

WISCONSIN 4-H KEY AWARD PROGRAM

1. The Wisconsin 4-H Key Award Program recognizes a select group of 4-H participants who have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills and actively participated in the functions of their 4-H club and community.
2. To be eligible, candidates for this award must be at least in 9th grade or older, and must have completed at least three years of 4-H and one year of youth leadership.
3. Selection of Key Award recipients is the responsibility of each county. Selection should be based on an evaluation of the candidate's total 4-H record (membership, projects, activities, leadership, personal development and county 4-H and community involvement.).
4. The quota of award recipients per county is determined by county 4-H enrollment of youth ages 14 years and older. The State 4-H Office announces the quota early in the year for that year. The names of county Key Award recipients are due to the State 4-H Office in May.
5. The State 4-H Office mails Key Award materials to each county. Each Key Award recipient receives a framed certificate and a Key Award pin.
6. It is strongly recommended that counties include presentation of the Key Awards as part of a county 4-H awards program or other special event. Counties are further encouraged to invite local representatives of state sponsors of the Wisconsin 4-H Key Awards Program to participate in the presentation.
7. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau and its affiliate, Rural Insurance Companies, have sponsored the Wisconsin 4-H Key Award Program since 1974. Names and addresses of the state sponsors are listed below.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau

Attn: Darlene Arneson, Director
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation
PO Box 550
Madison WI 53705-0550

Rural Insurance Companies

Attn: Peter Pelizza
CEO Rural Mutual Insurance Company
PO Box 5555
Madison WI 53705-0555

8. Key Award recipients are strongly encouraged to send a note of appreciation to state sponsors. A listing of state sponsors is included with the Key Award materials and should be distributed to all recipients.
9. The State 4-H Office annually requests information on county 4-H Key Award presentation plans. This information is shared with the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, the state sponsors and their local representatives. Although local representatives are informed of county presentation plans, it remains the county 4-H programs' responsibility to invite local representatives to participate in the award presentation.

For more information concerning the Key Award Program, contact Pat Harrington, Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, 428 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St, Madison WI 53703-1195, 608-262-1285, email: pat.harrington@uwex.edu or Marcia Jespersen, 431 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St, Madison WI 53703-1195, 608-262-1221, email: marcia.jespersen@uwex.edu.