

Ocean County 4-H Achievement Guide



Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions!
-Harold S. Geneen

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The purpose of this guide:

Youth gain valuable knowledge and skills in 4-H. At year's end, their hard work is recognized in a variety of achievements. This document is to provide clear and consistent guidelines, which will empower 4-H members to set personal goals and reach their fullest potential.

Member In Good Standing:

Members must be in good standing in order to apply for awards. These requirements include:

- 1) Be enrolled/re-enrolled on NJ 4Honline. Enrollment opens up each year in September and closes promptly on December 31. Those members who plan to apply for awards must have been enrolled (for 1st year members) or re-enrolled (for 2nd year or more members) by this due date.
 - **Animal Registrations:** can be submitted through 4Honline or paper forms. If you have an animal you are using as a project in 4-H, this registration is required. Animals not registered cannot participate in shows, programs, meetings, or attend the fair. Please turn to the NJ 4-H Animal Project Guide for more information or reach out to staff with how to proceed. This is due April 1 for Equine & Dog Projects, and May 1 for all other Animals Projects.
- 2) Complete 12 Clover Hours. These hours are considered active 4-H learning that can be completed at your club meetings, events, shows, programs, 4-H From Home programs, and other educational activities. The most important part to this is that you are actively engaged- meaning that you are listening to who is speaking, you are being positive to others, you are asking questions, you are participating in the activities, you are being respectful, and you learning while having fun!
- 3) Complete a 4-H presentation (more information, page 4 - 5).
- 4) Complete a 4-H service project (more information, page 5).
- 5) Submit a Project Record Book. Record-keeping helps 4-H'ers realize the value of their involvement. There is a record book for each type of project area. The most important parts to complete are the goals, the log, and the story. These are used to determine if the member has earned a specific award. Record Book submissions are only required when applying for awards or attending Statel-level or higher 4-H events (more information, page 3).

NOTE: Should Rutgers University implement any mandates affecting in-person gatherings, Ocean County 4-H staff will work with the 4-H Association to create a plan so members can continue their good work while also remaining a member in good standing.

Questions & Answers

Does every 4-H member have to apply for awards?

No, if awards do not interest you, you are still welcome to participate in 4-H and are considered a valued member just like everyone else.

Can Cloverbud Members (K-3rd grade) apply for awards?

No, awards are specific towards standard members (grades 4th-13th), however, cloverbuds are positively recognized through a special gift received during the awards ceremony and at the county fair!

If I do not apply for awards, can I still attend the awards banquet?

Yes! You are more than welcome as part of the 4-H community. Come cheer on your peers!

Do I have to apply for awards to participate in Ocean County Fair?

No, the only requirement to participate in the county fair is to be a member in good standing.

Do I have to submit a Project Record Book to participate in the Ocean County Fair?

Though everyone is encouraged to submit a Project Record books annually (this helps build life skills in record keeping, something very important to learn for college/career), Record Books are not required to participate in the fair. You are to complete a record book only if you plan to participate in the following:

- 1) Submit for awards annually.
- 2) Participate in State, National, or International 4-H opportunities annually.
 - **State Level Examples:** State Level Teen Council, Discover the Leader in You, Teen Conferences, State Level Ambassador Programs, Leadership for Life, Go Lead, State Level Public Presentations, State Level Animal Competitions, and more.
 - **National Level Examples:** Citizenship Washington Focus, Leadership Washington Focus, 4-H Congress, 4-H Conference, National 4-H Youth Summits, and more.
 - **International Level Example:** States 4-H Exchange Program.

Are there award accommodations for members with disabilities?

Yes, 4-H strives to make an inclusive and fair atmosphere for all youth. Families are encouraged to discuss accommodations needed with their 4-H club leaders and staff at the start of the program year.

How do I know what types of opportunities there are for me?

- 1) Stay in contact with your club leaders.
- 2) Make sure you are reading the biweekly newsletters and review the other tabs on the 4-H Team Ocean sites page <https://sites.google.com/view/oceancounty4h>
- 3) Keep current with the 4-H calendar (found on the 4-H Team Ocean sites page).
- 4) For virtual opportunities, visit 4-H From Home <https://nj4h.rutgers.edu/4h-from-home/>

Start Planning Your 4-H Year!

Ask yourself.....

- How can I meet the “Member in Good Standing” requirement?
- What kind of public presentation would I like to complete? On what topic?
- What community service projects could I complete either with my club, or something I create for all of Ocean County 4-H to participate in?
- How can I help my club become an Honors Club?
- Which 4-H county, state, national, and international level events am I interested in?
- How will I meet the requirements for the awards I’m interested in?

Public Presentations Explained:

A public presentation is a talk given by a 4-H member in front of a group. Learning to present is a very important part of your 4-H experience, as 4-H Alumni report, the best skill 4-H teaches!

The three layers to Public Presentations:

Layer 1: Club Level- Present to your club members on a scheduled date you made with your club leaders. This level teaches you the basics of giving a presentation in a welcoming environment, where you will be given tips & pointers by the leaders and your club mates. *This level is part of the Member In Good Standing requirement*.

Layer 2: County Level- On specific dates (found in the 4-H calendar) members may present at the Ag Building (or virtually) with an audience from any club in Ocean County 4-H. This level enhances your abilities to speak about your topic and you are graded by caring judges (who are usually alumni and have been in your shoes before). Any grade may participate. If you are in grades 8th – 13th, should you receive a 90-100% excellent score, you will advance to the state level.

Level 3: State Level- This is held once a year at Rutgers University. This significant opportunity gives members the chance to present in-person on campus (or virtually) to an audience of members throughout New Jersey 4-H. Judges provide detailed comments to help you master the skill of presenting. Note: The State Level Equine Presentation Competition (offered to Equine Project 4-H members) is equal to participating in this state-level event.

There are four types of public presentations to choose from:

- **Demonstration** – Teach others how to do something by showing while presenting. At the end of a demonstration, you should have a finished product to show to your audience.
- **Illustrated Talk** – Use a poster, series of slides, pictures, or other visuals to help your audience understand your topic that you are presenting about.
- **Formal Speech** – This may be written by the presenter or be the work of a noted individual (i.e. Shakespeare, Abraham Lincoln, etc.) The presenter can use brief notes or an outline on index cards, but no visual aids are used.
- **Performing Arts** – This can be a performance or dramatics (monologue or group scene), creative movement/dance, musical performance (instrument or vocal), or puppetry. It can be presented as a solo or group performance. Presenters must introduce the performing art, perform and conclude with a summary of the performance.

Public Presentation time limits:

Cloverbud Members-

Club level: 3 - 5 min.

County level: 3 - 5 min.

Standard members-

Club level: 5 - 15 min.

County level: 8 - 15 min.

State level: 8 - 15 min.

Community Service Explained:

Provide assistance that benefits someone or something outside of your family. Each service should last at least two hours and requires meaningful effort by the member. 4-H has to be involved with the community service in some way.

Examples:

- Participate in the annual Ocean County 4-H Give Thanks event.
- Arrange a 4-H park or beach clean-up. Work with 4-H community partners like Clean Ocean Action, American Littoral Society, Ocean County Parks and Recreation, etc. to arrange this.
- Help a food pantry - organize a 4-H food or clothes drive.
- Help animals – organize a 4-H supply drive, assist as a 4-H group at a Rabies Clinic.
- Visit a facility that cares for the elderly. Bring animals, handmade greeting cards, music, or assist with activities.
- Fundraise/participate in non-profit events as a 4-H member, such as Oceans of Love.
- Conduct a 4-H bake sale to raise money for a youth shelter or another organization in need.

What is not considered 4-H community service?

- Speaking with the public or running a petting table at an event (this is considered 4-H service)
- A service project that is not involved with 4-H by any means.



Awards and Recognition

Recognizing a member's dedication as a 4-H'er.

Members apply for these awards by submitting a completed record book.

1) Cloverbud Recognition: (K - 3rd grade)

4-H Cloverbuds who are considered members in good standing during the 4-H year will be recognized at the Annual Awards Program with a special prize just for them. Cloverbuds are also recognized at the Ocean County Fair during Cloverbud Court! **Note: Cloverbuds do not need to submit any forms.** They will be listed by their leaders on the Membership Summary form.

2) Standard Member Recognition: (4th - 13th grade)

All Standard 4-H Members who are in good standing during the 4-H year will be recognized through yearly pins. Years are accumulated on the standard level only; meaning if you begin 4-H as a cloverbud, your year 1 is when you hit 4th grade.

3) Project Area Award: (4th - 13th grade)

This award is earned by showing growth in the skills and knowledge of a Project Area(s) that you complete. Each year you can apply for a project award, as you build your 4-H portfolio. Project years begin once you are 4th grade and above.

Project area requirements:

- Be a member in good standing. At least 6 of your 12 Clover Hours should be active learning at your project(s) club meetings (pg 2).
- Complete at least one Project Opportunity, as part of your Clover Hours (pg 7).
- Assist with either Set Up or Breakdown at the Ocean County Fair (not a part of Clover Hours)
- Showcase your project and complete at minimum 5 hours at the Ocean County Fair (not a part of Clover Hours).

Showcasing Your Project at the Fair

- Display your project animal during fair week.
- If you cannot bring your animal to the fair, create an educational poster about your animal to display.
- If your project does not involve animals, you can enter something in the general area of the 4-H tent that involves your project.

Completing your Fair hours

- Keep the animal areas tidy by raking and ensuring the public isn't poking the animals in their pens.
- Help at the petting tables and teach the public about the animals.
- Host an educational activity, performance, or demonstration for any project area.
- Assist with keeping the 4-H tent clean and tidy.

***Special accommodations will be granted to members who cannot attend the fair because of 4-H leadership trips or an unexpected circumstance. This must be discussed and approved between your 4-H leader and 4-H staff.**

Project Area Awards:

First Year Project Completion	Silver Certificate
Second Year Project Completion	Silver Seal (to place on your Certificate)
Third Year Project Completion	2 nd Silver Seal (to place on your Certificate)
Fourth Year Project Completion	Gold certificate with a gold pin
*4th year and up complete a County Level Public Presentation	
Fifth Year or More Project Completion	Gold Seal (to place on your Certificate)

Project Areas	Project Opportunities NOTE: There are many opportunities to get involved in and some may not be on this list. If there is something you want to participate in that is not here, please contact staff to receive confirmation that it is in fact a Project Opportunity.
Animal Cavy, Companion Animal, Dog, Equine (Horse & Pony), Goat, Herpetology, Livestock, Poultry, Seeing Eye Puppy Raising, Rabbit, Sheep, Small Animal, Waterfowl.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-H From Home Project Specific classes • Virtual program outside of 4-H (must seek Leader approval) • In-person program outside of 4-H (must seek Leader approval) • 4-H Animalology • 4-H County and State Level Animal Shows • Circuit Shows (must seek Leader approval) • NJ State Level Equine Study Team Competitions • NJ State Level 4-H Goat Extravaganza • NJ State Level 4-H Junior Breeder Symposium
Science Apiary Science, Environmental Stewardship, Equine Science, Gardening, Horticulture, Robotics, STEM , Veterinary Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-H From Home Project Specific classes. • Virtual program outside of 4-H (must seek Leader approval) • In-person program outside of 4-H (must seek Leader approval) • NJ State Level Equine Study Team Competitions • NJ State Level 4-H Walking Art • NJ State Level STEM Ambassadors • NJ State Level Pollinator Ambassadors
Action, Hobbies, Home Economics Arts, Crafts, Clothing, Textiles, Food/Nutrition, Model Horse, Outdoor Education/Recreation, Photography, Shooting Sports, Visual Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-H From Home Project Specific classes. • Virtual program outside of 4-H (must seek Leader approval) • In-person program outside of 4-H (must seek Leader approval) • NJ State Level 4-H Walking Art • NJ State Level 4-H Shoot Sports Competitions • NJ State Level Equine Art Show • NJ State Level Model Horse Clinic and/or Show • NJ State Level Arts Photo Corps • NJ State Level Cupcake Wars

Specialty Awards

Recognizing a member's higher level of dedication to certain requirements or activities within 4-H.
Members nominate themselves using the Specialty Awards Summary Form.

Achievement Award:

The Achievement Award recognizes exceptional progress a member has made in their project areas and in public presentations.

Tier 1: (4th - 13th grade)

- Successfully completed two project areas within the 4-H year.
- Participated in County Public Presentations.

Tier 2: (4th - 13th grade)

- Successfully completed three or more project areas within the 4-H year
- Participated in County Public Presentations.

Tier 3: (8th - 13th grade)

- Successfully completed two project areas within the 4-H year
- Participated in County Public Presentations
- Participated in State Level Public Presentations.

Tier 4: (8th - 13th grade)

- Successfully completed three or more project areas within the 4-H year
- Participated in County Public Presentations
- Participated in State Level Public Presentations.

Around the Clover Fair Award: (4th - 13th grade)

The Around the Clover Award is tied to a member's selection of items entered at the Ocean County Fair. The divisions noted for each Clover leaf are stated in the Ocean County Fair Guide.

Community Service Award: (4th - 13th grade)

The Community Service Award recognizes 4-H members who went above and beyond to serve and improve their community. Members must have completed three or more varied community service projects while representing 4-H (wearing a 4-H t-shirt, participating with a 4-H club, etc.) to be considered.

Public Speaking Award: (4th - 13th grade)

The Public Speaking Award recognizes 4-H members who went above and beyond to present and teach others. Members must have completed at least four 4-H presentations in order to be considered for this award. Presentations can take place at a club meeting, a library program, or another opportunity in the community. For this award, the same topic can only be used for two of the four presentations. County Level Public Presentations can count as one of your presentations. State Level Public Presentations or State Level Equine Presentations can count as another one of your presentations.

Fair Herdsman Award: (4th - 13th grade)

The Ocean County Fair is the capstone to the year, giving a chance for thousands of guests to see the hard work 4-H members have completed while also serving as a memorable time for the 4-H community. The Fair Herdsman Award is presented to members who went above and beyond to help at the fair. This includes assisting with either set up or breakdown, helping your club leaders with various fair tasks, assisting 4-H staff with various tasks, teaching the public about your project, and leading with a positive mindset. The Fair Herdsman Award will be presented to members who are recommended by the leaders.

Leadership Award

This award recognizes 4-H members who demonstrate the skills and dedication necessary for effective leadership.

Tier 1: (4th - 6th grade)

- Planned, organized, and lead an educational activity or service project for your club. Work with your club leader to arrange this.

Tier 2: (7th - 13th grade)

- Planned, organized, and lead an educational activity or service project for your club. Work with your club leader to arrange this.
- Served in one of the following:
 - Club Officer for at least 1 year.
 - Teen Leader at Cloverbud Day for at least 1 year.
 - NJ State Level Ambassador for at least 1 year.

Tier 3: (7th - 13th grade)

- Planned, organized, and lead an educational activity or service project for all of Ocean County 4-H. Work with 4-H staff to arrange this.
- Served in one of the following:
 - Club officer for 2 or more years within your 4-H career.
 - Teen Leader at Cloverbud Day for 2 or more years within your 4-H career.
 - NJ State Level Ambassador for 2 or more years within your 4-H career.

Tier 4: (10th - 13th grade)

- Demonstrate a significant impact on their 4-H club or county-wide 4-H program.
- Planned, organized, and lead an educational activity or service project for all of Ocean County 4-H. Work with staff to arrange this.
- Served in one of the following:
 - Club officer for 2 or more years within your 4-H career.
 - Teen Leader at Cloverbud Day for 2 or more years within your 4-H career.
 - NJ State Level Ambassador for 2 or more years within your 4-H career.
- Participated in one national level 4-H activity (*omitted if National Trips are canceled*)

Top Specialty Awards

Lamp of Knowledge Award: (8th - 13th grade)

This is the highest recognition given to a 4-H member.

Requirements:

1. Previously won a Tier 3 or higher Achievement Award
2. Previously won an Around the Clover Fair Award.
3. Previously won a Community Service Award.
4. Previously won a Public Speaking Award.
5. Previously won a Fair Herdsman's Award.
6. Previously won a Tier 3 or higher Leadership Award

Ocean County Fair Ambassador: (10th* - 13th grade)

Every year the Ocean County 4-H office selects a youth to compete in the NJ Agricultural Fair Ambassador Contest, usually held in early November. The NJ Agricultural Fair Ambassador reigns for a year and their responsibilities include visiting a variety of county fairs to represent New Jersey Agriculture. *Must be 16 years old by Nov. 1st. to apply.

Requirement:

- You must have been active in 4-H for 2 or more years to apply.

Responsibilities:

- Assist 4-H staff with the annual Family Fair Meeting.
- Assisted with 4-H Setup Day and/or Takedown for the Ocean County Fair
- Serve as the 4-H Teen Ambassador at the Ocean County Fair.
- Serve as the 4-H Teen Ambassador at the annual Awards Ceremony, presenting the Ambassador Award to the next year's recipient.
- Represent Ocean County at the NJ State Agricultural Fair Youth Ambassador Contest in November

Sponsored Awards

Recognizing a member's special qualities as they serve as a role model to others.

Members nominate themselves or nominate their peers for these awards.

All applications will be approved by the primary club leader.

I DARE YOU Award: (9th - 13th grade)

This award is sponsored by the Ocean County 4-H Association and the Ocean County Board of Agriculture in memory of William H. Danforth, who championed the "I DARE YOU" philosophy of THINK TALL, STAND TALL, and LIVE TALL. The recipients receive a plaque and complimentary dinner at the NJ Agriculture Convention Reception for themselves and one parent/guardian. Also, their names will be documented on a perpetual plaque. This award will not be given to the same 4-H member more than once.

Requirement:

- You must have been active in 4-H for 3 or more years to apply.

Responsibilities:

- Represent Ocean County 4-H at the New Jersey Agriculture Convention Reception in February
- Present the "I DARE YOU" awards to the next year's recipients at the 4-H Awards Banquet.

Lehman and Kossatz Memorial Award: (9th - 13th grade)

This award is sponsored by the Ocean County Board of Agriculture in honor of Fred and Mary Kossatz and Arnold Lehman. Arnold Lehman and the Kossatzs were dedicated volunteers on the Ocean County Board of Agriculture and worked tirelessly to benefit Cooperative Extension and their local community. This award is presented in recognition of distinguished community service to a teen member who gives beyond 4-H. This member will receive a plaque, a recognition from the Ocean County Board of Agriculture, and will be noted on a perpetual plaque.

Requirement:

- You must have been active in 4-H for 2 or more years to apply.

Responsibilities:

- Spearhead a county-wide program or service project for the following 4-H year. Work with 4-H staff to organize this.
- Present the Lehman and Kossatz Memorial award to the next year's recipient at the Ocean County 4-H Awards Program.

Club Awards

These awards recognize the cooperative efforts and dedication of Ocean County 4-H clubs. Members and volunteers can nominate their club or another club that inspires them.

Honors Club:

A club that strives to make the most of its time together and embraces the requirements and opportunities within Ocean County 4-H can be designated as an Honors Club.

Requirements (to be completed with at least 70% of your club members).

1. Completed at least 12 hours of 4-H educational programming.
2. Club has elected club officers who assist with planning and running the meetings.
3. Conduct at least one community service project.
4. Submit at least one Club entry in the '4-H Pride and Participation' division of the General Exhibit area at the Ocean County Fair
5. Participate in at least one Ocean County-level 4-H event.
6. Complete club-level public presentations.
7. Complete the yearly club audit conducted by the Ocean County 4-H office (if applicable).

Club Community Service Award

This award is presented to a 4-H club in recognition of its outstanding service to the community. The award recipients completed a variety of community service projects that helped make their community stronger, healthier, or better prepared to thrive in the future. To qualify for this award, all clubs should keep a record of community service projects.

Loyal Heart Award

This award is presented to a 4-H club in recognition of its service to 4-H. The members are not performing a service for the community, but rather a service for Ocean County 4-H & 4-H Youth Development as a whole. During 4-H service, you are promoting the organization and displaying your projects. Pine Barrens Jamboree, Naturefest, and Back-to-School Nights are some examples of 4-H service. To qualify for this award, all clubs should keep a record of their 4-H service projects.

Public Relations Award

This award is presented to a 4-H club in recognition for an exceptional media present on behalf of their 4-H club, 4-H members, and/or Ocean County 4-H as a whole. The members can be featured in print or visual media. To qualify for this award, all clubs should keep a record of newspaper clippings, photos, social posts, radio stations recordings, and news stations recordings on which they were featured.

Leader Awards

It is difficult to fully convey how grateful we all are for Ocean County 4-H Leaders. 4-H families nominate a leader for the Community Leadership Award or 4-H Leader of the Year.

Leader In Good Standing

- 1) Be enrolled/re-enrolled on 4Honline by December 31.
- 2) Be current in your Protection of Minors Training and Background Check.
- 3) Attend at least 50% 4-H Association meetings during the 4-H year.
- 4) Provide opportunities for 4-H members to excel in their project areas.
- 5) Assist in the planning and execution in Ocean County 4-H
 - Club Examples: prepare an educational game, spearhead a learning activity, and arrange a club trip.
 - County Examples: assist staff with a program, spearhead a learning activity at the Ocean County Fair, and assist with an animal show.

Leader Year Pins

One year	Bronze Clover award
Five years	Silver Clover award
Ten years	Gold Clover award
Fifteen years	Pearl Clover award
Twenty years	Petite Diamond Clover award
Twenty-five years	Petite Emerald Clover award
Thirty years	Petite Ruby Clover award
Thirty-five years	Sapphire Clover award
Forty years	Diamond Clover award
Forty-five years	Emerald Clover award
Fifty years	Ruby Clover award
Fifty-five years	Large Pearl Clover award
Sixty years	Large Sapphire Clover award

Community Leadership Award

This award recognizes a leader who has put particular effort into providing service to the larger community. Through planning and participating in community service projects both within and outside of 4-H, this person is making a positive impact on the world and inspiring others to do the same.

4-H Leader of the Year

This great honor is bestowed upon a leader who has gone above and beyond to provide opportunities for their 4-H club members to learn, grow, and succeed. This leader was consistent, reliable, accessible, and enthusiastic throughout the entire 4-H year. The 4-H Leader of the Year will have planned and executed community service projects, educational activities, and fun events for their club. This leader should be a role model and inspiration to other leaders and a resource and guide to club members.

4-H Friends Awards

These awards recognize the generous time and dedication from other contributing adults to Ocean County 4-H. Members and Leaders can nominate someone for these awards.

The Helping Hand Award

Not every volunteer providing exceptional service to Ocean County 4-H is a club leader. This award recognizes adults who tirelessly dedicated their hands to serving Ocean County 4-H as a whole (not just one area or club) regularly. The nominee can be a parent or a family member of a 4-H member, but cannot be a current 4-H club leader.

4-H Alumni Award

A 4-H member's dedication to serving their community does not end when they graduate from 4-H membership. Each year a 4-H alumnus is honored by the Ocean County 4-H Association for giving back to the Ocean County 4-H Youth Program. These individuals may have graduated from a 4-H Program but have not forgotten the role 4-H has played in their lives. These alumni come back to support the 4-H youth of today. The person nominated may have been a 4-H member in another state or county.

