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# Introducing the Nebraska 4-H VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Nebraska 4-H is excited to introduce the 4-H Volunteer Recognition Program, designed to complement the tradition of recognizing outstanding volunteers and provide a standard and consistent approach to volunteer recognition across Nebraska. The purpose is to provide a base for Extension staff to sustain volunteers, build leadership potential, and offer recognition and praise for the great work of volunteers. The Program will allow counties to select the components that fit their needs.

## COUNTY AWARDS

County award winners will be selected by a local committee from the pool of nomination forms received. Adult and youth volunteers may be nominated. The number of awards given in each category will be determined by the county.

Meritorious Service Award

This award will be given to a 4-H volunteer, staff member, business, or group who has made a special contribution to or impact on the 4-H program for 10 or more years. This award is given in recognition of a wide range of services and contributions to the 4-H program at the club, county, district, state or national level. The nominees for this award will have influenced the lives of 4-H members in Nebraska in a positive way and/or influenced the overall 4-H program. Recipients may be nominated more than once but may receive this award only once.

Tribute to Leader Excellence Award

This award is for current club leaders (co-leaders, assistant leaders, project leaders) who have served the 4-H program a minimum of 5 years and who have made a special contribution to or impact on youth, the 4-H program, their club and community. The leader must have positively affected the lives of youth and created a standard of excellence that helps motivate and encourage others. Recipients may receive this award once every five years.

Heart of 4-H Award

This award will recognize volunteers, 4-H supporters and/or companies or organizations who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and/or volunteer service to 4-H, have made a special contribution to the 4-H program, or provided a significant number of service hours to 4-H. Volunteers may receive this award once every 5 years. The Nebraska 4-H Foundation will provide one plaque to each county each year.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Outstanding 4-H Alumni Award
This award will recognize 4-H alumni who have given service or support to the 4-H program and/or have promoted 4-H positively in the community. Alumni from any county or state are eligible to receive this award. Recipients may receive this award once every 5 years. The Nebraska 4-H Foundation will provide one plaque to each county each year.

Volunteer Service Award
This award will recognize volunteers for their dedication to the 4-H program for years of service. Volunteers will be recognized for 1, 3, and 5 years of 4-H service and every five years beyond. To receive service awards, volunteers must enroll in the county annually, complete volunteer screening and updates as required, and follow the 4-H Volunteer Code of Ethics. Extension staff will utilize the 4-H Plus system to track eligible volunteers for Volunteer Service Awards.

## VOLUNTEERS of EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

*Leadership – Education – Accomplishments – Dedication*

The Nebraska 4-H Volunteers of Excellence Program is designed to complement the tradition of recognizing outstanding volunteers, provide guidance for volunteers to expand their leadership ability, educational opportunities and accomplishments, and reward their dedication to the 4-H program. This program allows volunteers to personalize their experience and select various levels that fit their needs, ability, passion and time.

## STATE AWARDS

Salute to Excellence Lifetime Volunteer of the Year
This award is for those who have served as a 4-H volunteer for 10 years or more at the county or state level. To nominate a volunteer, please check the current guidelines and application form available online at www.ne4hfoundation.org (click on Salute to Excellence) or ask for a copy at your local extension office. Three letters of recommendation must accompany each completed nomination form.

Salute to Excellence Volunteer of the Year
This award is for those who have served as a 4-H volunteer for less than 10 years at the county or state level. To nominate a volunteer, please check the current guidelines and application form available online at www.ne4hfoundation.org (click on Salute to Excellence) or ask for a copy at your local extension office. Three letters of recommendation must accompany each completed nomination form.