

OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION 4-H LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD PROGRAM

Background and Purpose

The Ohio Township Association (OTA) 4-H Local Government Award was established in an effort to encourage and inspire more 4-H teens to become responsible citizens who are involved in local government. This award is designed to reinforce the importance of having youth become contributing citizens in their communities. Two Local Government Award winners are selected annually to receive this award.

Selection Procedures and Criteria

All 4-H members are eligible who: 1) have achieved the academic rank of high school "senior"; 2) have completed a 4-H local government activity; 3) have a permanent residence in Ohio at the time they participate in the government activity; 4) have not previously won an OTA 4-H local government award; and 5) plan attend a college or university after graduating high school.

To apply for this award, members need to complete a State 4-H Achievement Record (according to the directions in the form) and submit it to the County Extension Office before the county deadline. County nominations must be submitted to the State 4-H Office by **February 2, 2009**.

Applicants should focus on their involvement in local government through 4-H, outline the experiences they had, summarize the knowledge and skills they gained, and describe the leadership and community service they provided. Criteria to be used in evaluating the applications will be: 25% on size and scope of the activity including experiences completed in the activity; 25% on knowledge, skills, and understanding related to the objectives of the program; 50% on results and impacts of the activity, including service and leadership provided.

Two OTA 4-H Local Government award winners will be selected at the state level by a State Awards Selection Committee.

The Award and its Presentation

A State 4-H Award announcement letter will be sent to County Extension Offices the first week of March so that Extension educators can notify winners personally. Individual follow-up letters and commitment forms will be sent directly to winners after **March 21**.

The two OTA 4-H Local Government award winners will be publicly recognized at the Ohio 4-H Youth Recognition Banquet. Each winner will receive an award plaque for his/her outstanding work in completing a 4-H local government activity. In addition, each award recipient will receive a \$1,500.00 award from the Ohio Township Association.