



4-H Quick Tips - Leadership In Action Program

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

- 4-H Leadership in Action is designed to recognize the work Junior and Senior 4-H'ers do as leaders in their communities. All 4-H'ers who meet the requirements of the local and state level earn recognition with a certificate. 4-H'ers may receive recognition each year they apply.
- Programs in Leadership in Action assist agents by providing 4-H'ers an opportunity to become active and engaged in local initiatives and issues.
- The program focuses on the process of leadership engagement by the 4-H'er.
- Teen Leadership will provide added visibility for the total Extension program as 4-H'ers are given the opportunity to organize projects which enhance the quality of life in their local communities.
- 4-H'ers have a choice of applying for local recognition and state recognition. Both levels require the same application; however, state recognition requires additional documentation. Brief descriptions of the levels are:
- **Local Level Recognition** recipients must participate in at least one project involving the community, environment, or agriculture. 4-H'ers will be asked to document the planning, conducting, implementing, and evaluating of their projects. This project is designed so that teens may confront issues in their community. 4-H'ers are able to select an area of interest and plan activities to teach others. The 4-H'ers must take a full leadership role in planning and conducting these activities. The award is designed to recognize the leadership process.
- **State Level Recognition** requires additional documentation of the 4-H'ers involvement in the community. Additionally, senior 4-H'ers may seek recognition as a state winner in the competitive phase and will participate in an application screening and interview process.
- 4-H'ers will earn certificates for each level if they meet the requirements. State level recognition includes competitive programs with winners receiving additional recognition. [Remember that 4-H'ers do not have to have outstanding, unique, creative projects to earn certificates. Each 4-H'er should be recognized for the work he/she has done.]

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

- A volunteer may be teamed with a 4-H'er to provide ideas, supplies, or transportation needed.
- Teens who organize a club of young members are themselves volunteers for the county 4-H program.

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION RECOGNITION PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

- Applications for local and state recognition can be found in the Leadership in Action section of the Georgia 4-H website www.georgia4h.org. Examples of project ideas for both the junior and senior level are also available on the website.
- County registration of applications must be completed by April 1 via the Georgia 4-H Online Event Registration Site. 4-H'ers not registered online may be disqualified from competition.
- All applications must be postmarked on or before April 1 and mailed to the State 4-H Office. Include a copy of your online registration to insure all applications are received. Late applications may not be accepted.
- All applications must be certified with the agent signature. The signature indicates that, to the best of your knowledge, the 4-H'er has accurately represented his or her work. Unsigned applications will not be awarded certificates.
- Applications should reflect a 4-H'ers work during the previous one year, April 1 of the previous year to March 31 of the application year.
- In order to receive Local recognition, a 4-H'er must complete Part 1 of the application. However, State recognition may be earned with the completion of Parts I and II of the application. The application is an opportunity for the 4-H'er to "tell the story" of their work. From a leadership perspective, it is very important that the 4-H'ers role in the work is conveyed.

The Application:

Follow the guideline found on the Leadership in Action section at www.georgia4h.org.

Part I

- **Situation:** Describe the community, environmental or agricultural issue in which you have chosen to be involved (limit 100 words).
- **Response:** Describe how you have been a community leader by becoming involved in the issue (limit 500 words). Suggestions for preparing your response include but are not limited to:
 - How have you built relationships to get involved?
 - How have you influenced or educated others to become involved?
 - How did your target special needs/at risk audiences?
 - How have you promoted the issue and 4-H?
 - What have you done to improve the situation (public relations, activities, clubs, etc)? Include the role you played
 - List involvement in a timeline
- **Impact:** Describe how your involvement has improved or influenced the situation. (limit 300 words)
- **Evaluation:** Describe your experience in terms of lessons learned, ideas for improvement, next steps (limit 300 words)

Part II (required for state recognition)

In addition to Part I, 4-H'ers may attach the following items and receive state recognition.

- No more than 2 8 ½ × 11 pages of supporting documentation. This may include but is not limited to photos, news clippings, brochures and programs. Documentation must lay flat and can not had foldouts for additional space. Paper may be any color and documentation may be labeled in any color ink.
- One letter of recommendation from a community leader who is aware of the 4-H'ers work. This recommendation should not come from an Extensions agent or family member.
- Conduct at least one 4-H public relations activity.

Application and Award

Local Recognition:

4-H'er who gain Local recognition status (completing Part I) will be rewarded with a certificate.

Junior State Recognition (must submit Part I and II):

Juniors meeting the criteria for state level recognition will receive a state recognition certificate. Additionally, two juniors from each district will be selected as "Outstanding Community Leaders" and will be recognized with a plaque during State Council (if awarded as an 8th grader) or Jr. Conference (if awarded as a 7th grader).

Senior State Recognition (must submit Part I and II):

Seniors meeting the criteria for state level recognition will receive a state recognition certificate. 4-H'ers may opt to receive the certificate only and not participate in the

competition phase.

4-H'ers who indicated their desire to participate in the competition phase will have their application screened and may be selected for a district interview. Candidates in each district will be notified to participate in the district interview process. Through the district interview process, senior 4-H'er will advance to the state interview competition held at State Congress. Each state finalist will receive a \$50 dollar savings bond. 4-H'ers are eligible to receive this award more than once; although if they are one of the top TWO State Recognition winners they may no longer compete in this area because they gain Master 4-H status. The two 4-H'ers selected as state winners will individually select EITHER a trip to National 4-H conference or a \$500 scholarship. Awards will be presented at State Congress.

PROMOTION:

- Agents should promote the 4-H Leadership in Action program at the beginning of the 4-H portfolio year or school year.
- Teens may complete projects and activities or hold meetings associated with the Leader in Action program at any time during the year.

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