



Applications due November 15, 2009

E-mail to Barb Piehl, Extension Educator piehl001@umn.edu

Or mail to Barb Piehl, Extension Regional Office, 550 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, L-1, Andover, MN 55304

763-767-3882



Volunteer RECOGNITION Awards

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. The National 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer Recognition Award recognizes 4-H volunteers who demonstrate exemplary service to 4-H, while promoting service through volunteerism as both an opportunity and a privilege.

In 2010,

- Minnesota 4-H will select an *Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer* and *Volunteer of the Year* award winner.
- These two will be Minnesota's nominations for the North Central Region.
- North Central Regional winners will join 3 other regions to compete for the honor as the national winner.

I. Selection Criteria

1. The *Volunteer of the Year Award* is for individuals who have served as 4-H volunteers for **less than 10 years** at the county or state level.
2. The *Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award* is for individuals who have served **10 or more years** at the county or state level.
3. Nominations/letters of recommendation **must address** the following **selection criteria**:
 - Positive impact the nominee has had on 4-H and 4-H youth,
 - Nominee's ability to work with young people on projects and activities in a way that promotes decision-making, problem-solving, meeting challenges, mastery and youth/adult partnerships,
 - Nominee's innovative approaches to engaging youth and increasing diversity among participants,
 - How nominee exemplifies a "mentor-learner" relationship with participants,



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- Dedication to a safe and inclusive environment, How nominee models character and professional behavior when interacting with participants, families, and community partners,
- Nominee's innovative approaches to performing volunteer service, Increased funding/resources generated by nominee,
- Recruitment of additional 4-H volunteer, Personal growth from being a 4-H volunteer (that you have observed)

II. Application Guidelines

1. **Application materials must be submitted by a nominator to Barb Piehl, Extension Educator, piehl001@umn.edu by November 15, 2009.** Minnesota will select one nominee for each category from its pool of nominations, to be submitted for the regional award. Two recipients will be selected from each region; one for each category mentioned above. From the eight regional winners, one person from each category will be named the national award recipient.
2. Each completed application must include a completed **“Minnesota Salute to Excellence Nomination Form”** and be accompanied by **three letters of recommendation**. Letters of recommendation must be written by a 4-H staff member, 4-H youth participant, another volunteer, or a parent/guardian. **Letters should be no longer than 2 pages in length, in 12-point font with 1-inch margins.**
3. Incomplete applications will be disqualified

III. Award Information

1. Minnesota winners will be announced by January 1, 2010. Recognition will happen at the 2010 M4-HAVA forum. Minnesota winners will each receive a plaque.
2. Regional winners will be announced by January 14, 2010. Regional winners will be recognized at their 2010 Regional Volunteer Leaders Forum. Each regional winner will receive a personalized plaque, and \$200 cash award to be donated to a local 4-H program of their choice.
3. National winners will be announced in April 2010.
4. National winners will be recognized at the 2010 Hall of Fame Ceremony in Washington, D.C. Each will receive a plaque and \$1,000 cash award to be donated to a local 4-H program of their choice.
5. Awardees should be prepared to provide information in subsequent years regarding the impact of the award on their community.

Thank you for your interest in the 2010 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer Recognition Awards!





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2010 Minnesota Salute to Excellence Nomination Form

This person is nominated for the:

Volunteer of the Year Award

Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award

Nominee Contact Information

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

How many years has this person served as a 4-H volunteer? ____ years

Nominator Contact Information

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

Attach three letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation must be written by a 4-H staff member, 4-H youth participant, another volunteer, or a parent/guardian. **Letters should be no longer than 2 pages in length, in 12-point font with 1-inch margins.**