



NATIONAL 4-H

## SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE 2009

### VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

#### NOMINATION FORM

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. 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 2009, eight regional honorees will be selected. Each region will have its own *Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer* and *Volunteer of the Year*. The eight regional winners become nominees for the national award, and one volunteer in each category will be named the national winner.

### I. Selection Criteria

1. The *Volunteer of the Year Award* is for individuals who have served as 4-H volunteers for **less than 10 years** at the county or state level.
2. The *Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award* is for individuals who have served **10 or more years** at the county or state level.
3. Nominations/letters of recommendation must address the following selection criteria:
  - Positive impact the nominee has had on 4-H and on 4-H youth
  - Nominee's ability to work with young people on projects and activities in a way that promotes decision-making, problem-solving, meeting challenges, mastery and youth/adult partnerships
  - Nominee's innovative approaches to engaging youth and increasing diversity among participants
  - How nominee exemplifies a "mentor-learner" relationship with participants
  - Dedication to a safe and inclusive environment
  - How nominee models character and professional behavior when interacting with participants, families, and community partners
  - Nominee's innovative approaches to performing volunteer service
  - Increased funding/resources generated by nominee
  - Recruitment of additional 4-H volunteers
  - Personal growth from being a 4-H volunteer (that you have observed)

### II. Application Guidelines

1. Application materials must be submitted by a nominator to the nominee's State 4-H Office. Each State 4-H Office will select one nominee for each category from its pool of nominations, to be submitted for the regional award. Two recipients will be selected from each region; one for each category mentioned above. From the eight regional winners, one person from each category will be named the national award recipient. **DUE TO THE STATE OFFICE DECEMBER 3, 2008**
2. Each completed application must be accompanied by **three letters of recommendation**. Letters of recommendation must be written by a 4-H staff member, 4-H youth participant, another volunteer, or a parent/guardian. **Letters should be no longer than 2 pages in length, in 12-point font with 1-inch margins.**

