



# A Guide to the Illinois 4-H Recognition Program FOR 4-H CLUBS

Recognition and awards have been an important part of 4-H. From the earliest days of 4-H, we have known that the wise use of recognition helps motivate youth. Recognition encourages young people and increases their interest in the opportunities that are available to them. Volunteers and professionals have used recognition as one way to help young people become more capable and competent young adults.



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The Illinois 4-H Recognition program focuses on three areas of recognition.

## ENGAGE, EXPERIENCE, EXCEL

### ENGAGE

**ENGAGE** highlights the importance of 4-H clubs to the 4-H program.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** No application is required to receive this recognition.

**RECOGNITION:** Local Extension offices will create their own plan for honoring all clubs who become *engaged* in the 4-H program. This may include:

- Newsletters
- Social Media Highlights
- News Stories
- Flag Sets
- Club Charters
- Special Items

### EXPERIENCE

The Illinois 4-H program offers many **EXPERIENCES**. This area offers recognition for clubs which are involved in diverse 4-H experiences.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Leaders and members can “Share Their Story” online at 4-H.illinois.edu in the following areas:

- Community Service
- Leadership
- Project Learning

**RECOGNITION:** County Extension offices can determine local recognition, including social media shout-outs, or newsletter highlights.

### EXCEL

4-H Clubs which **EXCEL** in their work can compete for state honors in specific award areas.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Complete the **Illinois 4-H Club Award Application** in one (or more) of these 3 areas:

- Community Service
- Leadership
- Project Mastery

Applications are due to the State 4-H Office by October 1.

**RECOGNITION:**

- Cash Awards

*The Illinois 4-H Recognition Program is supported by the Illinois 4-H Foundation and its Project Partners and donors.*

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