



Delaware 4-H Diamond Clover Award FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Diamond Clover? The full name of the award is the Diamond Clover 4-H Award Program, available for the first time in 2003. Maryland is believed to be first in the nation to offer this type of award. The award consists of six levels that each require a 4-Her to plan and accomplish a broad range of age-appropriate tasks, acquiring valuable life skills as they progress. The Diamond Clover is designed to enable every 4-H member willing to exert the effort, regardless of how they are engaged in 4-H, to be successful. This award is a new form of recognition and is not intended as a replacement for existing awards. The Diamond Clover should also be considered optional, as **requiring** 4-Hers to participate is **not appropriate**. The Diamond Clover is not intended as a replacement for record books or resumes, nor are the reports interchangeable. Those 4-Hers completing their record book/resume by computer will find ample opportunities to “cut and paste” between documents as some of the requested information is very similar.

How does a 4-Her earn the award? The process begins with a 4-Her downloading the Diamond Clover Plan/Report form from the Delaware 4-H web page (or requesting a form from their leader or 4-H Office). The next step is choosing the age-appropriate activities they will accomplish from the suggested list. The next is a review and approval of the plan by the 4-Her's parent or guardian. The club or group leader will review the plan and approve it or make suggestions for improvement. The first four levels should be considered as an agreement between the 4-H member and club or group leader. Local leaders know their 4-H members well and are in the best position to challenge those members who need motivation and to guide those members who need help in developing an achievable plan. Level Five also requires the approval of the local 4-H educator. Level Six is more involved and requires the 4-H member to work with a locally appointed Diamond Clover Committee that includes the club or group leader and the 4-H educator and approval by the State 4-H Program Leader or designate. When the 4-Her has completed their plan he/she submits a brief report documenting the work.

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

- Level One – Amethyst
- Two – Aquamarine
- Three – Ruby
- Four – Sapphire
- Five – Emerald
- Six – Diamond

What are the requirements of each level? A list of suggested tasks for each level is available on the Diamond Clover 4-H Awards Program Guidelines. These tasks are age-appropriate and grow in quantity and difficulty as the 4-H member grows. Participants will choose from among the tasks listed and are encouraged to explore a wide variety of 4-H projects, contests and activities to enable them to acquire the life skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. The list of tasks have been created to enable any 4-H member, no matter how they are engaged in 4-H, to be successful. The task list should not be considered exhaustive. Club leaders may

suggest other tasks, comparable to those provided, to improve the individual learning experience of each 4-H member.

What is the time frame for the award? A 4-Her may complete one level per year. The purpose of the award is to enable 4-Hers to acquire as many life skills as possible at each level. The goal of the awards program is a rich and diverse learning experience, not being the first to finish. Think of this award program as a journey, not a destination.

At which level do older 4-Hers start? For the best possible experience, 4-Hers should progress through as many levels as possible. The goal of the award is for every 4-H member to have the opportunity to earn the Diamond Clover. Older 4-Hers, who by starting at level 1 and completing one level per year, would “age out” (reach their 19th birthday) before reaching level six, may begin at a higher level. The 4-Her’s leader will help determine where they should begin. The local 4-H educator must be involved in the planning process for 4-Hers starting level 5. Only 18 year old 4-Hers should begin with level six.

How are accomplishments documented? After completing the planned tasks, a 4-Her will submit a short report, using the bottom section of the form they used to plan their work at the beginning of the year. The form will be submitted to the 4-H club or group leader for the first four levels. The local 4-H educator will approve the level five report, and the local Diamond Clover Committee and State 4-H Program Leader (or designate) will approve the level six report. The report form will be available to download from the Delaware 4-H web page. The Diamond Clover report is not intended as a replacement for a record book or resume. Four-Hers who complete their record book/resume on the computer will find ample opportunities to “cut and paste” between the documents as some of the requested information is very similar.

How and when are successful 4-Hers recognized? A distinctive pin, unlike any other 4-H award, was designed by a 4-Her in a design contest. The pin for each level will have a simulated gem stone center representing the color of that level. A certificate of achievement will also be provided to document the completion of each level. The pins for the first four levels will be presented at a 4-H county award program, with levels 5 and 6 being presented at an appropriate state event.

Is completing a project necessary to complete a level? Completing at least one project as one of the tasks for each level is strongly encouraged but not required, as some 4-Hers are engaged in a 4-H group or activity not related to project work. Local 4-H club and group leaders should encourage their members to complete at least one project at each level, when possible, as some of the most valuable learning experiences 4-H provides happens as part of project work.

What does completing a variety of projects mean? It is the intent of the State 4-H Awards and Recognition Committee, for a 4-Her to choose at least one project from a different project category for each level. For example, if a 4-Her completed a livestock project for level one, they would select something other than an animal project for level two. Ideally, 4-Hers would choose a project to complement their major interest project. For example, a 4-Her might start with a livestock project for level one, a photography project for level two, a foods or woodworking project for level three, etc.

Is it possible for a 4-Her's plan to be amended? Yes. Think of the plan for levels one – four as an agreement between the member and the club or group leader. If for some good reason (death of an animal, drought damaged garden, etc.), a 4-H member is unable to complete his or her plan, they may negotiate an amendment with their 4-H club or group leader. Amending the plan for levels five and six require approval from the local 4-H educator and/or Diamond Clover Committee.

Where can I find more information? The State 4-H Awards Committee will continue to develop resources to support the Diamond Clover 4-H Award Program. All information will be available on the Delaware 4-H web page (de4h.org).

How was the Diamond Clover created? A large number of Maryland 4-H educators and specialists were involved in the creation of this new award. Dan Tabler, Wicomico County 4-H educator, first suggested the idea at a Region 3 (Eastern Shore) educator's quarterly meeting. Those educators liked the idea and helped develop the award's first draft. Region 3 educators then proposed the award to the State 4-H Awards Committee who further refined it. During the planning process, the Awards Committee invited all Maryland 4-H educators to make suggestions. Several 4-H volunteers and teens were also involved in reviewing the award. After a final review and refinement by State 4-H Specialists, the award was presented to 4-H Educators at the May 2002 in-service training for implementation in 2003. Dan Tabler is the award's primary author. He used the Boy Scout Eagle as a model for the Diamond Clover. The requirements of Level Six of the Diamond Clover and the Eagle award are very similar. It is the Awards Committee's hope that overtime the Diamond Clover will grow to be comparable in status to the Eagle.

Diamond Clover FAQ's written by Dan Tabler and reviewed by the Delaware 4-H Awards and Recognition Committee –Revised for Delaware 4-H on April 2010. Point of Contact: Mark Manno (mmanno@udel.edu)