**Jackson County 4-H Award Guidelines**

The 4-H Awards Program is designed to recognize members for their project work, leadership, and personal growth and development. The awards year runs the same as the 4-H year (September 1 through August 31).

Committees judge or evaluate project work and achievement, leadership, personal growth and development by reading record books. Awards begin at the county with ribbons, medals, and plaques and end with the highest of trips and college scholarships at the State and National level.

It is not necessary to have won Grand Champion with a project to receive a county award. Many times, a member who has never won Grand Champion buy has consistently done a good job and place well will have completed the most outstanding project. Remember, aspects of learning and teaching others, leadership, and personal growth are important as well.

**Age Divisions**

Senior Division- between the ages of 14 and 18 on September 1 of the current 4-H year. They must not have passed their 19th birthday before September 1 of the current year.

Intermediate Division – must be between the ages of 11 and 13 on September 1 of the current 4-H year.

Junior Division – must be in third grade or between the ages of 8 and 10 as of September 1 of the current 4-H year.

* **Friend of 4-H Business Award**
	+ Businesses are nominated by 4-H members and volunteers each year. Selection of this award will be made by a panel of judges selected by Extension Office. The award may not be awarded two years in a row to the same business.
* **Friend of 4-H Individual**
	+ Individuals are nominated by 4-H members and volunteers each year. Selection of this award will made by a panel of judges selected by Extension office. The award may not be awarded two years in a row to the same individual.

**County Awards**

Awards will be presented in three age categories. Ages are as of August 31st of the current 4-H year.

* Junior: 3rd grade – 10 years old
* Intermediate: 11 – 13 years old
* Senior: 14 – 18
* **Gold Star Award**
	+ This award is the highest county achievement award and intended to be received only once in a member’s career. Jackson County currently can award up to 2 Gold Stars and this quota is based on the number of senior 4-H’ers in the county. This award is presented to the most deserving young people without regard to sex.
	+ Requirements
		- Complete/submit application
		- Be a senior 4-H member
		- Be a member in good standing
		- 4-H officer or committee chairman (club, county, district or state level) and/or junior/teen leader in an activity or project with supervision of an adult volunteer leader
		- Participated in one or more community service activities
		- The 4-H’er must submit an awards program record book in the year he or she is to be considered for the award.
		- Complete the criteria for Level 5 award or higher.
		- Participate in a personal interview with judges.
* **Silver Star Award**
	+ This award can recognize up to 2 4-H’ers between the ages of 11 – 13 for their participation in 4-H. This award can only be received once in the career of a 4-Her. The 4-Her must meet the following criteria:
		- Complete/submit application
		- Be an intermediate 4-H member
		- Be a member in good standing
		- Complete criteria for Level 4 or higher in one year
		- Complete a record book
		- Participate in a personal interview with judges
* **Bronze Star Award**
	+ This award can recognize up to 2 4-H’ers between the ages of 8-10 for their participation in 4-H. This award can only be received once in the career of a 4-H’er.
	+ Requirements
		- Complete/submit application
		- Be a junior 4-H member
		- In Good standing
		- Complete criteria for Level 3 or higher in one year
		- Complete record book
		- Participate in a personal interview with judges
* **Senior Award**
	+ This award is for 4-H’ers who have received the Gold Star Award often feel there is no other award/recognition to work towards. In 1997, the 4-H Level of Awards Task Force developed guidelines for a Senior Award to recognize Gold Star recipients for their continued leadership in the Jackson Co. 4-H Program.
	+ Requirements
		- Complete/submit application
		- Senior 4-H member
		- Received Gold Star Award in previous years but has continued to be a teen/junior leader
		- Complete record book
		- Participate in community service projects
		- Participate in a personal interview with judges
* **I Dare You Award**
	+ This award is not a contest or competition. The award is offered as recognition of excellence in character, well-balanced personal development and potential for leadership. Because this award recognizes young leaders for their leaderships (both in and out of 4-H) the “I Dare You” Award recognizes the leadership qualities of the applicants.
	+ Requirements
		- Complete/submit application
		- Complete their freshman year of High School
		- Member in good standing
		- Participate in a personal interview with judges
		- Complete criteria for Level 3 or higher
		- Submit 3 letters of recommendation
			* 2 cannot be from a 4-H leader, but must be from school or community leaders who know the applicant in a leadership role
			* 1 – Club Manager, Extension Agent or 4-H Leader
			* No letters from ANY family members

**Level of Awards**

**Jackson County 4-H Award Guidelines**

**Year: 2013-2014**

* Level I – Complete: 1 project and 1 community service
* Level II – Complete: 2 projects, 2 community service and 1 method demonstration
* Level III – Complete: 2 projects, 3 community service, 1 method demonstration, record book, and participate in 1 of the following: county contest, D11 contest, club officer or D11 camp.
* Level IV – Complete: 3 projects, 4 community service, 1 method demonstration, 4-H promotional talk, record book, participate in 1 of the following: county contest, D11 contest, club officer, or D11 camp.
* Level V – Complete: 3 projects, 5 community service, 1 method demonstration, record book, 4-H promotional talk, participate in 2 of the following: county contest, D11 contest, club officer, or D11 camp. Also, must serve as a Junior Leader and be at least 10 years old.
* Level VI – Complete: 3 projects, 6 community service, 1 method demonstration, record book, 4-H promotional talk, participate in 2 of the following: county contest, D11 contest, club officer, or D11 camp. Also, must serve as a Teen Leader and be at least 16 years old.

**All Award Qualifications**

* Active 4-H member on 4-H connect
* Pay membership dues
* Member in good standing
	+ - Sign and abide by 4-H Code of Conduct
		- Sign and abide by Jackson Co. 4-H Handbook
		- Sign and abide by 4-H Consequences of Misbehavior
		- Meet no pass, no play regulations
		- Abide by attendance regulations
			* Attend 75% of their club meetings
				+ 7 out of 9 meeting with 2 excused absences
				+ Excused absences – note must be presented, prior notice must be given to club manger and excused absences are family emergencies, illness or school activity
	+ Complete/submit all required documentation to Extension Office
		- Award application
		- Awards checklist
		- Project certification forms
	+ Attend annual 4-H awards banquet to receive award