



Maryland 4-H Diamond Clover Award Program

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Diamond Clover Award? The award consists of six levels that require a 4-H member to plan and accomplish a broad range of age-appropriate goals, acquiring valuable life skills as they progress. Completion of the Diamond Clover levels is optional.

How does a 4-H member apply for the award?

A 4-H member may download the Diamond Clover Plan/Report form for a certain level from the Maryland 4-H web page or request a form from their 4-H Office. Each county/city 4-H office has specific dates and guidelines for submitting a Diamond Clover Plan/Report Form. Contact your local office for procedures.

- Level 6 Diamond Clover Project Proposals must be submitted for approval to the Maryland State 4-H Office by September 30. Local 4-H Offices will have an earlier submission deadline for county/city approval prior to state submission.



What are the six levels? The Diamond Clover is designed with six levels, each with a corresponding gemstone identifier:

- Level 1 – Amethyst
- Level 2 – Aquamarine
- Level 3 – Ruby
- Level 4 – Sapphire
- Level 5 – Emerald, and
- Level 6 – Diamond.

What are the activity requirements for each level? Each level is intended to promote life skills development, and the goals increase in rigor as members progress from levels 1 to 6. A checklist of suggested goals is included on each level's Diamond Clover plan. The lists of goals have been created to enable any 4-H member to be successful.



Are approvals required? In Levels 1- 4, the 4-H member's parent/guardian and the club or group leader are required to review Section 1 and sign Section 2 of the plan and the final year-end Reflection in Section 3 when the plan is completed. The local 4-H educator/staff is required to review and sign off on a Level 5 plan. Level 6 must be reviewed and approved by the local educator and the State 4-H Office. Level 6 projects should not begin until state-level project approval is given and the 4-H member is notified.

What is unique about Level 6? The Diamond Clover Level 6 Service Learning Project enables a 4-H member to demonstrate life skills including leadership, planning, and organization as they complete a major community service project. In order to qualify for Diamond Clover recognition, the project must be large enough in scale or scope to demonstrate investment of time and effort that will result in sustained community benefits.

What types of projects are acceptable as Level 6 projects? A Level 6 service learning project is more than a one-day event and should take approximately 100 hours to plan, implement

and complete. The project should have a lasting community impact. Youth typically work with non-profit or community organizations. Examples of projects include building permanent structures, developing ongoing educational or community events and programs, improving the environment, and much more. Youth are encouraged to be creative and imaginative.

What is the time frame for the award?

A 4-H member may complete one level per year. With planning and implementation, the Level 6 proposal and project may take longer than 1 year.

At which age do 4-H members start? Members may begin Level 1 at 4-H age 9 and may complete one level per year. Older members may begin at an appropriate higher level in order to complete Level 6 by 4-H age 18. Your local 4-H Office can assist with this determination.

How are accomplishments documented? After accomplishing each level's planned goals, a 4-H member will complete the Reflection section of the Plan. This includes written documentation of the goal completed and the life skills used. Youth may submit copies of letters, emails, photos or other documents with the final report, but this is not required until Level 6. Level 6 has several specific final reporting requirements.



How and when are successful 4-H members recognized? Youth are recognized with a pin containing a simulated gemstone center representing the color of that level. Pins for Levels 1 - 4 will be presented at a local 4-H awards program, and Levels 5 and 6 will be presented at an appropriate state event. A certificate of achievement may be included with the pin.

Is completing a 4-H project necessary to complete a level? No. However, completion of a 4-H project and the submission of the 4-H project record is a goal that youth may choose in the Head section of every Diamond Clover level. It is up to each 4-H member if they want to choose that goal for completion.

What does completing a new project mean?

The requirement when choosing this goal is for a youth to select a new project area for each level. For example, a 4-H member might start with a sheep project for Level 1, a photography project for Level 2, woodworking for Level 3, a beef project for Level 4, etc. Youth cannot have done the project before selecting it as a new project and youth cannot repeat the same project for any level.

Is it possible for a 4-H member's plan to be revised? Yes. If for some good reason (death of an animal, drought damaged garden, illness, etc.) a 4-H member is unable to complete his or her plan, they may request to revise the plan. Revising a Level 5 plan requires local 4-H educator/staff. Revising a Level 6 plan requires 4-H educator/staff and State 4-H Office approval.

Where can I find more information? All information is available on the Maryland 4-H web page. Contact your local 4-H educator/staff for answers to questions specific to your 4-H county/city.

Diamond Clover FAQ: Developed 2003. Complete revision 2020 by the following committee - Bonnie Boyden, Tom Hutson, Alex Chan, Elizabeth Hill, Becky Ridgeway, and Gretchen Sumbrum.