

Ohio State University Fact Sheet

State 4-H Office

2120 Fyffe Rd., Columbus, OH 43210-1084

123 Ways to Recognize 4-H Members

4H-026-99

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Everyone likes to be appreciated for doing a good job. Recognition activities need not be formal, public, or expensive. Following is a list of informal recognition ideas that are either inexpensive or no cost and can be utilized to recognize 4-H members.

- ! Send cards for achievements (birthday, promotion, graduation, etc.)
- ! Write a news article for the local newspaper, highlighting a 4-Her's contribution or impact.
- ! Write an article for the 4-H newsletter.
- ! Send a thank-you note.
- ! Smile.
- ! Send a holiday greeting card.
- ! Say "thank you" publicly.
- ! Ask a 4-Her for their input.
- ! Utilize a 4-Her suggestion box.
- ! Ask a 4-Her to serve in a leadership role.
- ! Present service stripes or candy canes with the message "You've earned your stripes!"
- ! Ask a 4-Her to conduct a program.
- ! Have a soft drink party.
- ! Ask a 4-Her to coordinate an activity.
- ! Shake hands.
- ! Plan a theme party (toga, costume, western, etc.)
- ! Give a pat-on-the-back.
- ! Invite 4-Hers to staff meetings. Encourage participation.
- ! Ask a 4-Her to develop a display.
- ! Send a 4-Her to a conference.
- ! Ask the 4-Her to present a report, or workshop on some aspect of the conference.

- ! Cultivate 4-Hers' special interests.
- ! Utilize 4-Hers' unique talents.
- ! Be flexible.
- ! Share the success or impact of one 4-Her with others at a meeting or gathering.
- ! Provide certificates, plaques, pins, etc.
- ! Provide free admission, parking, etc.
- ! Take an interest in personal lives.
- ! Have a "4-Her of the month" award.
- ! Host a banquet, luncheon, dessert, tea, or reception in the 4-Hers' honor.
- ! Invite a 4-Her to lunch.
- ! Reimburse gas money for club activities.
- ! Establish a 4-H Honor Roll.
- ! Ask an effective 4-Her to each recruit another 4-Her who is "just like you."
- ! Discuss activities with 4-Hers after participation.
- ! Always use a person's first name.
- ! Nominate a 4-Her to teach a workshop at a conference or symposium.
- ! Assist with workshop preparation.
- ! Label the coffee pot. ("Vicki pours herself out for us!" or "Joe keeps things perking!")
- ! Greet each 4-Her with enthusiasm and appreciation.
- ! Ask a 4-Her to mentor a new recruit.
- ! Send Hershey's Kisses.
- ! Provide orientation for each 4-H ceremony, activity, or duty.
- ! Send peppermint candies with the message "You're worth a mint!"
- ! Develop leadership skills and self-confidence.
- ! Ask a 4-Her for their input or opinion.
- ! Recognize and share innovative suggestions or programs.
- ! Be patient.
- ! Recognize community service activities.
- ! Take time to explain.
- ! Send get well cards.
- ! Recognize 4-Hers for contributions.
- ! Recognize years of 4-H membership.
- ! Practice the "Platinum Rule." ("Do unto others as they prefer being done unto.")
- ! Recognize the impact of the number of hours contributed to 4-H.
- ! Ask a 4-Her to speak on behalf of 4-H to an outside agency.
- ! Ask a 4-Her to speak to a donor.
- ! Ask a 4-Her to speak at a 4-H meeting.
- ! Run a photograph and story in the paper.
- ! Ask a 4-Her to write a news article or release.
- ! Foster personal growth.
- ! Ask a 4-Her to make a television appearance or radio announcement.
- ! Provide scholarships to conferences.
- ! Promote a 4-Her to a higher level responsibilities.
- ! Recognize the achievements, accomplishments, or activities of those with whom the 4-Her works.
- ! Ask the 4-Her to direct a membership recruitment campaign.
- ! Share a 4-Her's personal success story.
- ! Provide 4-Hers with their own work area.
- ! Be respectful.
- ! Schedule monthly birthday bashes.
- ! Have a program participant share a success story about the 4-Her.
- ! Write letters of reference.
- ! Surprise a 4-Her with a birthday cake.
- ! Utilize a 4-Her as a consultant.

- ! Send flowers.
- ! Nominate 4-Hers for awards.
- ! Attend personal celebrations (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.)
- ! Recognize 4-Hers and accomplishments.
- ! Make home visits.
- ! Make sure that each 4-Her is a "good fit" with their leadership role.
- ! Let each 4-Her know they were missed.
- ! Make telephone calls.
- ! Encourage people to send thank-you notes.
- ! Plan an outing (picnic, theater, ball game, family day, pool party, etc.)
- ! Praise in public, especially in front of family and friends.
- ! Encourage program participants to send birthday cards.
- ! Have a birthday column in your 4-H newsletter.
- ! Send a note of congratulations for personal and professional achievements.
- ! Send thank-you notes to parent.
- ! Send thank-you notes to the 4-Her's employer acknowledging the employee's contribution.
- ! Encourage others to express appreciation.
- ! Send 4-Hers an "Encouragemint."
- ! Ask 4-Hers to chaperone trips.
- ! Ask 4-Hers to work with younger members.
- ! Send handwritten notes.
- ! Give complimentary gift certificates.
- ! Print business cards for 4-Hers.
- ! Ask a 4-Her to co-present a workshop.
- ! Stage a potluck dinner in a 4-Her's honor.
- ! Attend 4-Hers' activities and sporting events.
- ! Bounce new ideas off of a 4-Her.
- ! Involve 4-Hers in problem solving.
- ! Organize a card shower for a 4-Her.
- ! Plant a tree or flower bed in a 4-Her's name.
- ! Contribute to a charity in a 4-Her's name.
- ! Send spices with a note, 'You're the spice of life!'
- ! Print and distribute bumper stickers.
- ! Provide caps or shirts to promote unity.
- ! Organize a holiday open house.
- ! Feature a 4-Her in a slide show.
- ! Provide reserved seating at any event.
- ! Provide favors at meetings or events.
- ! Direct newspaper reporters to worthy 4-Hers when writing a news story.
- ! Send balloons.
- ! Surprise everyone by bringing donuts.
- ! Send cookies.
- ! Encourage 4-Hers to provide leadership in their community.
- ! Give a 4-Her a light bulb or candle with the message, "You light up my life."
- ! Send valentines.
- ! Give calendars, notepads, pens, or pencils.
- ! Be pleasant and appreciative.
- ! Serve refreshments.
- ! Send e-mail messages or thank-you notes.
- ! Reward 4-Hers by sending them through the refreshment line first.

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