



UConn 4-H Volunteer Awards

All Award Nominations consisting of nomination form, narrative and photo of nominee are due to the county 4-H office by July 1st. Criteria for each award is included in this packet. Please use the UConn 4-H Volunteer Recognition form included in the packet for all your nominations. Any group or individual is eligible to submit a nomination to the State Selection Committee on the UConn 4-H Volunteer Recognition form. Each county will be responsible for submitting nominations for the eight awards.

State Awards

Each year outstanding 4-H volunteers are selected to receive recognition for their contributions to the University of Connecticut 4-H Program. Up to one application per award category will be selected from the pool of nominations to receive recognition in March/April as part of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resource Awards Program.

Selection Process

Selections will be made by a State Selection Committee based on submitted nominations received on the county level by July 1.

Guidelines

UConn Extension employees must be retired for three or more years before being eligible for nomination. Unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated for future consideration with an updated nomination submission.

Nomination Process

Nominations are due July 1, at the county 4-H office. A maximum of two nominations per county may be submitted annually. County offices will forward their nominees to the State 4-H Office by July 15th.

Recognition

Recognition of winners will be in conjunction with a statewide or county 4-H event and listing on the UConn 4-H website. UConn 4-H may share the contact information of the nominee and the nominator with local media.

The University of Connecticut complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action, including the provision of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Extension program participants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations to address limitations resulting from a disability. For more information, please contact the UConn Extension Civil Rights Liaison at extensioncivilrights@uconn.edu.



Award categories include:

4-H Leadership Award – This award recognizes individuals providing leadership to organized clubs for a minimum of three years. Selection is based on:

1. Development of unique programs and/or leadership approaches.
2. Involvement of youth in planning and implementing 4-H activities.
3. Involvement of youth in community service activities.
4. Growth exhibited by the individual in their leadership skills and skill in involving youth in the 4-H Program.

Meritorious Service to 4-H Award - The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals and/or organizations who have supported the 4-H program in roles other than direct leadership. Those considered could be recognized for their role as committee persons, donors, board members, resource developers, etc. Selection is based on examples of:

1. The size, scope and significance of the nominee's contribution to the UConn 4-H Program in their volunteer role.
2. How the nominee involves others in their project and/or projects.
3. New resources accrued by the nominee's efforts.
4. Sustained commitment/support to the 4-H program.
5. Any additional statements you feel will illustrate why this volunteer should be selected to receive a Meritorious Service to 4-H Award.

4-H Alumni Award - The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals who were active in the 4-H program as members and have continued their commitment to the program into adulthood. Nominees should have a minimum of three years involvement in the 4-H program in adulthood. Selection is based on:

1. Major accomplishments of individual's 4-H career.
2. Individual's present citizenship/leadership qualities as exemplified in present 4-H, civic, community, school, public service, and other related activities denoting concern for the welfare of others.
3. Evidence of the influence of 4-H training in individual's life and their continuing commitment to 4-H.



UConn 4-H Hall of Fame

The UConn 4-H Hall of Fame provides statewide recognition for individuals and external organizations with significant contributions to the UConn 4-H Youth Development program on every level, preserves UConn 4-H history and development, and has the potential to increase awareness of the 4-H Youth Development program. Potential recipients include 4-H volunteers, 4-H supporters, external collaborating organizations and businesses, community leaders and retired Cooperative Extension staff.

Number of Recipients

Approximately eight honorees selected per year with a goal of a minimum of one honoree per county

Eligibility

4-H volunteers, 4-H supporters, external collaborating organizations and businesses, community leaders, and retired UConn Extension Employees who have benefited from, and attribute their success to their 4-H experiences, or those who have made significant contributions of time, energy, and/or resources to the UConn 4-H Youth Development program. Service at the county, state, regional or national level is required. A minimum of 10 years of UConn 4-H Volunteer Service are required to qualify.

The UConn 4-H Hall of Fame recognizes **significant** contributions (depth, scope and impact) at all levels with 4-H service on the county, state, regional or national level.

Selection is based on four criteria:

- Evidence of a positive impact on the lives of 4-H youth
- Evidence of a positive impact on the 4-H program
- Personal attributes
- Personal involvement in 4-H

Clear evidence of significant contributions with impact and influence on 4-H is essential. Describe programs the nominee established that were multi-faceted, unique and grew because of their leadership. Contributions and leadership that extend beyond county impact are important. This includes changes or additions to 4-H programs initiated by the nominee or as a member of a team. Supportive data should include numbers that show 4-H growth, an increase in member and leadership opportunities, and/or evidence of how the nominee extended 4-H opportunities to existing and new audiences. Evidence may also focus on how 4-H membership impacted career and life choices and a continued connection with 4-H.



UConn 4-H Rising Star Award

UConn 4-H recognizes volunteers who have demonstrated significant dedication and achievement in their first 10 years of 4-H volunteerism by awarding the UConn 4-H Rising Star Volunteer Award. Individuals must have 4-H volunteer involvement at the county, state, regional and/or national level.

Number of Recipients

Approximately eight honorees selected per year with a goal of a minimum of one honoree per county

Eligibility

4-H volunteers, 4-H supporters, external collaborating organizations and businesses, and community leaders who have made significant contributions of time, energy, and/or resources to the UConn 4-H Youth Development program. Service at the county, state, regional or national level is required. A volunteer must have less than 10 years of UConn 4-H volunteer service.

The UConn 4-H Rising Star Award recognizes significant contributions (depth, scope and impact) at all levels with 4-H service on the county, state, regional or national level within the first 10 years of the nominee's career.

Selection is based on four criteria:

- Evidence of a positive impact on the lives of 4-H youth
- Evidence of a positive impact on the 4-H program
- Personal attributes
- Personal involvement in 4-H

Clear evidence of significant contributions with impact and influence on 4-H is essential. Describe programs the nominee established that were multi-faceted, unique and grew because of their leadership. Contributions and leadership that extend beyond county impact are important. This includes changes or additions to 4-H programs initiated by the nominee or as a member of a team. Supportive data should include numbers that show 4-H growth, an increase in member and leadership opportunities, and/or evidence of how the nominee extended 4-H potentials to existing and new audiences. Evidence may also focus on how 4-H membership impacted career and life choices and a continued connection with 4-H.



National Awards

State Selection Process:

- Each county will submit at least one nomination to the State 4-H Office for each of the Salute to Excellence Awards by the July 1st County nomination deadline.
- The UConn 4-H Volunteer Recognition form has been provided in this packet. The selection panel will choose the state winners from the Volunteer Recognition form. Once the state winner has been selected the county educator for the winner will put together the remaining requirements for the national application.

Salute to Excellence Awards - Each year state 4-H programs are invited to nominate two outstanding individual volunteers. Each region will have its own Outstanding Lifetime 4-H Volunteer and Volunteer of the Year. The four regional winners for each award become nominees for the national award, and one volunteer from each category will be named the national winner.

The Lifetime Volunteer Award is given to an individual who has spent 10 or more years volunteering for 4-H. Criteria includes:

- Evidence of a positive impact on the lives of 4-H youth:
 - Demonstrated ability to work with young people in a way that promotes youth empowerment, decision-making, problem-solving, meeting challenges, and mastery.
 - Nominee's dedication to youth/adult partnerships and developing mentor-learner relationships.
- Evidence of a positive impact on the 4-H program:
 - Nominee's innovative approaches to engaging new youth and increasing diversity among participants.
 - Dedication to providing a safe and inclusive environment for youth.
 - Nominee's innovative approaches to performing volunteer service, recruitment of additional 4-H volunteers, partnering with other youth serving agencies, fundraising, providing other resources for 4-H, advocacy for 4-H, etc.
- Personal attributes:
 - Evidence of professional attitude, character, and morals
 - Personal growth from being a 4-H volunteer (that you have observed)

The Volunteer of the Year Award is given to an individual who has volunteered for 4-H less than 10 years. Criteria include:

- Evidence of a positive impact on the lives of 4-H youth:
 - Demonstrated ability to work with young people in a way that promotes youth empowerment, decision-making, problem-solving, meeting challenges, and mastery.
 - Nominee's dedication to youth/adult partnerships and developing mentor-learner relationships.



- Evidence of a positive impact on the 4-H program:
 - Nominee's innovative approaches to engaging new youth and increasing diversity among participants.
 - Dedication to providing a safe and inclusive environment for youth.
 - Nominee's innovative approaches to performing volunteer service, recruitment of additional 4-H volunteers, partnering with other youth serving agencies, fundraising, providing other resources for 4-H, advocacy for 4-H, etc.
- Personal attributes:
 - Evidence of professional attitude, character, and morals
 - Personal growth from being a 4-H volunteer (that you have observed)

National 4-H Hall of Fame – As part of the 4-H Centennial (2002), the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, National 4-H Council and 4-H National Headquarters entered a partnership to create the National 4-H Hall of Fame. The purpose of the National 4-H Hall of Fame is to recognize and celebrate 4-H volunteers, faculty and staff, pioneers, donors and others who made a significant impact on 4-H at the local, state and/or national levels.

Laureate Qualifications:

1. 4-H volunteers, extension professional or staff employees, donors and others who have made a significant contribution of time, energy, financial resources, etc. to the 4-H program and/or 4-H members
2. Professionals of 4-H/Cooperative Extension, Federal Extension System or National 4-H Council including those with 4-H or Extension administrative responsibilities will not be considered until three years following retirement. The three-year rule also applies to deceased employees.
3. Unsuccessful candidates must be re-nominated for future consideration.

Criteria:

1. Citizenship as exemplified by participation in civic, community, state, regional and national public service-related activities evidencing concern for the welfare of others, especially as related to 4-H.
2. Leadership as exemplified by qualities of leadership and acceptance of leadership responsibilities in civic, community, professional and business-related activities that directly or indirectly benefit 4-H.
3. Career Accomplishments as exemplified by accomplishments and success in their chosen career and as a mentor or role model.
4. Character as exemplified by evidence of the influence of 4-H involvement (if a 4-H alumni or volunteer) in the nominee's life and/or their commitment to 4-H.
5. Other beneficial information that would be helpful to the Selection Committee.

State Selection Process:

- Each county will submit at least one nomination to the State 4-H Office by the July 15th nomination deadline.



- The UConn 4-H Volunteer Recognition form has been provided in this packet. The selection panel will choose the state winner from the Volunteer Recognition form. Once the state winner has been selected the county educator for the winner will put together the remaining requirements for the national application.



UConn 4-H Volunteer Recognition Form

Award nominations due to the County 4-H office by July 1st. Please include a high-quality photograph (headshot is preferable) with each nomination.

Name of Nominee: _____

Name as it should appear on award: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

Nominee's Email: _____

Nominee's Number of Years of Service: _____

Nominee's County: _____

Nominated By: _____

Nominators Email: _____

I would like this nominee to be considered for the following awards:

4-H Leadership Award

UConn 4-H Rising Star Award

4-H Alumni Award

National 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer of the Year

Meritorious Service to 4-H Award

National 4-H Salute to Excellence Outstanding Lifetime

UConn 4-H Hall of Fame Award

National 4-H Hall of Fame Award

Please attach a narrative limited to two pages and font no smaller than 12 point and margins a minimum of .5 inches describing how the nominee meets the criteria for the award. Different narratives may be attached for multiple award nominations.



UConn 4-H Volunteer Recognition Rubrics
UConn 4-H Judging Criteria for
4-H Leadership Award

Name of Nominee:

Criteria	Score	Judge's Comments
Development of unique programs and/or leadership approaches (25 points)		
Involvement of youth in planning and implementing 4-H activities (25 points)		
Involvement of youth in community service activities (25 points)		
Growth in leadership skill and skill in involving youth in the 4-H program (25 points)		
TOTAL		



**UConn 4-H Judging Criteria for
Meritorious Service to 4-H Award**

Name of Nominee:

Criteria	Score	Judge's Comments
Size, scope and significance of nominee's contribution to UConn 4-H Program (30 points)		
Involvement of others in their project and/or project(s) (30 points)		
Resources and/or benefits accrued as a result of nominee's efforts (30 points)		
Evidence of sustained commitment/support to the 4-H program. (10 points)		
TOTAL		



**UConn 4-H Judging Criteria for
4-H Alumni Award**

Name of Nominee:

Criteria	Score	Judge's Comments
Major accomplishments of nominee's 4-H career including leadership and citizenship (40 points)		
Nominee's present citizenship and leadership qualities as exemplified in present 4-H, civic, community, school, public service and other related activities denoting concern for the welfare of others (40 points)		
Evidence of the influence of 4-H training in nominee's life and nominee's continuing commitment to 4-H and its ideals (20 points)		
TOTAL		



**UConn 4-H Judging Criteria for
UConn 4-H Hall of Fame Award & UConn 4-H Rising Star Award**

Name of Nominee:

Criteria	Score	Judge's Comments
Evidence of a positive impact on the lives of 4-H youth. (25 points)		
Evidence of a positive impact on the 4-H program. (25 points)		
Personal Attributes (25 points)		
Personal Involvement in 4-H. (25 points)		
TOTAL		



**UConn 4-H Judging Criteria for
State Nominee - Salute to Excellence Lifetime Volunteer Award and
Volunteer of the Year Award**

Name of Nominee:

Criteria	Score	Judge's Comments
Demonstrated ability to work with young people in a way that promotes youth empowerment, decision-making, problem-solving, meeting challenges, and mastery. (15 points)		
Dedication to youth/adult partnerships and developing mentor-learner relationships. (15 points)		
Innovative approaches to engaging new youth and increasing diversity among participants. (15 points)		
Dedication to providing a safe and inclusive environment for youth. (15 points)		
Innovative approaches to performing volunteer service, recruitment of additional 4-H volunteers, partnering with other youth serving agencies, fundraising, providing other resources for 4-H, advocacy for 4-H, etc. (15 points)		
Evidence of professional attitude, character and morals. (15 points)		
Personal growth from being a 4-H volunteer. (10 points)		
TOTAL		



**UConn 4-H Judging Criteria for
State Nominee - National 4-H Hall of Fame Award**

Name of Nominee:

Criteria	Score	Judge's Comments
Citizenship as exemplified by participation in civic, community, state, regional and national public service related activities evidencing concern for the welfare of others, especially as related to 4-H (25 points)		
Leadership as exemplified by qualities of leadership and acceptance of leadership responsibilities in civic, community, professional and business related activities that directly or indirectly benefit 4-H (25 points)		
Career accomplishments as exemplified by accomplishments and success in nominee's chosen career and as a mentor or role model (25 points)		
Character as exemplified by evidence of the influence of 4-H involvement (if a 4-H alumni or volunteer) in the nominee's life and /or nominee's commitment to 4-H (25 points)		
TOTAL		

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