

4-H HONORS PROGRAM

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Fact Sheet

The **4-H Honors Program** is intended to recognize 4-H participants who have outstanding accomplishments in citizenship and leadership and provide incentive for youth to increase their knowledge, skills and abilities. Every effort is made to make this 4-H Program inclusive to all eligible youth.

The Program History

In 1995, agents, volunteers, youth and specialists worked for 18 months to develop a program that would help the Senior Record Book experience evolve into a more inclusive and skill-building process for senior-level 4-Hers.

The result is the 4-H Honors Program that includes several options for youth to build skills and be recognized for their achievements.

- 4-H Honor Pin levels
- 4-H Congress
- The Courier Journal Award of Excellence

4-H Honor Pins

One level achieved per year.

Bronze Level:

- Must be at least 14 years old
- Focus on citizenship

Silver Level:

- Must be at least 15 years old
- Work earned beyond the bronze level
- Year-long focus on citizenship and leadership

Gold Level:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Work earned beyond the bronze and silver levels
- Year-long focus on leadership
- Develop a Plan of Work (personal goal)

National 4-H Congress

This program is not an awards program as in the past. Youth earn the right to attend this leadership conference through participation in the 4-H Honors Program. Kentucky has taken 25 youth per year to this conference.

- Applicants must achieve at least the bronze level.
- Application process will include multi-district interviews.
- Funding is achieved through district, county or family support.

The Courier Journal Award of Excellence

This is the highest award through the 4-H Honors Program. One \$500 scholarship is awarded each year to gold-level 4-Hers only.

- Open to gold level Honors' recipient
- Application process
- One-time award only (past recipient not eligible)

Role of County Extension Agent

- Communicate to members, parents and volunteer leaders the broader aspects of Awards & Incentives Program relating to the total 4-H program.
- Work with county 4-H Council to establish a committee for selection, review and certification of 4-H Honor applications.
- Maintain required participation records for affirmative action and recognition purposes.
- Provide training opportunities for volunteer leaders and 4-H members in reaching the level of recognition they have set as a goal.
- Set date for Honors applications to be submitted to Extension Office.

Role of Volunteer Leader

- Attend training sessions on the 4-H Honors Program.
- Give leadership to providing educational experiences for 4-Hers to complete the requirements for all levels of the 4-H Honors Program.
- Promote and encourage all eligible senior 4-H members to apply for all levels of the Honors Program.
- Submit certification to the county Extension Office by due date.

Role of County 4-H Council

- Establish a committee to review all applications and certify all levels of recognition relating to 4-H Honors Program.
- Provide an outlet to recognize 4-H Honors members at the county level.
- Solicit local sponsors and donors to secure funds to recognize and support 4-H Honors Program.

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This educational program is meant to be a year long skill developing process to help the 4-H'er achieve the highest quality and educational benefit. Some of the Life Skills will include, problem solving, decision making, planning and organizing, communication, accepting differences, wise use of resources, self-responsibility and citizenship.

For more details, please visit the Kentucky's 4-H Web Site at: www.uky.edu/agcollege/4h

Click on "Agent Resources", go to "Program Resource Guide - for 4-H Youth Development", scroll down to "4-H", File name: "Honors, Congress, Award of Excellence".

State Application Due Date

All 4-H Honors Program applications and certification of recognition achieved is due to the State 4-H Office each year by December 15th.

Age eligibility

Age eligibility will begin in January during the year of the application.

State Recognition

State Recognition of 4-H Honors participants will be held during the Kentucky 4-H Teen Conference in June. 4-H'ers not in attendance at the Kentucky 4-H Teen Conference will have their pins mailed to the county for distribution.

All applications received after December 15th will be held until the next program year.