



# San Benito County 4-H “Bank on Us” Award

## *Qualifications and Process*

The primary purpose of the San Benito County 4-H “Bank on Us” Award program is to help 4-H members learn the life skills of self-discipline, goal setting, decision-making, planning, organizing, and leadership.

The more time and energy that you devote to 4-H and school, the more “interest” you will receive when you graduate from high school. At the time of graduation, if you have met all the requirements, you will receive a cash award from San Benito County 4-H Council. **Awards are based upon the highest ranking achieved and are not cumulative.**

Member must have completed three consecutive years in the San Benito County 4-H program during the last three years of the member’s high school career and must be in good standing and, if part of the traditional club mode, have completed all travel obligations and commitments. Members enrolling by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year they turn 15 are eligible. (If you graduate early, you must have completed three consecutive years in the San Benito County 4-H program (enrolled by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the first year) at the time you graduate to qualify.)

A completed application must be attached to a resume OR a written journal OR Personal Development Reports showing at least the last 3 years’ activities (updated through March 1 of the current year) as documentation of involvement. All supporting documentation must be signed by the applicant, parent, and 4-H leader/supervisor. An updated transcript is required for the GPA bonus of all awards.

Use the chart below to help determine the level of awards listed on the next page.

Categories of Participation <i>(see definitions on next page)</i>	Total All Years	Number of Different Categories Required			
		Level 1 5 Required	Level 2 6 Required	Level 3 7 Required	Level 4 7 Required
1. Projects (for traditional club mode) or Terms/Semesters (for non-club modes) Completed		2*	4*	8*	12*
2. Project Skill Activities		4	8	15	20
3. Events Attended		12	25	40	60
4. Leadership Development		10	20	30*	40*
<b>Significant Leadership Roles</b> (requiring 20 hrs. or more of work)		(0)	(0)	(2*)	(4*)
5. Civic Engagement & Community Service		10	20*	30*	40*
How many were Service Learning activities		(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
6. Communication Skills in 4-H		12*	24*	36*	48*
4-H Presentations		(4*)	(7*)	(10*)	(15*)
7. Honors and Recognition in 4-H		5	10	15	20
8. Healthy Lifestyle Activities		10	20	30	40

\* Required for ranking

Numbers contained within parenthesis are included in the total category number (not an extra requirement).

**Cash awards available upon graduation from high school:**

- Level 1 (see Categories of Participation chart) or Bronze Star rank: **\$100.00**  
GPA of 3.0 or higher (4.0 Scale): additional \$100.00 (maximum: \$200.00)
- Level 2 or Silver Star rank: **\$150.00**  
GPA of 3.0 or higher (4.0 Scale): additional \$150.00 (maximum: \$300.00)
- Level 3 or Gold Star rank: **\$200.00**  
GPA of 3.0 or higher (4.0 Scale): additional \$200.00 (maximum: \$400.00)
- Level 4 or Platinum Star rank: **\$250.00**  
GPA of 3.0 or higher (4.0 Scale): additional \$250.00 (maximum: \$500.00)

**In addition**, members may receive a **one-time** incentive for each of the following completed during the **ages of 15 - 19**:

For 4+ semesters of leadership and/or involvement in a non-club 4-H mode:

additional **\$25.00** GPA of 3.0 or higher: additional \$25.00 (maximum: \$50.00)

**One** of the following - All Star/County Ambassador, Emerald Star (contracted before June 30, 2019) or conducted a countywide event/activity (see website for contracts):

additional **\$1,000.00** GPA of 3.0 or higher: additional \$1,000.00 (maximum: \$2,000.00)

**One** of the following - Emerald Star

additional **\$500.00** GPA of 3.0 or higher: additional \$500.00 (maximum: \$1,000.00)

**One** of the following - Youth committee members for regional or state events and/or committees: additional **\$500.00**

Diamond Clover winners: additional **\$1,000.00**

Members selected to be a 4-H State Ambassador or on the 4-H Technology Team: additional **\$1,000.00**

All Stars/County Ambassadors who completed their All Star year with 80% participation and attendance in events/activities (based on the contract they signed up under): additional **\$1,000.00**

**\*\*NOTE:** Any ongoing commitments or awards will be re-verified before awards are dispersed in June.

Definitions for the Categories of Participation chart:

- 1) A project counts when a member has completed a minimum of six hours of project instruction or more as required by the project leader. Terms or semesters are determined by the leadership of the non-club mode.
- 2) Events or activities that demonstrate your knowledge to an audience or judge. Activities include Exhibits (both Judged/Evaluated and Non-Judged/Evaluated), Showmanship, Knowledge Contests, and Judging Contests.
- 3) Any 4-H events attended outside of your usual 4-H club, project, activity meetings (e.g. Achievement Night, County Holiday Dessert, Fashion Revue, etc.).
- 4) Each leadership position held at the club, county, sectional, state, national and/or non-club 4-H mode levels.
- 5) Record your active participation in a planned, publicized and approved civic engagement, service learning or community service activity. Credits are counted by event attended, not separate activities at that event.
- 6) Communication activities participated at any event inside or outside 4-H (i.e. 4-H Formal Presentations as defined by the Presentation Manual (including a Demonstration, Illustrated Talk, Science or Engineering Presentation, Educational Display Talk, Informative Prepared Speech, Persuasive Prepared Speech, Impromptu Speech, Interpretive Reading, Share the 4-H Fun Skit, and/or Cultural Arts Presentation), Prepared Talks, Radio and Television Appearances, Newspaper Articles written and submitted by the member, Letters, Judge or Evaluator for a 4-H activity or contest, Representing 4-H to outside groups or community audiences, Online Communication created or moderated by the member, ORB Spark Score Surveys).
- 7) High honors and recognition earned that are important to the member.
- 8) Organized group activities outside of the 4-H program related to a healthy lifestyle. Each organization, group, activity or sport counts as one credit per 25 hours of active participation.