MD 4-H Diamond Clover Awards

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Maryland 4-H Mission

● Help **all** youth reach their full potential
● Teach useful **life skills**
● **Community** focused, research based
● *Create competent, caring, independent and responsible individuals*
Guiding Principles:
The Essential Elements of 4-H

**Belonging**
A positive relationship with a caring adult
Inclusive environment
A safe environment

**Mastery**
Engagement in learning
Learn new skills

**Independence**
Opportunity to see oneself as an active participant in the future
Opportunity for self-determination

**Generosity**
Opportunity to value and practice service for others
4-H Behavioral Expectations**

- Provides opportunities for character building
- Based on Six Pillars of Character Counts!™
  - Trustworthiness*
  - Respect*
  - Responsibility*
  - Fairness*
  - Caring*
  - Citizenship*
What is the 4-H Diamond Clover Award Program?

- 4-H award program, tiered similar to Boy Scout/Girls Scout awards programs
- A motivator for 4-H members to learn
- A way to teach 4-H members about goal setting
The “Levels” of Diamond Clover Awards

- Amethyst
- Aquamarine
- Ruby
- Sapphire
- Emerald
- Diamond
Basic Expectations for 4-H’ers

- Learn 4-H Pledge, motto, colors
- Attend meetings
- Complete 4-H project
- Participate in county 4-H event
Adding a bit more . . .

- Help w/fundraising
- Do community service project
- Attend camp
- Complete a new 4-H project
Increasing Expectations

- Help younger member w/project
- Represent 4-H in national or international event
- Major service-learning project*
The Diamond Clover Plan & Report

- Set goals*
- Aspire to reach challenges
- Earn recognition
- Keep motivated
- Check progress*
Diamond Clover Plans

- Complete in the beginning of the calendar year
- Leaders/parents assist youth in picking items to focus on at each level
- Progressively higher expectations through the levels
- Plans stay with Club Leaders for Levels 1-4
Diamond Clover Reports

- Levels 1-4 Reports stay with Club Leaders
- Club Leaders send 4-H Office names & levels of members completing each level that year*
- County recognition at Achievement Night for Levels 1-4
Emerald Clover

Reports

- Submitted to County 4-H Office*
- Complete at end of the calendar year
- **Recognition** at MD State 4-H Gala*
Diamond Clover

- Sizable project, long-term commitment
- Community benefit
- Planning
- Sustainability
- Prior approval
- Submit to MD State 4-H Diamond Clover Committee (fall)
Resources

- Maryland 4-H Diamond Clover Award Program Description
  http://www.extension.umd.edu/4-h/youth-families/awards-recognition
Questions?

- Thank you!