



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

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.

**I ILLINOIS**  
Extension



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

## ENGAGE, EXPERIENCE, EXCEL

### ENGAGE

**ENGAGE** highlights the recognition and inclusion of *all members* into the 4-H community.

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

**RECOGNITION:** Local Extension offices will create its own plan for welcoming new members and honoring all members who become *engaged* in the 4-H program. This may include:

- Newsletters
- Social Media Highlights
- News Stories
- Membership Cards
- T-shirts
- Special Membership Items

### EXPERIENCE

The Illinois 4-H program offers many **EXPERIENCES** for its members. This area offers recognition for members who are involved in diverse 4-H experiences in club, county, multi-county, state, national, and international levels.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Submit the **Illinois 4-H Experience Application** listing *experiences* during one year in these 4 areas:

- Participation
- Community Service
- Leadership
- Project Learning

**RECOGNITION:** Based on the number of your experiences, achieve one of 5 levels:

- Bronze
- Silver
- Gold
- Diamond
- Emerald

### EXCEL

4-H Members who **EXCEL** in their work can compete for county and state honors in specific award areas. There are several different EXCEL Awards. Below is the process for the Illinois 4-H State Award. Look inside for additional EXCEL opportunities.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Complete the **Illinois 4-H Award Application** in one (or more) of these 5 areas:

- Communications
- Community Service
- Leadership
- Personal Growth
- Project Mastery

**RECOGNITION:**

- \$1,000 College Scholarship, or
- National Congress Trip, or
- Other National Travel Opportunity

**OPEN TO:** Members who were 15-18 years of age on 9/1 of current 4-H year.

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

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