



Missouri 4-H Key Award Frequently Asked Questions

When can a member start working on the 4-H Key Award?

The journey for the 4-H Key Award begins when a member is 14 years old as of January 1. They must have been a 4-H member for at least one year.

Rationale: The role of the mentor - to help the member set goals, determine documentation, and reflect upon the experience - is a KEY component. We want the member to reflect upon recent experiences in Leadership, Community Service, Project Excellence and Personal Growth. The mentor is valuable resource to help the member to learn from their experiences.

Many of our 4-H youth development faculty want to keep teens involved in the Missouri 4-H Youth Development Program. By working on the Missouri 4-H Key Award at 14 years of age, we hope to keep older members involved in their local 4-H programs.

Can a parent be a mentor?

We strongly recommend the member choose another adult in 4-H, a favorite teacher or someone they feel confident, comfortable and would enjoy working with. We are not saying that parents cannot serve as a mentor. We feel that the member can benefit greatly by having the perspective of another caring adult role model as they progress towards completing the requirements for the 4-H Key Award.

What are some examples for the definitions of Section C: Community Service?

- 1. Individual Service to 4-H – Thirty (30) hours** or more of accumulative volunteer service (in one or more years) to the local, county or state 4-H program. Examples: Clean-up day at the fair grounds, volunteer at county achievement day, participate in club or county fundraiser, etc.
- 2. Unique Individual Service Project – Thirty (30) hours** or more (in one or more years). A 4-H member designs, conducts and evaluates their own community service project. It does not have to be service to 4-H.
Examples: Organize a community drive for the local food bank, organize your local club to participate in building a house for Habitat for Humanity, design and create a butterfly garden for the local nursing home, etc.
- 3. Group Service Activities – Thirty (30) hours** or more (in one or more years) of accumulated volunteer service the member participated in as a member of a group. This can be as a 4-H member, with clubs or class work at school, with their church or as a member of another group.
Examples: Church youth group clean-up yard for senior members of congregation, 4-H Club picks up trash along the highway, the jazz band plays at a local nursing home over the holidays, etc.

What is the application process?

Each county sets a date to submit award applications. Members should submit to their county extension center the following:

1. Section A. Biographical Data, Page 3
2. Signature Page 4 for the sections of the award completed. A member does not have to wait to complete all 4 sections before submitting. It is recommended that members keep a copy of this page with the dates and signature for future submission of completed sections. For example, if Sarah completes the Leadership section in 2004, she will submit Pages 3 and 4 of the 4-H Key Award to her county extension office sometime late summer or early fall. Sarah should keep a copy of Page 4, so in 2005

when she completes the community service and project excellence criteria for the award, she will have verification she already completed the Leadership Section.

3. Documentation of work.

Does the documentation need to conform exactly as outlined under Application Format on page 1?

No. The member and mentor can determine if another format is more appropriate. It is recommended that if the member deviates from the outlined application, they visit with their local 4-H Youth Specialist or Youth Education Assistant at the beginning of the year to gain their support.

A 4-H member needs to document their work including their reflection and application of the experience. A scrapbook with pictures, captions and some reflective writing is acceptable. Members and mentors may choose to create video essays of their work. Others may want to submit a scrapbook with an audio dialogue. WebPages with pictures and reflective essays are acceptable. Make sure your documentation is accessible.

Do the application and documentation reach state review?

No. The Missouri 4-H Key Award Application stays at the county level. Only the name, address and gender of the member is forwarded to the State 4-H Youth Development programs. Gender is requested so we can order a necklace or tie tack for the member.