

2026

Livingston County 4-H

Awards Program

Timeline for the 2026 Livingston County 4-H Awards Program

Award Forms Deadline October 15th, 2026 - 5pm

Awards Ceremony November 14th, 2026

- 4-H Clover Bud Awards
- 4-H Incentive Awards
- 4-H Junior Achievement
- 4-H County Medal Awards
 - Introductory, Advanced, Mastery
- 4-H Key Club Awards
- 4-H Leader Service Awards
- 4-H Special Service Awards



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Guidelines for Livingston County 4-H Awards Program

General Livingston County 4-H Award Rules:

1. For a member to be considered for a 4-H county award, their award form must be filled out completely and include all signatures. Forms that are incomplete will not be considered by the 4-H Awards Committee.
 2. Awards forms returned past the deadline will not be eligible for 4-H awards.
 3. Members of all ages must fill out their own award forms.
 4. Once members have been nominated by their 4-H leader or have self nominated, they will need to request an award application from 4-H Staff or get it off of the website at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/livingston/livingston_county_4_h.
 5. It is the responsibility of the 4-H member to follow the guidelines and deadlines for each award area.
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County Awards Timeline

Now-October 14th: Complete county awards applications

October 15th: 4-H County Awards forms due by email or in person from 4-H member to 4-H Staff – Kat VanDouser (krollkat@msu.edu) by 5:00pm

Late October: Awards committee will convene to select the 4-H County Award Recipients

Mid-November: County Awards Ceremony

4-H Cloverbud Award

1. Completed one or more years of 4-H.
2. Clover Buds must be 5-7 years of age as of January 1 of the prior year.
3. A Clover Bud can win this award only once.
4. Clover Buds must fill out their own award forms.
5. Nominee should complete the enclosed form in ink, fillable PDF, or google forms survey.
6. Make sure that nomination forms are returned by the deadline.

4-H Incentive Award (Senior, Intermediate, Junior)

7. 4-H Incentive Awards are designed to give recognition to 4-H members with limited 4-H experience.
8. 4-H members eligible for County Medals are not eligible for Incentive Awards.
9. Nominees for Incentive Awards must have completed one year and not more than two years in 4-H
10. 4-H ages for Incentive Awards, as of January 1 of the prior year, are:
Junior 8-11 years old Intermediate 12-14 years old Seniors 15-19 years old
11. Members are limited to one award per age group.
12. Nominee should complete the enclosed form in ink, fillable PDF, or google forms survey.
13. Make sure that forms are returned by the deadline.

4-H Junior Achievement Award

1. 4-H Junior Achievement Awards are designed to recognize the outstanding 4-H accomplishments of Juniors (8-9 years of age as of January 1 of the prior year).
2. Nominees for Junior Achievement Awards must have completed more than three years in 4-H and not qualify for the Junior Incentive Award or County Medals.
3. Members can only win this award once.
4. Members cannot apply for this award AND a county medal in the same year.
5. Nominee should complete the enclosed form in ink, fillable PDF, or google forms survey.

4-H County Award Medals General

1. As of 2026, the county medals program is broken into 3 tiers to encourage continued project growth. Each tier will be outlined in the next section.
 - o For the 2026-2028 years ONLY, youth age 15-19 who are missing prerequisite awards but meet all other requirements may apply for Advanced or Mastery awards. All other youth must begin with Introductory awards.
 2. Youth eligible for Advanced or Mastery awards may apply for up to TWO Introductory awards and ONE Advanced or Mastery award in the same year.
 3. Youth may apply for and be awarded as many introductory awards in a given category as they wish, with no more than two per year. Being awarded an advanced or mastery award does not prohibit youth from earning introductory awards in that category in future years.
 4. Youth not selected as the recipients of a given award are encouraged to re-apply the following year.
 5. Youth will be given a copy of their awards application with feedback by request at the county awards banquet.
 6. Awards will not be mailed. Awards not claimed at the banquet may be picked up at the MSU Extension office in Howell by appointment.
 7. Members can only win a county award medal once for a project or category.
 8. Members who have won the Key Club Award are no longer eligible for County Awards.
 9. Forms should be neatly completed by 4-H member in ink or typed.
 10. Return forms to the MSU Extension office at 2300 E. Grand River, Suite 111, Howell, MI 48843 or via email to your county 4-H staff by October 15th annually.
 11. Awards categories can be found here:
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/livingston/uploads/files/Awards%20flow%20chart.pdf>
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Introductory County Medals

1. Introductory county medals cover most project areas within the county 4-H program and are meant to be an introductory level award for youth with 2 or more years in a project area. Youth do not have to have won awards at fairs or outside shows, but should be experienced in the project area before applying.
 2. To be eligible, members must be **10-19** years of age as of January 1 of the prior year.
 3. Members must have been enrolled for two or more years and plan to enroll in the coming year in the project area for which they are nominated. Members applying must have had project activity in the current year.
 4. Reminder: 4-H members are only eligible to apply for two introductory county award projects, and one advanced or mastery award each year.
 5. Youth must apply for and earn Introductory level awards before applying for Advanced or Mastery awards.
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Advanced County Medals

1. Advanced county medals cover broader award categories and serve as a way for youth to continue to show their growth and development in a project area. At this level, youth should be able to show continued growth in their project, early leadership skills, and goal setting for the future of their project.
 2. Members applying for an advanced award must have been awarded at least one connected introductory project award. (See the bullet point in County Medals General Rule 1 for exceptions). Example, youth applying for an Equine Science (Advanced) award should have received at least one county medal in that project area: Horse, Hippology, or Judging.
 3. To be eligible, members must be **13-19** years of age as of January 1 of the prior year.
 4. Members must have been enrolled for two or more years and plan to enroll in the coming year in the project area for which they are nominated. Members applying must have had project activity in the current year.
 5. Reminder: 4-H members are only eligible to apply for two introductory county award projects, and one advanced or mastery award each year.
 6. Forms should be neatly completed by 4-H member in ink or typed.
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Mastery County Medals

1. Mastery awards: Ages 15-19 who have won at least two introductory and one advanced award within the category, and who have had a significant impact on the county program in that project area through leadership, mentorship, programming, or other efforts. This is the highest level of achievement outside of key club for youth in Livingston county 4-H. (See the bullet point in County Medals General Rule 1 for exceptions).
 2. To be eligible, members must be 15-19 years of age as of January 1 of the prior year.
 3. Members must have been enrolled for two or more years and plan to enroll in the coming year in the project area for which they are nominated. Members applying must have had project activity in the current year.
 4. Reminder: 4-H members are only eligible to apply for two introductory county award
 5. projects, and one advanced or mastery award each year.
 6. Members applying for a Mastery award must have been awarded at least two connected
 7. introductory project awards and at least one connected advanced award.
 8. Forms should be neatly completed by 4-H member in ink or typed.
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4-H Key Club Award

1. Key Club is the highest county 4-H Award a member may receive and is based on total years of 4-H activities and experiences. Youth cannot earn any other county medals after winning the Key Club Award.
 2. Members must be 15 years of age or older as of January 1 of the prior year.
 3. Members must have completed three calendar years of 4-H.
 4. Member must have completed 4-H projects in at least two project areas.
 5. The Key Club form is about points and brief essay questions that focus on the 4-H members' involvement in the 4-H program.
 6. Youth are encouraged review their applications with leaders and 4-H staff prior to the due date, so they have time to make corrections/additions. Sometimes members forget or don't realize what may be included on the application and they could potentially miss out on points.
 7. A 4-H leader will need to write a short statement and sign the members award form. The award form and the leader's comments will be returned to the member.
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State Awards

The State Awards Program is an in depth, project-oriented program for older 4-H members. The program is conducted at the county, regional and state levels and is very competitive with other 4-H members from across the state. All state award applicants who win regionally must attend 4-H Exploration Days.

Timeline for the State Awards Program

1. **November-March:** Prepare State Award Application
2. **April:** Award Application due
3. **June:** 4-H State Award delegates attend Exploration Days

Leader Service and Special Service Awards

4-H Leader Service Award

1. Must have been a 4-H leader for two or more years.
2. Can be nominated by a 4-H club, parent, 4-H member, staff or another 4-H leader. Please write a brief essay describing why they should be awarded this prestigious award.
3. Leaders may win this award only once every ten years.
4. Up to two leaders may be selected each year.
5. Leader Service Awards will be presented at the awards reception in November.
6. Forms can be completed in ink or typed.

Special Service Award

1. The 4-H Special Service Award is designed to recognize sponsors, businesses, parents, grandparents, or anyone who has made major contributions to our 4-H program with dollars, time and/or material.
2. Nomination essays can be written and submitted by a 4-H member, parent or 4-H leader.
3. Up to two award recipients will be chosen.
4. Special Service Awards will be presented at the awards reception in November.
5. Forms can be completed in ink or typed.