

# Frequently Asked Questions



## At What Level do 4-H Members Begin?

The program is designed for 4-H members ages 8 and up to begin at Level 1 and progress through Level 6, one level per year, achieving each recognition level only once. Youth who are older when joining 4-H may begin at a higher level (2–4) as is mutually agreeable to the participant and the parent/guardian or leader. In order for a 4-H'er to begin at Level 5 or 6, the extension staff must also be in agreement.

## What are the Requirements of Each Level?

Levels 1–6 requires participants complete a specified number of accomplishments (or more). The 4-H member chooses from the accomplishments listed for each level. The accomplishments are age appropriate and increase in quantity and difficulty for each level. The accomplishments have been created to enable any 4-H member, no matter how they are involved in 4-H, to be successful. Parents/guardians, leaders and extension staff may suggest other accomplishments — comparable to those provided — to improve the individual learning experience of each 4-H member.

Level 6 also requires a major service-learning project that benefits a 4-H member's community. 4-H members should plan on investing over 100 hours of service. It may take up to 24-months to complete the project. Note: the Level 6 service-learning project must be completed by the end of 4-H membership eligibility.

## How are Accomplishments Documented?

All Diamond Clover Program Levels use a Plan & Report form. The forms are available on the Nebraska 4-H Web site (<http://4h.unl.edu>) or at your local county extension office. They are available in two electronic formats: as fill-in pdfs (anyone with Adobe Reader 7 or 8 can fill-in, save and print the pdf files) and Microsoft Word. 4-H members may also legibly handwrite on the forms.

At the beginning of the 4-H year (timing is somewhat flexible), 4-H members complete the front page (PLAN portion) of the Plan & Report form. Participants print, sign and save the plan to accompany the report at the end of the 4-H year. 4-H members may fill out the REPORT portion of the form as they complete their accomplishments throughout the year, or at the end of the 4-H year. At the end of the year (check with your extension office for deadline), print, sign and mail your Plan & Report form to your extension office.

Level 6 uses additional forms for the service-learning project. These forms are also available on the 4-H Web site or at your extension office.

## Who Approves the Forms?

Levels 1–4 require the approval of a 4-H member's parent/guardian. If the 4-H member belongs to a 4-H club, club leader approval is also required (if 4-H member belongs to more than one club, choose one leader to work with). Levels 5 and 6 require the approval of a local county extension staff member. For the Level 6 service-learning project, proposal and final report forms require the approval of a locally appointed Diamond Clover Advisory Committee and the State 4-H Program Administrator (or designee).

## Is Completing a Project Necessary to Complete a Level?

Since valuable learning experiences occur from completion of 4-H projects, parent/guardian and/or leader should encourage members to complete at least one project at each level. However, as an option 4-H members may be involved in a 4-H group or activity not related to project work.

## What Does Completing a Variety of Projects Mean?

4-H members are encouraged to choose at least one project from a different project category for each level. While a 4-H member may enroll in a beef project every year, they are strongly encouraged to explore different projects to individually benefit from the 4-H experience.

## Is it Possible for a 4-H Member's Plan to be Amended?

Yes. Due to unforeseen circumstances (loss of an animal, loss of a garden from drought, etc.), a 4-H member may amend their plan. Levels 1–4 can be amended by agreement between the 4-H member and parent/guardian and/or leader. Levels 5 and 6 may be amended by agreement between the 4-H member, parent/guardian, and/or leader and local county extension office.

## How and When are Successful 4-H Members Recognized?

4-H members will obtain a certificate of achievement at the end of the 4-H year once they have completed a level. Levels 1 through 5 are awarded by the local county extension office. Some counties may choose to recognize recipients at achievement nights, county fair celebrations or similar events. Level 6 – Diamond recipients will be presented a certificate and diamond clover pin by the state 4-H office. The state 4-H Web site will list all youth who have earned the Diamond Level.

## What is the Origin of the Diamond Clover Program?

Maryland 4-H introduced a Diamond Clover 4-H Award Program in 2004. 4-H Educator Dan Tabler (now retired) had the original vision and was the primary author.