H alumni winner provided by the Illinois 4-H Foundation. Alumni may receive this award only once. Candidates for honors may be nominated by a local 4-H club, county 4-H council, unit Extension or any other group or by individuals including unit or state Extension personnel, local 4-H leaders, members, parents, friends or civic leaders. Nominations may originate in either the state where the nominee was enrolled as a 4-H member or from the state where they now reside. To nominate someone for this award, send a letter of nomination to: DuPage County 4-H Alumni Award, 1100 E. Warrenville Road – Suite 170 Naperville, IL 60563. Letters must be submitted by **Tuesday, September 15, 2009**. The letter should include information pertaining to the following criteria: citizenship, leadership, career accomplishments, and personal.

State

The Illinois 4-H Foundation will provide a recognition plaque to each of the four State 4-H Alumni Award recipients. Alumni may receive this award only once. Candidates for state honors may be nominated by a local 4-H club, county 4-H council, unit Extension or any other group or by individuals including unit or state Extension personnel, local 4-H leaders, members, parents, friends or civic leaders. Nominations may originate in either the state where the nominee was enrolled as a 4-H member or from the state where they now reside. To nominate someone for this award, send a letter of nomination to Sharon Petefish, Illinois State 4-H Office, 1902 Fox Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61820. Letters may be submitted at any time. The letter should include information pertaining to the following criteria: citizenship, leadership, career accomplishments, and personal achievements.