Purpose

To create an awareness of opportunities and awards offered to youth and adults in the Eaton County 4-H Youth Program.

An Award

Is something given to an individual to symbolize their recognition for “a job well done.” In many program areas the award is also an opportunity to learn. It acknowledges & affirms the personal growth of an individual. This adds a dimension of responsibility to the individual and to others.

There are two important things to remember about awards:

- It is an honor to be nominated for and/or to receive an award. It is honorable to accept and carry out the responsibility of the award.
- An award is recognition of the things you have achieved in the past. After you have received your award it is time to set new goals for tomorrow.

Who Is Eligible

Any 4-H members and/or leaders are eligible to apply or be nominated depending on the given award. For each award, there are specific requirements. Please read all award information thoroughly. The leader and parent are encouraged to assume an active supporting role in helping 4-H members complete their application.

When Are They Due

Award nominations are generally due in fall to the Eaton County MSU Extension office.

Who Selects

The Eaton County 4-H Council Awards Committee.

How is the Selection Made

First, the purpose of the award is made known, what does it do? Second, the standards and requirements are made known – age, years of club work, etc. Third, the applicants information is reviewed – does the information meet the purpose and is the member qualified. Fourth, the awards committee may request to interview the applicants.

When/Where Are Awards Presented

All awards are presented at the annual volunteer celebration event sponsored by 4-H Council.
Member Awards

**Young Achiever Award**

Any 4-H member 9 – 11 years of age is eligible for this award. The award is sponsored by the Eaton County 4-H Council. A 4-H'er can receive the award in one project area per year and cannot receive this award for the same project area more than once. Members are nominated by their administrative or project leader. If a member is nominated in more than two areas, member must choose which two areas to apply for. No more than two nomination forms should be submitted. Forms must be completed and returned to the Eaton County MSU Extension office. The awards committee will review the forms and select award recipients.

**County Medals and Honorable Mention Certificates**

Leaders are encouraged to nominate eligible or deserving 4-H members for county medals. All youth need to be recognized for their accomplishments. County medals are one form of recognition; they can help build self esteem and encourage members to continue to strive for higher goals. County medals are given to 4-H members who have greatly improved their skills in a particular project(s) or whose project involvement has been significant and successful. Any 4-H member 12 – 19 years of age is eligible for county project medals. The medals are provided by the State 4-H Youth Programs and the Eaton County 4-H Council. There are medals for most 4-H projects. Only one medal is awarded in each project area per year. A 4-H member will not be awarded more than two (2) county medals in a calendar year, or receive the same award medal in the same project two consecutive times. Honorable Mention certificates are selected as the first runner up for the project area. Member must have at least two years of 4-H experience in the project area and currently completed the project for which he/she is nominated. Members are nominated by their administrative or project leader. If a member is nominated in more than three areas, member must choose which three areas to apply for. No more than three nomination forms should be submitted. Forms must be completed and returned to the Eaton County MSU Extension office. The awards committee will review the forms and select award recipients.
**Key Club Award**

Any 4-H member 15 – 19 years of age may apply for this award. Members must have completed three years of club work, have taken at least two 4-H projects, completed a teen leadership project and participated in three regional (state sponsored) and/or state 4-H events. A 4-H member may only receive this award once during their 4-H career.

**“I Dare You” Leadership Award**

Any 4-H member who is a current junior or senior high school student is eligible for this award. The award is sponsored by the Eaton County 4-H Council and the American Youth Foundation. The award is presented as recognition of excellence in character and well balanced personal development qualities of constructive leadership. Members must be nominated in writing. Nominations may be made by other 4-H members, leaders, parents, or Extension staff members. It may be awarded to two members annually. A 4-H member may only receive this award once during their 4-H career.

**Outstanding Teen Leader Award**

Up to four members 13 – 19 years of age who demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities may receive this award. Members must complete a Teen Leader report form. The Teen Leader report form (available at the Extension office) must be completed and turned in with the nomination form. Nominations must be in writing. It should be a brief summary (no more than 250 words) describing the member’s experiences, training, and involvement in the teen leader project. Nominations may be made by other 4-H members, leaders, parents, or Extension staff members. Final selection will be made by the awards committee.

To be considered for an Outstanding Teen Leader award, all teens will be required to complete the Teen Leader report form and do a Teen Leader interview at the fair.

**Completion Award**

Awarded to any club member who completed his/her years as a 4-H’er and who has been in 4-H for at least eight years. Names of eligible members must be submitted by the club leader. The Eaton County 4-H Council sponsors the award.
Leader Awards

Leader Pins and Certificates

4-H leaders are honored and presented with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30…year pins and certificates at the annual Volunteer Celebration. All first year leaders are recognized and presented with a first year pin as well.

Outstanding Leader Award

The Eaton County 4-H Council sponsors “Outstanding Leader Awards”. Nominations, in 250 words or less, should be submitted to the Eaton County MSU Extension office. Please include in the nomination the significance of the leader’s involvement and their contribution to the club its members and the county 4-H program as a whole. Nominations may be submitted by 4-H members, other 4-H leaders, parents and Extension staff members. Selection of award recipients will be made by someone outside of the 4-H program. Any project or administrative leader may be nominated.

Club Awards

Community Service Award

In an effort to increase and recognize community service activities, this award is given by the Eaton County 4-H Council. Up to three clubs are selected to receive the award. To apply, submit a summary that includes a list and a description of the club’s community service projects. At least 50% of the club members must participate for a project to qualify. The time frame covered is from October 1 to September 30 of the current year. Summaries need to be submitted to the Eaton County MSU Extension office. Nominations may be submitted by members and/or leaders.

Club Recreation Award

This award is to encourage more clubs to include recreation in their meetings and yearly program. The award is given by the Eaton County 4-H Council. To be eligible for the award, 50% of the club members must participate in the activities. To apply, submit a list and description of recreational activities the club did. The time frame covered is from September 1 to August 31 of the current year. Nominations need to be submitted to the Eaton County MSU Extension office. Nominations may be submitted by members and/or leaders.