



# Niagara County 4-H Standards of Recognition 2026 Guidelines & Applications



*Completed application due to 4-H office by 8/19/26*

Please do not use old versions/applications, as it has changed.

Niagara County 4-H Standards of Recognition is designed to encourage growth over time.

**NEW: Beginning this year, in 2026, members may earn each recognition level only one time.** If you participated in standards of recognition last year, which ever level you achieved (award received) at 2025 Achievement Night, you will not be eligible to apply for that same level/award in 2026. Once a member has earned a level, they will work toward the next level in future years. The 4-H office will only reference 2025 winners' award levels; 2024 standards of rec winners and years prior, will not affect or exempt your 2026 level or award choice.

This change helps ensure that each award represents a new milestone in a member's 4-H journey and encourages youth to try new experiences, build new skills, and continue growing in project work, leadership, service, and participation. Once you have achieved all 4 levels/awards, you have completed all Standards of Recognition (Learn by doing, making the best better, heart of 4-H, and grow a true leader) and you will not be eligible to apply again in future.

After achieving all 4 levels, we encourage members to participate (or continue to participate) in the junior leadership project, which can be done annually, no prior standards of rec needed. You do NOT have to achieve the different levels of standards of rec in any order. A Junior Leader is a 4-H member ages 13–19 who demonstrates an interest in developing leadership qualities and is willing to set goals and plan for growth and achievement.

The above rules will NOT apply to cloverbuds. Cloverbuds can apply and participate annually for any level, and may repeat levels (head, heart, hands, health) during their time as a Cloverbud.

## Events, Activities and Project Examples

The following list includes some of the events, activities and project areas that 4-H'ers can participate in throughout the 4-H year. Other opportunities will also be made available through your club and county programs. These are just examples. The 4-H Educator/staff makes the final decision on acceptable events and activities that you list on application.

## Project Areas

Arts & Crafts, Communications/Creative Arts, Environmental Science, Food and Nutrition, Home Environment, Child Care, Mechanical Sciences, Natural Resources, Plant Science, Public Presentations, Science and Technology, Leadership, Textiles & Sewing

**Animal Science:** Beef Cattle, Cavy, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Steer, Dairy Goats, Dogs, Equine, Meat Goats, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, Swine, and Working Goats

## Examples of qualified competitions

Animal Shows

Livestock Judging and Skill-a-thons

Dairy Bowl

Hippology

5-Starr

Fun Shows

Model Horse Shows

### **Examples of qualified district or state events**

Public Presentations

Dairy Bowl

Horse Bowl

STARR

Animal Crackers

New York State Fair

Forestry Weekend

Career-Exploration

Livestock Judging & Skill-a-thon

Any 4-H Trip offered by the 4-H Office

Tractor Safety

Horse Communications

4-H Conferences

4-H District or State Workshops

Capital Days

### **Examples of qualified 4-H Activities**

4-H workshops

4-H activities at community or school events

Parades

4-H promotional booths or tabling events (Tractor Supply, Flock Swap, Festivals, school open houses, etc.)

Field Trips

Workbee

Educational demonstration at fair to public

### **Examples of Community Service**

Community Fundraiser

Church Groups

Youth Group

Tabling at events / promoting 4-H

PTA

Milk Bar

Fundraising Events for charity

Pre-Fair Help

Volunteering to help run activities or events at fair

Please read each description carefully and apply for one level for which you qualify and have not received in 2025. Members must submit a completed Application to the 4-H Office *on or before Wednesday, August 19, 2026*, to receive recognition. The Recognition ceremony will take place at the 4-H Achievement Night.

Cloverbud Recognition	Performance Standards To receive recognition, members must:
“Head” “Heart” “Hands” “Health”	Participate in 3 to 5 Participate in 6-8 Participate in 9-12 Participate in 13-15 <i>Any Exhibits, Activities, Public Presentation, Community Service, or look on events page for more opportunities</i>
4-H Awards	Performance Standards To receive these awards, members must:
“Learn By Doing”	1. Complete 4 projects from at least 1 project area or more 2. Exhibit at least 2 entries at the 4-H Fair 3. Participate in four 4-H activities or competitions 4. Completing 2 hours of Community Service 5. What was your favorite 4-H project or activity this year 6. Participate in county 4-H Public Presentations
“Making The Best Better”	1. Complete 6 projects from at least 2 project areas or more 2. Exhibit at least 4 entries at the 4-H Fair 3. Participate in six 4-H activities or competitions 4. Completing 4 hours of Community Service 5. What was your favorite 4-H project or activity this year 6. Participate in county 4-H Public Presentations
“Heart of 4-H”	1. Complete 8 projects from at least 3 project areas or more 2. Exhibit at least 6 entries at the 4-H Fair 3. Participate in eight 4-H activities or competitions 4. Completing 6 hours of Community Service 5. What was your favorite 4-H project or activity this year 6. Participate in at least one of the following: county 4-H Public Presentations, serve as a Royalty Court member, or complete a Junior Leadership Project 7. Participate in a District, State, or National Activity or Program
“Grow a True Leader”	1. Complete 10 projects from at least 4 project areas or more 2. Exhibit at least 8 entries at the 4-H Fair 3. Participate in 10 activities or competitions 4. Completing 8 hours of Community Service 5. What was your favorite 4-H project or activity this year 6. Participate in at least one of the following: county 4-H Public Presentation, serve as a Royalty Court member, or complete a Junior Leadership Project 7. Participate in (2) District, State, or National Activities or Programs



## 2025 STANDARDS OF RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS

*Reminder: You cannot apply for the same award level in 2026 that you did in 2025:*

Blake Lindke--Learn by Doing

Cameron Capitumino--Learn by Doing

Kelsie Israel -- Learn by Doing

Remington Lawson-- Learn by Doing

Lincoln Serianni - Learn by Doing

Evelyn Wittcop - Learn by Doing

Rose Zaepfel - Making the Best

Ethan Tower - Making the Best

Abigail Clapsadle - Making the Best

Elizabeth Nicks - Making the Best

Marianna Martin - Making the Best

Haven Kinmartin - Making the Best

Colleen Kilroy - Heart of 4-H

Matthew Page - Heart of 4-H

Michellynn Schroeder - Grow a True Leader

Jackson Philpott - Grow a True Leader

Brielle Bloomindale - Grow a True Leader

Miracle Martin - Grow a True Leader

Brooklyn Capitumino - Grow a True Leader

Bailey Tang - Grow a True Leader

Corey Tang - Grow a True Leader

*\*\*Did you achieve the highest award level already, "Grow a True Leader?" If so, youth are encouraged to participate in a Junior Leadership Project or apply for another award level.*



