

# Illinois 4-H Recognition for Excellence Program Recognition for Participation



## What is *Participation*?

Put simply, participation is taking part in an activity. It usually consists of attending, participating in, and /or the successful completion of an educational activity.

## Why is *Participation* a part of the 4-H Recognition for Excellence program?

Recognizing youth for participating tells them that they are important, significant persons because they have been a part of a 4-H learning experience. Recognizing youth for their participation also tells them that the 4-H organization values their membership. This type of recognition can be a step toward helping build a 4-H member's self-esteem.

## Who receives recognition for *Participation*?

A membership card will be provided to all 4-H members by the State 4-H Office and the Illinois 4-H Foundation. Other recognition for participation, while important for beginners, should be provided for all ages, for all levels of ability and in all types of activities. All youth value being recognized for participating as a group, attending a meeting or a workshop, or taking part in a special program. 4-H'ers can be recognized as many times as they meet the requirements.

## Who awards the members for *Participation*?

Volunteer leaders responsible for the activities are the most appropriate presenters of awards. However, *Recognition for Participation* can occur at all levels of the 4-H program - club, county, regional, state, and national.

## What type of recognition is provided for *Participation*?

- ⇒ 4-H Membership Card - This card is sent, along with 4-H publications, to the leader as each member is enrolled for the 4-H year.
- ⇒ 4-H Folders - Some counties may provide such folders for new 4-H members.
- ⇒ Illinois 4-H Alumni Pin - This special pin is available to present to 4-H members completing their last year of eligibility for 4-H membership, according to age policies.
- ⇒ Other types of recognition may include such things as listing new members' names in the newspaper, providing stars or special items for members participating in a club tour or workshop, certificates, special treats, etc.

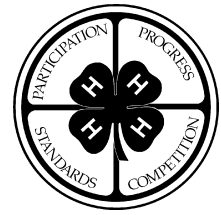
## When are the awards for *Participation* given?

*Recognition for Participation* should be part of the learning experience, but can be presented at any time during the 4-H year.



Urbana, Illinois  
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# Illinois 4-H Recognition for Excellence Recognition for Progress Towards Goals



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## What is *Progress towards Goals*?

A 4-H member is expected to “learn by doing” in the 4-H program. Members should have a plan for what they want to do or learn in the 4-H program and work towards the accomplishment of that plan or goals.

## Why are goals a part of 4-H?

Goals help youths learn how to set a plan, find ways to achieve that plan, then evaluate their progress. Setting goals to challenge oneself and working toward those goals are lifeskills that all individuals should pursue.

## Who helps with the setting of goals?

Many people can help the member set their goals. Goals should be set with the participation of the parents or guardians. 4-H volunteer leaders, project leaders, and older teens can also help by giving guidance. However, goals should not be imposed upon a member, but should be their own plans.

## Where do goals come from?

Goals are established by what the 4-H member desires to accomplish, the 4-H project manual, and activities from the project books.

## How many goals should a member set?

This depends upon the age and experience of the member. Younger members may only wish to set two or three simple goals in each project. When those goals are reached, they can set additional goals.

## What should a 4-H goal look like?

A goal should basically state what the member wants to do in that project area. All goals should be realistic and reachable in a set time period. It may include who can or will help the member work towards that goal.

## Who receives the recognition for *Progress towards Goals*?

Every 4-member who strives and reaches their goals should be recognized accordingly.

## Who awards the members for *Progress towards Goals*?

Parents/Guardians and 4-H leaders recognize members with feedback and counseling. This provides motivation towards continued work on a member’s goals. The 4-H volunteer may also obtain *Certificates* and *Seals of Progress* from the local Extension Office to present to the members.

## How often should recognition be experienced?

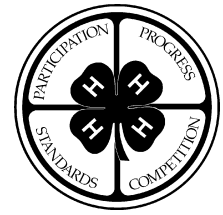
Members should be recognized as often as possible, but always at the end of each experience. The *Certificate and Seals of Progress* may be awarded at the end of the 4-H year.



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# Illinois 4-H Recognition for Excellence

## Recognition for Reaching Performance Standards



### What are *Performance Standards*?

Performance standards are a set of guidelines for member involvement in the 4-H program. As members complete the standards for their age group, they are presented an award.

### What is expected of 4-H members?

The standards for 4-H members are listed on the reverse side of this sheet. As you can see, the expectations vary according to age group and become greater as the 4-H member matures.

### Why are *Performance Standards* a part of the 4-H program?

Performance standards make youth aware of the opportunities which are available in the 4-H program and encourage members to become active participants. In doing so, they expand their leadership and civic responsibilities and learn life skills.

### Who awards the member for achieving performance standards?

The club's volunteer leader can order the award when the 4-H member has met the standards. The Illinois 4-H Foundation provides the recognition items to the club, free of charge.

### How does the volunteer 4-H leader know who deserves the award?

It is the member's responsibility to show evidence that the standards have been completed. The check list on the reverse side of this sheet is a helpful tool. Including dates might be useful for future reference.

### What is awarded to the members?

The 8-11 year old members can receive *4-H Project Achievement Recognition Medals* for the first year they meet the standards and *4-H Project Achievement Certificates* for the following years. Members between the ages of 12-14 can be awarded *Service Achievement Recognition Medals* during the first year they meet the six standards and *Service Achievement Certificates* for the following years. The *Leadership Achievement Recognition*, which includes key rings, plaques, notebooks, and the 4-H Key Award, can be presented to the 15-18 year old members, who have met the nine standards.

### When are these awards given to members?

These awards might be presented during a 4-H meeting or during a special recognition program.

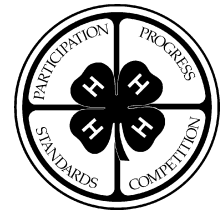
*(The Standards of Excellence checklist is printed on the reverse side of this page.)*



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## Illinois 4-H Recognition for Excellence Recognition for Peer Competition

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### What is *Peer Competition*?

Competition is defined as a striving or vying with another or others for prizes, position, or profit. Peer competition is competing against one's peers for the opportunity to be named the winner.

### Why is competition a part of the 4-H program?

Many, although not all, young people enjoy competing against one another. Competition can be used as an effective teaching tool for teamwork and sportsmanship. Competition can be especially effective when all 4-H members believe they have a reasonable chance to win; clear and specific rules, procedures, and answers are available; and they are aware of their progress and that of all others.

### What levels of *Peer Competition* are available through 4-H?

If 4-H members choose to participate and are successful, there are numerous levels of competition ranging from the local club through county, regional, state, and national levels. Members can participate in judging contests, speaking contests, exhibits, and 4-H award applications, to name a few.

### Who receives recognition for *Peer Competition*?

In competition, there are winners and non-winners. As expected, winners will receive most of the recognition; however, depending upon the type of competition, those who do not win may also be recognized for their efforts.

### Who awards the members for competition?

Recognition should be presented by the person or group holding the competition. This could range from the local club volunteers to unit Extension staff to state and national officials.

### What is awarded for *Peer Competition*?

Awards will vary from competition to competition. However, some types of awards may include rosettes, money, certificates, medals, trips, and/or scholarships.

### When are these awards given?

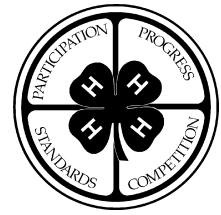
Some awards are presented immediately following the competition (i.e. trophies, ribbons). Other awards may be presented at some future time, depending upon the award and selection process (i.e. award trips, county medals, scholarships).



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## Illinois 4-H Recognition for Excellence Conference Judging

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### What is *Conference Judging*?

Conference judging is a one-on-one discussion between a 4-H member and the adult who is evaluating an exhibit prepared by the member.

### Why is *Conference Judging* a part of the 4-H program?

Conference judging is one way for 4-H members to have the opportunity to talk with an adult about their exhibits and to learn how well those exhibits have met the standards set for that area. Conference judging can help teach members communication skills as they learn to organize their thoughts, converse with the judge, and accept constructive criticism. Conference judging is used in the *Standards of Excellence* section of the Illinois 4-H Recognition for Excellence program to evaluate a member's work.

### What levels of *Conference Judging* are available through 4-H?

Many local 4-H shows use conference judging as a way to evaluate 4-H exhibits. It is also used at the State Fair to evaluate all 4-H exhibits (with the exception of animal classes).

### What is awarded for *Conference Judging*?

Recognition should be based on how well an exhibit meets the set standards for that project area. A *Blue Award* is presented to exhibits that meet the standards. A *Red Award* is presented to exhibits that need some improvement and a *White Award* is presented to exhibits that need much improvement. At the State Fair, all exhibitors receive an *Award of Excellence* rosette.

### When are these awards given?

Award recognition is usually presented immediately following conference judging.

### Who receives recognition for *Conference Judging*?

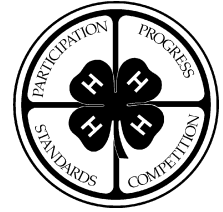
Since the conference judging process is not competitive, all 4-H members who participate in the process should be recognized.

### Who recognizes the members for *Conference Judging*?

The adult who talks with the member should provide the recognition.



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## Illinois 4-H Recognition for Excellence Recognition for Clubs and Groups

### How are clubs recognized for *Participation*?

New clubs should receive a "Club Charter" authorizing use of the 4-H name and emblem. New clubs also may receive a flag set provided by the Illinois 4-H Foundation. Both of these can be ordered and presented by the Unit Office.

Established clubs are eligible to receive a Charter Seal after turning in 4-H member enrollment for a new year. When the charter is filled with seals a new Charter certificate is awarded to the club on which to continue placing seals.

### Are clubs required to set goals?

Clubs are all unique with different members, volunteers, resources ,and opportunities. Clubs are encouraged to set goals and work towards those goals throughout the 4-H program year.

### How are club goals set?

Goals should be planned by club officers and volunteers, then discussed and accepted by the entire club membership. The goals can involve desired increase in membership, attendance at a particular event, a part in special programming, fund raising, etc.

### Should anything be done to share the club's annual goals?

Each member should receive a copy of the club goals. The local Extension Unit Office should also receive a copy of the club goals if the group wishes to apply for recognition later in the year.

### How are clubs awarded for *Progress toward Goals*?

At the end of the year, clubs that meet or exceed 75% of their goals for the first time are eligible to receive a *Club Progress Patch* and a *Year Patch*. Clubs that have already received the *Progress Patch* should only receive a *Year Patch*. Patches are ordered by the local Extension Offices.

### What are the *Standards of Excellence* for clubs?

Illinois 4-H clubs and groups have 14 standards, or "measuring sticks" that are used in order to be recognized as a quality 4-H group. These standards include:

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| ⇒ Club theme selected                            | ⇒ Project/Activity leaders are enrolled for 75% of project areas |
| ⇒ Club goals determined and on file              | ⇒ Planned calendar of project groups                             |
| ⇒ Club calendar prepared and distributed         | ⇒ Scheduled recognition event is held                            |
| ⇒ Members involved in determining program        | ⇒ 75% of members make progress towards goals                     |
| ⇒ Members have planned part in program           | ⇒ Family activities are scheduled and held                       |
| ⇒ Club involved in nine events during the year   | ⇒ Club reaches 75% of its goals                                  |
| ⇒ Officers elected                               |  |
| ⇒ Member participation in county/unit activities |  |

### If the 4-H Club has met these *Standards of Excellence*, what happens?

A club who has reached 11 of the 14 standards for the first time is eligible to receive a *Standards of Excellence Patch* and a *Year Patch*. Clubs that have already received the *Standards Patch* should only receive a *Year Patch*. Patches are ordered by the local Extension Unit.

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*Recognition for Clubs and Groups - continued*

When are *Standards of Excellence* patches usually awarded?

These patches are awarded at County Unit 4-H recognition programs.

Is there *Peer Competition* for clubs?

Yes, club peer competition offers clubs an opportunity to compete with other clubs and groups from throughout Illinois.

How do clubs participate in *Peer Competition*?

The *4-H Club/Group Report* can be ordered through the Unit Office or downloaded off the Illinois 4-H web site: [www.4-h.uiuc.edu](http://www.4-h.uiuc.edu). A club will need to fill out one report for each curriculum area they wish to compete in. Categories pertain to the various curriculum areas in the 4-H program and are listed on the application.

How do 4-H clubs prepare for competition?

Clubs can prepare by planning programs surrounding one or several curriculum areas, carry out the programs, evaluate their success, and complete the Club/Group Report at the end of the year.

Can a club compete in more than one area?

Yes, they can compete in as many areas as they wish, but must fill out a separate report form for each area in which they are competing.

Where and when are reports due?

Reports are turned in to the local Unit Office, signed by staff, and sent to the State 4-H office by August 15 of each year.

How many awards are presented?

Illinois selects ten (10) club/group winners in each curriculum area each year.

What do the winners receive?

Each winner receives an *Illinois State Award Patch* for that curriculum area. The patches are sent to the local Unit Offices of the winning clubs by October 1. Patches are usually presented at local achievement program. Members of winning clubs and groups are also invited to participate in a statewide recognition program held each fall on the University of Illinois campus.



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