

## Guidelines to County Awards Recognition

### Achievement Pins

Kansas 4-H Member Achievement pins are designed to recognize 4-H members as they reach milestones throughout their 4-H journey. The pins are awarded in a series. As a member's 4-H journey progresses, the achievement pin requirements expand to challenge individuals to explore and engage in more opportunities to develop life skills.

Pins are awarded in the following order. If a 4-Her is starting the recognition program as an older youth, they may choose the pin they wish to begin with; however, it is recommended to start with the pin that corresponds to their 4-H age. Regardless of the pin you begin with, you may only advance forward through the list. You may not move backwards and may only receive 1 pin per year.

1. Membership Pin (4-H age 7)
2. Bronze Pin (4-H age 8)
3. Clover Pin (4-H age 9)
4. Emerald Pin (4-H age 10)
5. Silver Pin (4-H age 11)
6. Silver Guard (4-H age 12)
7. Leadership Pin (4-H age 13)
8. Gold Pin (4-H age 14)
9. Gold Guard (4-H age 15)
10. Key Award (must be at least 16 years old)

Additionally:

- 1) Each pin adds more mandatory requirements to be completed as the 4-Her gets older
  - a) This is a great place to start for setting goals!
  - b) Starting with the Leadership Pin, the applications require enrollment and participation in the Leadership project. The Key Award requires 4 years of enrollment and participation in the Leadership Project.
- 2) A Permanent Record, a Personal Page, and at least 1 Record Book must be submitted in order to receive an achievement pin.
- 3) Paper work must have ALL required signatures (4-H member, Parent/ Guardian, 4-H Club Leader)
- 4) The 4-H office DOES NOT keep records of pins received
- 5) **For 2024 Achievement Night ONLY:** Due to the recently updated Achievement Pin application forms being published after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, both the new and old format forms will be accepted. Starting with the 2024-2025 program year, we will only accept applications completed on the new forms.



## Project Awards

Shawnee County has two recognition paths for Project Awards (record books). Both paths will count toward the record book completion requirement for Achievement Pins. All Project Records will use the state Project Awards Categories. Those can be found on the Awards and Recognition page on our website. They are updated annually, so be sure to check that list before you start your record books.

### 1. Non-Competitive Project Records

- a. This is a local only recognition program for 4-Hers who wish to have a record of the project accomplishments from the year and need to meet the record book requirement for Achievement Pins, but do not wish to complete the larger competitive books.
- b. There are no age categories for non-competitive records, all 4-Hers use the same form.
- c. All complete and signed non-competitive records books are recognized at Achievement Night with a **Gold Award**.

### 2. Project Report Forms (Competitive Project Records)

- a. This is a state-wide recognition program. All competitive Project Report Forms are judged according to project and the following age categories:
  - i. Junior: ages 7-9, before January 1 of the current year
  - ii. Intermediate: ages 10-13, before January 1 of the current year
  - iii. Senior: ages 14-18, before January 1 of the current year
- b. Competitive Project Report Forms receive the following recognitions at Achievement Night:
  - i. **Project Pin Award:** Only one Pin Award is awarded per age group per project. If none of the submitted records meet the expectations of a winning book this is not a required award
  - ii. **Platinum Award:** The remaining competitive records after the Pin Award winner has been selected are recognized for their efforts with a Platinum Award.
- c. The Project Pin Award winner from the senior division of each project qualifies to continue on at the regional level. Should the record that is submitted to regional judging place in the top 2 of books judged, they will be eligible to advance to State Project Award Evaluation.
  - i. If a Project Report Form is selected as the state winner, the 4-Her will be recognized at a ceremony in June, and will be eligible to attend the National 4-H Congress trip the following November.



## **Club Recognitions**

Shawnee County also offers four recognition programs for clubs to participate in.

1. Cloverbud Recognition
  - a. Cloverbuds are recognized for their early participation in the 4-H program. Club leaders are asked to submit a list of names to the office.
2. Club Purple Seal Award
  - a. Club Purple Seals recognize clubs that are in good standing and taking steps to engage members, participate at the county level, and that are active in their communities. A club seal application is a year-long process that begins with setting goals at the beginning of the year. In order to be approved, a club must meet the minimum 9 basic requirements and achieve a set number of goals from the optional sections. The minimum of optional goals is set on a sliding scale based on club size.
3. Alumni of the Year
  - a. This is a local only award that seeks to recognize alumni that have a significant impact on our 4-H program. The nominee must have been involved in Shawnee County 4-H at some point, either as an alumnus or otherwise. Nominees who are alumni of other county or state programs are allowed to be nominated, as long as they are currently involved in our local program in some way.
  - b. All nominated individuals will be recognized as candidates at Achievement Night, but only nominees who submit the completed application and letters of support to the extension office by the deadline will be considered for the award.
4. Volunteer Recognitions
  - a. This is part of the National Volunteer Salute to Excellence Program. This recognizes 4-H volunteers who demonstrate exceptional service to 4-H. Clubs may nominate 1 individual for each award. All nominated individuals will be recognized at Achievement Night, but only nominees who submit the completed application to the extension office by the deadline will be considered. Winners who wish to be submitted to the state level for consideration will be given instructions on how to complete the next level of application following Achievement Night.
  - b. There are two options for recognition depending on the length of the volunteer's service. Both awards use the same application form.
    - i. Volunteer of the Year: This is for volunteers with less than 10 years of service
    - ii. Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer: This is for volunteers with 10 or more years of service

Forms and applications can be found here: [https://www.shawnee.k-state.edu/4-h/awards\\_and\\_recognition/](https://www.shawnee.k-state.edu/4-h/awards_and_recognition/). For any questions, please contact our office!

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