



Maryland 4-H Diamond Clover Award Program

This award is designed to encourage 4-H members ages 8 to 18 to engage in a variety of projects and activities that will enable them to acquire the skills necessary to lead successful lives as competent, caring and contributing citizens.

County/units (4-H Unit means county, city, cluster or Military 4-H program) determine their own timelines for Levels 1-5 and recognize 4-Hers on the county level.

Diamond Level 6 plans will be due September 15th to the State 4-H Office for completion the following year. Watch your county 4-H calendar for due dates for county and committee approval prior to submission at the state level.

Note:

1. The Diamond Clover Award is designed for younger youth to begin at Level One and progress through 6 levels, one level per year, acquiring valuable life skills as he/she advances. Youth who are older when joining 4-H, may begin at a higher level (1 through 4) if mutually agreeable to the participant and the club/group leader *with* the permission of the 4-H Educator.
2. Youth meeting the requirements of levels 1 through 5 will be recognized at a 4-H County/Unit (4-H Unit means county, city, cluster or Military 4-H program) event. Youth meeting the requirements of level 6 will be recognized at an appropriate state event.
3. Diamond Clover Level 6 Service Project Plan approval is not automatic. A youth must apply for Diamond Clover (Level 6) Service Project approval using the appropriate plan/report form due at the state level September 15th.
4. Diamond Clover Level 6 Recognition is not automatic. A youth must submit all completed materials for recognition by October 1st to the State 4-H Office the year the project is complete. If appropriate guidelines are not followed, project will not be recognized. All dates must be clearly adhered to for recognition.

Level One – Amethyst (4-H Club Leader must approve plan prior to youth starting tasks.)

Complete at least **three** of the following tasks:

- Learn the 4-H Pledge, Motto and Colors
- Attend at least 60% of club business meetings
- Participate in at least one local 4-H unit (4-H Unit means county, city, cluster or Military 4-H program) activity or event
- Host a meeting/workshop or provide refreshments or lead a game or give a report
- Complete at least one 4-H project (refer to project completion guidelines)

Level Two – Aquamarine (4-H Club Leader must approve plan prior to youth starting tasks.)

Complete at least **four** of the following tasks:

- Attend at least 60% of club business meetings
- Compete in a local 4-H unit (4-H Unit means county, city, cluster or Military 4-H program) contest
- Participate in at least two local 4-H unit (4-H Unit means county, city, cluster or Military 4-H program) activities or workshops
- Help with a club or community service-learning project
- Help with a club or community fundraiser
- Participate in a day or residential camp or a conference or an overnight experience representing 4-H
- Complete at least one 4-H project from a new project area (refer to project completion guidelines)

Level Three – Ruby (4-H Club Leader must approve plan prior to youth starting tasks.)

Complete at least **five** of the following tasks:

- Attend at least 60% of club business meetings
- Help with a club or community service-learning project

- Help with a club or community fundraiser
- Participate in a 4-H communications event
- Participate in at least two local 4-H unit (4-H Unit means county, city, cluster or Military 4-H program) activities
- Participate in a day or residential camp or a conference or an overnight experience representing 4-H
- Participate in at least one regional or state 4-H event
- Complete at least one 4-H project from a new project area (refer to project completion guidelines)

Level Four – Sapphire (4-H Club Leader must approve plan prior to youth starting tasks.)

Complete at least **six** of the following tasks:

- Attend at least 60% of club business meetings
- Serve as a club/group officer or committee chair
- Provide leadership for a club or community service-learning project
- Provide leadership for a club or community fundraiser
- Compete in a 4-H communications event
- Participate in at least three local 4-H unit (4-H Unit means county, city, cluster or Military 4-H program) activities
- Participate in at least one regional or state 4-H event
- Help a younger member with their project, or demonstration
- Participate in a day camp, or a residential camp, or conference, or overnight experience representing 4-H
- Complete at least one 4-H project from a new project area (refer to project completion guidelines)

Level Five – Emerald (4-H Club Leader and County/City/Military 4-H Program Educator must approve plan prior to youth starting tasks.)

Complete at least **seven** of the following tasks:

- Attend at least 60% of club business meetings
- Serve as a 4-H club/group officer, committee chair or teen leader
- Provide leadership for a club or community service-learning project
- Provide leadership for a club or community fundraiser
- Provide leadership or teach at a local 4-H unit (*4-H Unit means county, city, cluster or Military 4-H program) activity or event
- Compete in a 4-H communications event
- Participate in at least one state 4-H event
- Participate in a national or international event representing 4-H
- Help a younger member with a project exhibit or demonstration
- Participate in a local 4-H unit (4-H Unit means county, city, cluster or Military 4-H program), regional or state residential camp, Teen Focus or 4-H Volunteer and Teen Forum or overnight program representing 4-H
- Participate in an Interstate Exchange
- Complete at least one 4-H project from a new project area (refer to project completion guidelines)

Level Six – Diamond Youth must be 14 as of January 1st when starting the project.

[Local Committee, 4-H Club Leader and County/City/Military 4-H Program Educator, and the State 4-H Program Leader must approve plan prior to youth starting the Level 6 Service Project.]

Complete at least **eight** of the tasks in Level 5 **and** plan, organize, implement, conduct, promote and evaluate a **major service-learning project**.

A major project is one that makes long-lasting benefit to the community, may involve community collaborations to accomplish, may take a year or longer to plan and to complete. The Diamond Clover Project should make a difference in your community. *This requires the 4-Her to complete a project that benefits his/her community. The 4-Her will submit a detailed plan that includes: description of the project, justification for the project, who will be recruited to help, a budget and how funds will be obtained, a projected timeline and any necessary approval letters from landowners, city/county/military 4-H unit, government, etc. The Diamond Clover Committee should consist of, but is not limited to at least three members including: 4-H UME Volunteers, previous Diamond Clover winners, 4-H All Stars and a 4-H Educator, of these three members, the Committee must include at least one of the following: 4-H UME Volunteer, 4-H All Star and/or 4-H Educator. These committee members must be non-related to the Diamond Clover candidate.*

It is the **candidate's** responsibility to contact people to serve as their committee members, not the responsibility of the 4-H Educator. The Local Committee, 4-H Club Leader, Unit 4-H Educator, State 4-H Awards & Recognition Committee, and the State 4-H Program Leader must approve the plan before any work is started. The State Awards & Recognition Committee will forward your plan to the State 4-H Leader (or designee) for final approval. All project funds must be housed in your local 4-H Club Treasury or your local Extension Office Account, not in any personal financial accounts. When the work is completed the 4-Her must submit a detailed report outlining what was accomplished with documentation (photographs, etc.). Diamond Clover Level 6 Recognition is not automatic. A youth must submit all completed materials for recognition by October 1st to the State 4-H Office the year the project is complete. If appropriate guidelines are not followed, project will not be recognized. All dates must be observed to achieve recognition.

The Diamond Clover Project:

- Should make a difference in your community or fulfill a need in the community
- Be a challenge that allows you to develop life skills (planning, organizing, follow through)
- Should involve others in the community and develop community partnerships
- Plan should include how to maintain the project to have lasting impact beyond just one day or one event
- Should take time to develop a detailed plan, to organize, implement, conduct, promote, evaluate and provide follow-up information of the success of your program
- Should take at least an estimated 100 hours to implement and complete
- The sky is your limit....use your creativity and imagination
- The Diamond Clover Project is your project (4-Hers) not your club leaders, parents, committee, or friends!!!

Other Past Samples:

- Develop and maintain a 4-H After-School Program
- Develop a Program to work with Children of Need that will be on-going
- Initiate a River or Beach Cleanup and plan for its sustainability
- Initiate a Blanket Drive for the local hospital for infants and plan for its sustainability
- Painting Quilts on Barns and develop Countywide Driving Tours to benefit county tourism
- Develop or support a Recycling Program at the County Fair or an area of need and plan for its sustainability

Other Samples:

- Landscaped the non-profits grounds, including shrubs, ground cover, and edging and planned for continued maintenance of the garden
- Repaired a local troubled youth facility, inside and out, including woodwork, painting, carpeting
- Collected children's books and toys and setup a play area at a public hospital neighborhood clinic
- Planted trees and placed boulders in a local park to stop off-road vehicles from damaging grounds
- Conducted a bicycle safety program at a community summer camp for underprivileged children and planned for continued bicycle safety programs for this audience
- Built a nature trail and erosion dams in a city park

Project completion guidelines:

- Do work described in the project manual
- Complete a project record, record book or portfolio
- Present a visual presentation related to the project at a club meeting or community activity
- Exhibit something related to the project at a club or local 4-H unit (4-H Unit means county, city, cluster or Military 4-H program) fair
- A new project area is one in which the 4-Her has not completed a project, not a different project in the same project area.

(Note: Project completion requirements may vary by 4-H city/county/military program unit).

Revised 4/12 – csc