



## SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE 2016

### VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS NOMINATION INFORMATION

The National 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer Recognition Award recognizes 4-H volunteers who demonstrate exemplary service to 4-H, while promoting service through volunteerism as both an opportunity and a privilege.

In 2016, eight honorees will be selected. One volunteer will be selected from each Cooperative Extension Region (Northeast, South, North Central, West) in each of two categories. Each region will have its own ***Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer*** and ***Volunteer of the Year***. The eight regional honorees become nominees for the national award, and one volunteer in each category will be named the national honoree.

#### I. Award Criteria

1. The ***Volunteer of the Year Award*** (VOY) is for currently serving 4-H volunteers who have served as 4-H volunteers for **less than 10 years** at the local, county, district or state level.
2. The ***Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award*** (OLV) is for current or former 4-H volunteers who have served **10 or more years** at the local, county, district or state level.

#### II. Nomination Procedures

1. **Nomination Packets** must be submitted by a nominator to the nominee's State 4-H Program by the state's published deadline.
2. **A completed nomination will consist of a nomination resume of the applicant's 4-H and relevant community volunteer experiences and three (3) letters of recommendation. Please use the attached template when developing the nomination packet. A packet missing any of the four components (Resume' and three letters of recommendation) will be eliminated.**
3. Letters of recommendation **should be no longer than 2 pages in length, in 12-point font with 1-inch margins.** Letters of Recommendation should be written by

individuals who can best describe the nominee's qualifications for the award such as a 4-H staff member, 4-H youth participant, another volunteer, etc.

### III. Award Information

1. Each State 4-H program may select one nominee for each category (VOY & OLV) from its pool of nominations, and submit it for Regional Award consideration via the 4-H WebGrants portal (<http://grants.4-h.org>).
2. A National Selection Committee appointed by Council will select a recipient from each region; one for each category (VOY & OLV). From this pool of regional honorees, the selection committee will then identify one national honoree for each category (VOY & OLV).
3. Regional honorees will be announced by February 1, 2016.
4. Regional honorees will be recognized by their state 4-H program in an appropriate manner and venue of its choosing.
5. Council will send each regional honoree a personalized plaque and donate \$200 in the honoree's name to a local 4-H program of the honoree's choice.
6. National honorees will be announced during National Volunteer Week, April 10 – 16, 2016.
7. National honorees will be recognized on Friday of National 4-H Week during the 2016 4-H Heritage Luncheon held at the National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, MD.
8. During the luncheon, national honorees will receive a plaque or similar symbol of their achievement. Council will also donate \$1,000 in the honoree's name to a local 4-H program of the honoree's choice.

### IV. Instructions for State 4-H Programs

**State 4-H Officials must complete all sections of the on-line application.** Only a State 4-H Official can officially designate a volunteer as a state nominee.

State 4-H submitted nominations **must** be received through Council's 4-H WebGrants portal (<http://grants.4-h.org>). **Faxed submissions will not be accepted.** The 4-H WebGrants portal will be able to receive nominations starting **July 6, 2015** and ending **11:59 PM EST on October 9, 2015**. Nomination resume should be in Word format. Letters may be Word or PDF.

If your nominee is selected, you agree to the criteria set forth in this application and also agree to utilize the 4-H name and emblem when implementing and publicizing the program.

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED**

**Thank you for your interest in the 2016 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer Recognition Awards!**

**SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE 2016**  
**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS**  
**NOMINATION RESUME'**

**Nominator Information**

Name:  
Street address:  
Post Office, State, zip code  
Email:

**Nomination for (check one):**

- Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer (10 or more years of service to 4-H)*  
 *Volunteer of the Year (less than 10 years of service to 4-H)*

**Nominee Information**

Name:  
Street address:  
Post Office, State, zip code  
Email:  
County, State

**Please include a high quality, 600dpi head and shoulders photo of the nominee. If selected, nominee's photo, name, state and 4-H highlights will be posted on the 4-H.org website.**

**If selected, a cash donation will be made in the honoree's name to the 4-H entity of his or her choosing. Please include the following information to be used if this nominee is selected as an honoree.**

Check made payable to:  
Name and address where check is to be sent.

**Please provide the following:**

- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume': Please provide the following information (**Limited to three pages, front only, 12-point font, 1 inch margins**)

- A. Brief overview (500 words or less) of why the nominee deserves this award.
- B. Evidence of a positive impact on the lives of 4-H youth

Demonstrated ability to work with young people in a way that promotes youth empowerment, decision-making, problem-solving, meeting challenges, and mastery.

Nominee's dedication to youth/adult partnerships and developing mentor-learner relationships.

B. Evidence of a positive impact on the 4-H program

Nominee's innovative approaches to engaging new youth and increasing diversity among participants

Dedication to providing a safe and inclusive environment for youth

Nominee's innovative approaches to performing volunteer service, recruitment of additional 4-H volunteers, partnering with other youth serving agencies, fund raising, providing other resources for 4-H, advocacy of 4-H, etc.

C. Personal attributes

Evidence of professional attitude, character, and morals

Personal growth from being a 4-H volunteer (that you have observed)

D. Personal involvement in 4-H

List local 4-H roles (4-H Project Leader; Community 4-H Club Leader; etc). Include summary of years, roles and organizations.

List County (Parish)/District 4-H roles (County Extension Committee; etc). Include summary of years, roles and organizations.

List State/Regional/National 4-H roles (Regional 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum Planning Committee, National 4-H Awards Selection Committee; etc). Include summary of years, roles and organizations.

List relevant 4-H honors/awards and years received.

List relevant non-4-H volunteer roles. Include summary of years, roles and organizations.

E. Optional/FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

If nominee was involved in 4-H as a young person, indicate the state where nominee was involved, type of involvement (4-H projects taken, 4-H camper, etc), years of membership, exemplary awards, leadership roles, etc.

Current position (professional/homemaker). If retired, most recent role.