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 2013, eight regional honorees will be selected. Each region will have its own Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer and Volunteer of the Year. The eight regional winners become nominees for the national award, and one volunteer in each category will be named 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 local, county, district or state level.
2. The Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award is for individuals who have served 10 or more years at the local, county, district or state level.
3. A completed nomination will consist of an overview resume of the applicant’s 4-H and relevant community volunteer experiences and three (3) letters of recommendation. A template for the resume is provided and should be followed in developing the nomination packet. A packet missing any of the four components is eliminated (resume & 3 letters).
4. Nominations/letters of recommendation must address the following selection criteria:
   - Positive impact the nominee has had on 4-H and on 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 (Positive Youth Development opportunities)
   - Nominee’s innovative approaches to engaging youth and increasing diversity among participants
   - How nominee exemplifies a “mentor-learner” relationship with participants
   - 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/new initiatives generated by nominee
   - Recruitment of additional 4-H volunteers
   - Personal growth from being a 4-H volunteer (that you have observed)
   - Letter writers should be aware of the scorecard and address the relevant points in developing their documents.

II. Application Guidelines

1. Application materials must be submitted by a nominator to the nominee's State 4-H Office. Each State 4-H Office 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 be accompanied by three letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation can be written by a 4-H staff member, 4-H youth participant, another volunteer, or a parent/guardian but must include one youth. Letters should be no longer than 2 pages in length, in 12-point font with 1-inch margins.

3. A resume of 4-H experiences and community service must be included and should follow the template provided. It is limited to 2 pages in length, in 12-point font with a one-inch margin.

III. Award Information

1. Nominations are due no later than November 2, 2012.
2. Regional winners will be announced by December 2, 2012.
3. Regional winners will be recognized at their 2013 Regional Volunteer Leaders Forum. The state 4-H volunteer specialist will work with National 4-H Council to determine another award venue if a regional forum is not scheduled for 2013.
4. Each regional winner will receive a personalized plaque, and $200 cash award to be donated to a local 4-H program of their choice.
5. National winners will be announced in April, 2013, National Volunteer Month
6. National winners will be recognized at the 2013 NAE4-HA Awards Program at Galaxy in Pittsburg, PA. Each will receive a plaque and $1,000 cash award to be donated to a local 4-H program of their choice.
7. Awardees should be prepared to provide information in subsequent years regarding the impact of their awards on their community

IV. Instructions for State 4-H Offices

State 4-H Officials must fill in items at the end of the nomination form.

Only the State 4-H Office can officially designate a volunteer as a state nominee. Nominations submitted through State 4-H Office must be received through Council’s Web Grants system at http://grants.4-h.org/index.do no later than 11:59 PM EST on November 2, 2012. The Web Grant system will be able to receive nominations between September 4 and November 2, 2012. Attachments (i.e. resume and letters of recommendation) should be in Word format. Fax submissions will not be accepted.

If your nominee is selected, you agree to the criteria set forth in this application and also agree to utilize the 4-H name and emblem when implementing and publicizing the program.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED

Thank you for your interest in the 2013 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer Recognition Awards!