

Colorado 4-H Volunteer Awards



Active 4-H members, parents, and volunteers in good standing are encouraged to nominate volunteers for the statewide volunteer awards listed below. **Nominations close on April 1, 2026, at 5pm MT.**

Outstanding Club Leader Award

This award is for 4-H volunteers whose club leadership helps their 4-H'ers truly thrive! They help their 4-H families feel welcome, cared for, and empowered to learn and grow.

→ [Learn more about the award](#)

→ [Nominate now!](#)

Outstanding Project Leader Award

This award is for 4-H volunteers who engage 4-H'ers in "learning by doing," growing their skills in a specific project area and growing their confidence along the way.

→ [Learn more about the award](#)

→ [Nominate now!](#)

Outstanding Chaperone Award

This award is for 4-H volunteers who make young people's time away from home a positive, life-long memory. This awardee knows how to keep their 4-H'ers safe while helping them expand their horizons.

→ [Learn more about the award](#)

→ [Nominate now!](#)

Rising Star Award

This award is for an outstanding volunteer in their first three years of service with Colorado 4-H. Though they may be new to the 4-H family, they have already made an outsized impact.

→ [Learn more about the award](#)

→ [Nominate now!](#)

Above and Beyond Award

This award recognizes a volunteer who has gone above and beyond their volunteer role description. They may have planned an amazing event, created a wonderful resource, or regularly stepped up when needed.

→ [Learn more about the award](#)

→ [Nominate now!](#)

Beyond Ready Award

This award recognizes a volunteer who get 4-H'ers "beyond ready" for work and life. They create opportunities for 4-H'ers to build the knowledge and skills for their post-4-H years.

→ [Learn more about the award](#)

→ [Nominate now](#)

Raleigh and Edith Brooks: Salute to Excellence

This prestigious award recognizes one long-standing 4-H volunteer who has demonstrated exemplary service to Colorado 4-H. The awardee will receive a \$1,000 monetary award.

→ [Learn more about the award](#)

→ [Nominate now!](#)

Note: Some counties require volunteers to be nominated for county-level awards prior to advancing to state-level recognition. Please check with your county 4-H specialist to learn about your county's process.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Colorado 4-H Volunteer Awards



Outstanding Club Leader Award

This award is for 4-H volunteers whose club leadership helps their 4-H'ers truly thrive! They create a vibrant club through making sure everyone feels welcome, helping members find their passions, showing genuine care for their 4-H families, and positively impacting those around them. [Click here to submit a nomination.](#)

Eligibility

- The nominee must be **an approved 4-H club leader** in Colorado.
Club leaders are also called "organizational leaders" or "co-organizational leaders".
- The nominee and the club must be **in good standing**.
The volunteer and the club must follow all Colorado 4-H policies (e.g., Code of Conduct, chartering).
- The nominee can be **an individual or a team**.
You can nominate multiple co-leaders from the same club using a single nomination form.

Nomination questions

1. How has the nominee built a **vibrant 4-H club environment**?
A vibrant 4-H club is one that is fun and engaging for its members! A 4-H volunteer might help create a vibrant club environment by planning exciting learning activities, communicating clearly with the families in their club, and otherwise making their club meetings something that 4-H'ers look forward to attending. Describe how this nominee has built a vibrant club.
2. How has the nominee made their 4-H members and families feel **welcome**?
Share how the nominee makes young people and their families feel a sense of belonging in 4-H. How do they show 4-H'ers that they matter and that their perspectives are valued?
3. How has the nominee helped their 4-H'ers **find and pursue their passions**?
Share how the nominee helps young people figure out what excites them and makes them want to learn more – their "sparks"! How does the volunteer help their 4-H'ers dive in deeper on these topics and find 4-H projects that align with their sparks?
4. How does the nominee show **genuine care** for their 4-H'ers?
Outstanding club leaders openly express care for their 4-H'ers and provide them with support as they learn and grow. They also challenge young people in healthy ways by creating opportunities for youth leadership and youth voice. Share ways that this nominee has shown they care for their club members.
5. What else would you like to share about the nominee's **overall positive impact**?
This might include positive impacts on 4-H members (for example, helping a shy member become more confident), positive impacts on other 4-H volunteers (for example, helping volunteers step into leadership roles), or positive impacts on 4-H as an organization (for example, bringing new families into 4-H).



Colorado 4-H Volunteer Awards



Outstanding Project Leader Award

This award is for 4-H volunteers who engage 4-H'ers in "learning by doing," growing their skills in a specific project area and growing their confidence along the way. [Click here to submit a nomination.](#)

Eligibility

- The nominee must be **an approved 4-H project leader** in Colorado.
Project leaders generally focus on one 4-H project or subject area.
- The nominee must be **in good standing**.
The volunteer must follow all Colorado 4-H policies (e.g., Code of Conduct).
- The nominee can be **an individual or a team**.
You can nominate multiple project leaders who work as a team using a single nomination form.

Nomination questions

1. How has the nominee helped 4-H'ers **learn by doing**?
"Learning by doing," also called "experiential learning," is the way that young people learn new skills in 4-H. The best experiential learning involves doing a hands-on activity, reflecting on the lessons learned from that activity, and figuring out how to apply those lessons in the future. Share how the nominee helps their 4-H'ers engage in quality hands-on learning.
2. How has the nominee helped their 4-H'ers **find and pursue their passions**?
Share how the nominee helps young people figure out what excites them and makes them want to learn more – their "sparks"! How does the volunteer help their 4-H'ers dive in deeper on these topics and find parts of their 4-H project that align with their sparks?
3. How has the nominee helped their 4-H'ers build **life skills**?
4-H helps kids build skills related to a specific project (for example, decorating a cake or shooting a bow), but it also helps young people build skills that transfer to other areas of their lives (for example, attention to detail or confidence under pressure). Share how the nominee helps 4-H'ers identify life skills built during project work and consider how they might use those skills in the future.
4. How does the nominee create a **positive learning environment** for healthy risk-taking?
Project leaders encourage healthy risk-taking to help their 4-H'ers grow, knowing that learning – not winning – is the ultimate goal of 4-H. Share how the nominee helps their 4-H'ers feel like they can take risks, try different projects, and "fail" at something new so that they can learn.
5. What else would you like to share about the nominee's **overall positive impact**?
This might include positive impacts on 4-H members (for example, helping a shy member become more confident), positive impacts on other 4-H volunteers (for example, helping volunteers step into leadership roles), or positive impacts on 4-H as an organization (for example, bringing new families into 4-H).



Colorado 4-H Volunteer Awards



Outstanding Chaperone Award

This award is for 4-H volunteers who make the travel, training, or camping experience of young people a positive, life-long memory. This awardee knows how to keep their 4-H'ers safe while helping them engage in these incredible experiences to the fullest. [Click here to submit a nomination.](#)

Eligibility

- The nominee must be **an approved 4-H chaperone** in Colorado.
Chaperones accompany 4-H'ers on one or more travel, training, or camping experiences.
- The nominee must be **in good standing**.
The volunteer must follow all Colorado 4-H policies (e.g., Code of Conduct).
- The nominee can be **an individual or a team**.
You can nominate multiple chaperones who work as a team using a single nomination form.

Nomination questions

1. How has the nominee helped their 4-H'ers build **life skills**?
Spending time away from home as a young person can be hard! It requires independence, organization, flexibility, openness to new cultures, and more. How does the nominee help the 4-H'ers in their care identify these life skills and build them up over the course of their time together? This could be through event activities, reflection time, one-on-one conversations, or other approaches.
2. How has the nominee helped create **positive group dynamics** with their 4-H'ers?
4-H'ers often go into a travel, training, or camp experience without knowing the other young people who are in attendance. How does the nominee help everyone in the group feel welcome and like they are part of a cohesive team? Examples might include leading get-to-know-you games, starting fun group conversations, or asking questions that make everyone feel included.
3. How has the nominee helped their 4-H'ers feel **safe**?
Chaperones ensure that the 4-H'ers in their care are safe during their time away from home. Share how this nominee has helped 4-H'ers feel physically and emotionally safe. This may include helping a young person through a challenge or acting quickly during a tricky situation to protect the group.
4. How is the nominee a **positive role model** for the 4-H'ers in their care?
Chaperones are "on duty" 24/7 during a trip! Share how the nominee's actions or behaviors set a good example for the young people around them.
5. What else would you like to share about the nominee's **overall positive impact**?
This might include positive impacts on 4-H members (for example, helping a shy member become more confident), positive impacts on other 4-H volunteers (for example, helping other chaperones step into leadership roles), or positive impacts on 4-H as an organization (for example, bringing new families into 4-H).



Colorado 4-H Volunteer Awards



Rising Star Award

This award is for volunteers in their first three years of service with Colorado 4-H. Though they may be new to the 4-H family, they have already made an outsized impact. [Click here to submit a nomination.](#)

Eligibility

- The nominee must be **an approved 4-H volunteer** in Colorado.
All categories of volunteers (organizational leader, project leader, chaperone, etc.) are eligible.
- The nominee must have **started volunteering with Colorado 4-H on or after October 1, 2023.**
Volunteers must be in their first three years to be eligible for this award.
- The nominee must be **in good standing.**
The volunteer must follow all Colorado 4-H policies (e.g., Code of Conduct).
- The nominee can be **an individual or a team.**
You can nominate multiple new volunteers who work as a team using a single nomination form.

Nomination questions

1. How has the nominee **jumped into 4-H volunteering** with two feet?
Describe how the nominee has really embraced being a volunteer with 4-H. Examples might include diving into learning about a particular project area, learning the ins and outs of club chartering, signing up to be a chaperone on several upcoming trips, or supporting lots of events.
2. How has the nominee brought **something new or special** to 4-H?
New volunteers often bring fresh ideas, different perspectives, and renewed energy to their work. Describe what exciting ideas or energy the nominee has brought to the table in their short time as a 4-H volunteer.
3. How has the nominee worked to form **positive relationships** with others?
This might include their efforts to get to know other volunteers, learn more about the 4-H members and families in their community, or work collaboratively with the 4-H staff in their county.
4. How is the nominee a **positive role model** for the 4-H'ers around them?
New volunteers are bound to catch the attention of our 4-H'ers, who will look to them as adult role models. Share how the nominee's actions or behaviors set a good example for the young people around them.
5. What else would you like to share about the nominee's **overall positive impact**?
This might include positive impacts on 4-H members (for example, helping a shy member become more confident), positive impacts on other 4-H volunteers (for example, helping other new volunteers step into leadership roles), or positive impacts on 4-H as an organization (for example, bringing new families into 4-H).



Colorado 4-H Volunteer Awards



Above and Beyond Award

This award recognizes a volunteer who has gone above and beyond their volunteer role description. They may have planned an amazing event, created a wonderful resource, or regularly stepped up as the “go to” volunteer when we really need someone. **Click [here](#) to submit a nomination.**

Eligibility

- The nominee must be **an approved 4-H volunteer** in Colorado.
All categories of volunteers (organizational leader, project leader, chaperone, etc.) are eligible.
- The nominee must be **in good standing**.
The volunteer must follow all Colorado 4-H policies (e.g., Code of Conduct).
- The nominee can be **an individual or a team**.
You can nominate multiple volunteers who work as a team using a single nomination form.

Nomination questions

1. How has the nominee gone **above and beyond** their volunteer role?
Describe how the nominee has exceeded the expectations of a 4-H volunteer through their actions. Have they organized a new event? Did they build a new and useful resource? Are they always there and saying “yes” when a volunteer is needed? Please be specific, and feel free to tell a story.
2. How have the nominee’s efforts **made a difference**?
Describe the impact of the nominee’s “above and beyond” efforts that you wrote about in the previous question. What was the result of their work? What changed or improved? Who was helped?
3. How does the nominee act as a **positive role model** for the 4-H’ers around them?
Share how the nominee’s actions or behaviors set a good example for the young people around them.
4. What else would you like to share about the nominee’s **overall positive impact**?
This might include positive impacts on 4-H members (for example, helping a shy member become more confident), positive impacts on other 4-H volunteers (for example, helping other volunteers step into leadership roles), or positive impacts on 4-H as an organization (for example, bringing new families into 4-H).



Colorado 4-H Volunteer Awards



Beyond Ready Award

This award recognizes a volunteer who helps 4-H'ers become "[Beyond Ready](#)" for work and life. They create opportunities for 4-H'ers to build the knowledge and skills for their post-4-H years. **Click [here](#) to submit a nomination.**

Eligibility

- The nominee must be **an approved 4-H volunteer** in Colorado.
All categories of volunteers (organizational leader, project leader, chaperone, etc.) are eligible.
- The nominee must be **in good standing**.
The volunteer must follow all Colorado 4-H policies (e.g., Code of Conduct).
- The nominee can be **an individual or a team**.
You can nominate multiple volunteers who work as a team using a single nomination form.

Nomination questions

1. How has the nominee helped their 4-H'ers become **"Beyond Ready" for work?**
Volunteers might help their 4-H'ers prepare for work by developing their leadership skills, offering real-life learning experiences, encouraging a positive work ethic, building professional communication skills, or helping them think through future career options. This can happen even at the Cloverbud age! Describe what the nominee does to help their 4-H'ers become ready for work.
2. How has the nominee helped their 4-H'ers become **"Beyond Ready" for life?**
Volunteers help our 4-H'ers practice good character, responsibility, and kindness. They also help build skills around goal-setting, time management, self-motivation, and persistence. Describe how the nominee helps build 4-H'ers' skills and attributes that help them be healthy, productive, and engaged members of society later in life.
3. What else would you like to share about the nominee's **overall positive impact?**
This might include positive impacts on 4-H members (for example, helping a shy member become more confident), positive impacts on other 4-H volunteers (for example, helping other chaperones step into leadership roles), or positive impacts on 4-H as an organization (for example, bringing new families into 4-H).



Colorado 4-H Volunteer Awards



Raleigh and Edith Brooks: Salute to Excellence Award

The prestigious *Raleigh and Edith Brooks: Salute to Excellence* award recognizes one 4-H volunteer who demonstrates exemplary service to Colorado 4-H, while promoting service through volunteerism as both an opportunity and a privilege. The selected volunteer will receive a \$1,000 monetary award. Awardees are typically longstanding volunteers who have dedicated significant time to the 4-H program. **Click [here](#) to submit a nomination.**

Eligibility

- The nominee must be **an approved 4-H volunteer** in Colorado.
All categories of volunteers (organizational leader, project leader, chaperone, etc.) are eligible.
- The nominee must be **in good standing**.
The volunteer must follow all Colorado 4-H policies (e.g., Code of Conduct).

Nomination questions

1. Describe the nominee's **volunteer service** with Colorado 4-H.
How has the nominee served Colorado 4-H as a volunteer? Summarize the roles they have taken on (for example, being a 4-H club leader, project leader, chaperone, etc.) as well as any leadership roles they have stepped into (for example, serving on county advisory committees, serving as a fair or contest superintendent, leading the planning of a volunteer training, etc.). Feel free to include any awards they have won, as well. This is your chance to brag about the breadth and depth of the nominee's volunteer service!
2. How has the nominee made a **positive impact on 4-H youth**?
Describe the impact of the nominee's volunteer efforts on the 4-H'ers they work with. How has the volunteer helped young people grow the skills, confidence, and leadership abilities "to make the best better"? Feel free to tell a story about the growth of the young people the nominee has helped.
3. How has the nominee made a **positive impact on the 4-H program**?
Describe the impact of the nominee's volunteer efforts on Colorado 4-H as a whole. How has the nominee improved how our organization works? Have they introduced innovative ways of recruiting other volunteers, improved our outreach to underserved youth, brought in new partner organizations, improved our fundraising, or helped us bolster our educational resources?
4. How does the nominee act as a **positive role model**, both for 4-H youth and for other 4-H volunteers?
Share how the nominee's actions or behaviors set a good example for the young people around them as well as how they model what it means to be an exemplary 4-H volunteer. Feel free to discuss the nominee's personal growth over the course of their 4-H volunteer service here, too.



Colorado 4-H Volunteer Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. The first page said that “Some counties require volunteers to be nominated for county-level awards prior to advancing to state-level recognition.” How do I know if my county requires this?**

Please check with your 4-H county specialist or local Extension office to check on your county’s specific process.
- 2. Who can nominate volunteers for these awards?**

Active 4-H members, parents, and volunteers in good standing are all encouraged to nominate volunteers for any of these awards. You are “in good standing” and “active” if you are enrolled in 4HOnline for the current 4-H year, have paid all required fees or dues for the year, and have not received a disciplinary letter that has you currently on probation, suspension, or exclusion.
- 3. How do I know that the volunteer I want to nominate for an award is “in good standing” or “an approved volunteer” with Colorado 4-H?**

Chances are, any volunteer who regularly helps with 4-H events is “in good standing” and “approved.” These terms essentially mean that the volunteer has not broken any Colorado 4-H policies. We will confirm eligibility when nominations are submitted, or you are welcome to reach out to your county specialist to confirm that the volunteer is eligible before you submit the nomination.
- 4. Can I nominate myself for an award?**

Yes! Self-nominations are welcomed. You know your own work best!
- 5. Can I nominate one volunteer for multiple awards?**

While this is technically allowed, we encourage you to identify the award that best fits that volunteer’s strengths and put your energy towards writing a strong nomination for that one award. Each volunteer can only receive a maximum of one statewide award each year.
- 6. Can multiple people nominate one volunteer for the same award? Will that help?**

Multiple people can nominate a single volunteer for the same award, but it will not necessarily increase their chances of winning, as each nomination is reviewed separately. If there is a group of people who want to nominate the same volunteer for the same award, they might consider working together to put together one strong nomination for the award rather than submitting multiple different nominations.
- 7. What do volunteers get for winning these awards?**

Award-winning volunteers will be invited (but not required) to attend the State 4-H Conference in Fort Collins on June 16-19, 2026, to be recognized at an awards banquet. We unfortunately cannot cover travel expenses for this event. In addition, the “Raleigh and Edith Brooks: Salute to Excellence Award” award winner will receive a \$1,000 payment to be used for their 4-H volunteer activities.



Colorado 4-H Volunteer Awards



8. How are awardees selected from the pool of nominees?

First, we will check to ensure all nominees are in good standing with Colorado 4-H and eligible for the award. Then, we will ask their county 4-H specialist(s) for their insights on the volunteer's work. Finally, nominations will be reviewed by a team of 4-H staff and rated based on the selection criteria for the award. The highest rated nominee in each award category will be selected as the winner.

9. What are the selection criteria for each award?

The criteria for each award match up directly with the **bolded words** in each of the nomination questions. For example, Outstanding Club Leader nominees will be scored based on their creation of a vibrant 4-H club environment, their work making 4-H'ers feel welcome, their support of 4-H'ers finding and pursuing their passions, their genuine care, and their overall positive impact.

10. Who do I contact if I have more questions?

If you have questions about your county's nomination process, your eligibility to nominate someone, or a volunteer's eligibility to receive an award, please contact your county 4-H specialist or local Extension office. If you have questions about a nomination form or the statewide awards, please contact Lauren Gibson, Colorado 4-H State Volunteer Development Specialist, at lauren.gibson@colostate.edu.



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