

## GOLD STAR AWARD



The Gold Star Award is the highest county achievement award. Counties have award quotas based on the number of senior 4-H members. The award will be presented to the most deserving young people without regard to sex. The following requirements must be met:

1. The member must be at least 15 years of age as of August 31 of the current 4-H year, and must have completed at least 3 years in 4-H including the current year.
2. The 4-H member must submit an awards program recordbook in the year he or she is to be considered for the award.
3. The 4-H member must have completed projects in three different project areas, including submission of appropriate record forms, and have participated in one or more activities in at least three of the following areas:
  - ▶ 4-H Educational Presentation Contests
  - ▶ Projects
  - ▶ Project Exhibits
  - ▶ Camps
  - ▶ Leadership Labs
  - ▶ Citizenship Activities
  - ▶ Public Relations (speeches, poster displays, radio, TV, newspaper)
  - ▶ Other (includes exchange programs, fund raising, State & National Congress, etc.)

**NOTE:** It is not expected that the above requirements for projects and activities all be completed in the current year. They may have been accomplished over the entire period of time the 4-H'er has been in the program.

During his or her years in 4-H, the member must have exhibited leadership skills by serving as a 4-H officer or committee chairman (club, county, district, or state), and/or as a junior or teen leader in an activity or project with or under the supervision of an adult volunteer leader.

The 4-H member must have participated in one or more community service activities. Examples are working or counseling with junior 4-H members; participating in community service projects (individual, group or club-type); and motivating other 4-H members through participation in demonstrations, projects and/or exhibits.

**GUIDELINES FOR AWARDING THE**  
**4-H GOLD STAR AWARD**

**Minimum Criteria**

Because the *Gold Star Award* is one of the most sought after 4-H awards at the county level, the recipient should meet certain minimum criteria. Thus, the quality of the award can be maintained. The following criteria are recommended as minimum only. Any 4-H member not meeting these criteria would not be considered for the award. Conversely, some counties may choose not to award the *Gold Star* if there are not 4-H members in the county who actually exceed these minimum criteria. The county, in that case, may elect not to award *Gold Star* pins.

**Criteria for Selection:**

1. The 4-H member must be at least **15 years of age as of August 31** of the current year.
2. The 4-H member must have completed at least **three (3) years in 4-H**, including the current year.
3. The *Gold Star Award* will be presented to the most deserving young people **without regard to sex**.
4. The 4-H member must submit an **awards program record book** in the year he or she is to be considered for the *Gold Star Award*.
5. **Projects and Activities**

**During his or her years in 4-H, the 4-H member must have:**

- A. Completed projects in **three (3)** different project areas including submission of appropriate record forms.
- B. Participated in one or more activities in at least **three (3)** of the following areas:
  - Method Demonstration/4-H Presentation Contests
  - Projects
  - Camps
  - Leadership Labs
  - Citizenship Activities
  - Public Relations (for example, demonstrations, speeches, poster displays, club exhibits, project shows, radio, TV, newspapers, special projects)
  - Other (may include exchange programs, fund raising, State and National Congress, etc.)

**Note:** It is not expected that the above requirement for projects and activities all be completed in the current year. They may have been accomplished over the entire period of time the 4-H'er has been in the program.

6. During his or her years in 4-H, the 4-H member must have exhibited **leadership skills** in one or more of the following areas:
  - A. Must have served as an officer or committee chairman at some level of 4-H organization (club, county, district, state) and/or have served as a junior or teen leader in an activity or project with, or under the supervision of, an adult volunteer leader.
7. **Community Service** - The 4-H member must have participated in one or more community service activities; for example:
  - A. Working or counseling with Junior 4-H members.
  - B. Community service projects, either individual, group, or club-type projects.
  - C. Must have motivated other 4-H members through participation in demonstrations, projects, and/or exhibits.



### *Gold Star Interview Questions*

1. Explain your project - why you picked it and what interests you most.
2. In what ways have you benefitted from your 4-H experiences?
3. Which of the 4 H's in 4-H has been the reason behind most of your project work? Why?
4. What is one failure or hardship you have overcome in 4-H?
5. What has been a humorous experience you have had in 4-H?
6. What does 4-H mean to you?
7. How will the skills you have learned in 4-H benefit you in the future?
8. Why do you wish to receive this award?
9. If you had to go before your legislators to support 4-H, what would you tell them about 4-H?

## *HISTORY OF THE GOLD STAR AWARD*

The following information was prepared by Mr. Lynch in a memorandum to Director Gibson on December 9, 1952.

“The presentation of the Gold Star Pin was begun in 1933, the first year Mr. E. C. Martin was Boys 4-H Club Specialist. Mr. Martin tells us the pin was prompted by an effort to recognize the people who did the work rather than the agents.

Previous to this time, the agents submitting the largest number of 4-H records received the recognition.

According to records in the Fiscal Office, the first Gold Star Pins were purchased in 1933.

For the first several years, the Gold Star Pins were presented at a dinner during Short Course at College Station.

In the beginning, each county made a nomination of their outstanding 4-H member and 100 members were selected to receive the award. After several years, the awards were presented to the outstanding 4-H boy and 4-H girl in each county. This is the plan in use now.”  
(Cox, et. al)