

Tennessee 4-H Honor Club

Recognition Ceremony





Materials needed

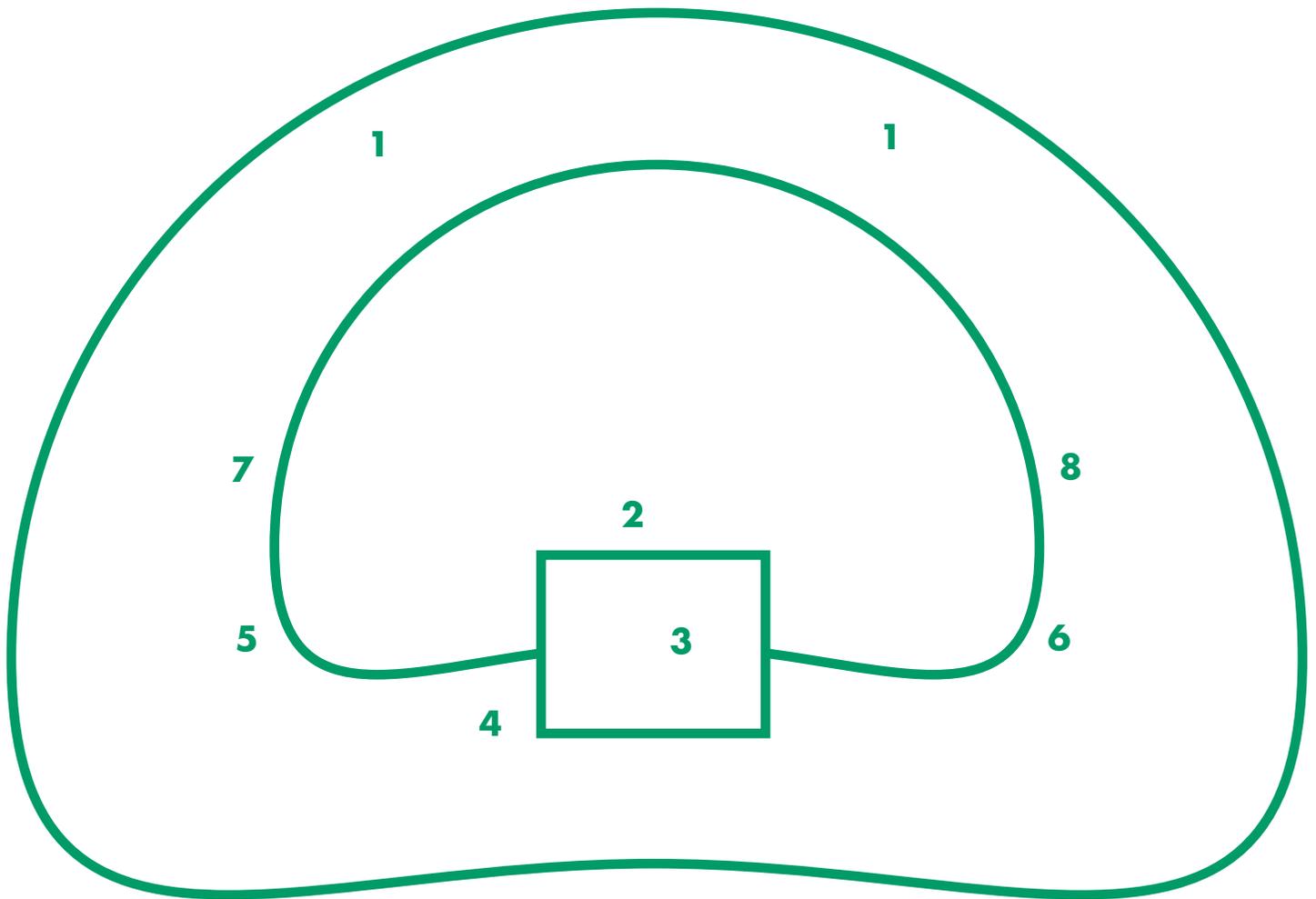
1. One large candle to be placed in the center of the table and lit before the ceremony begins
 2. Enough other candles for all participants
 3. Matches
 4. Honor Club keys* (pins) and certificates for new members
 5. Ceremony script
 6. Individual line sheets for participants (optional)
 7. List of new members
- * Some counties do not present Honor Club keys.

Participants

- * All formerly initiated 4-H Honor Club members standing in a semi-circle holding unlit candles
- * Four members to represent each of the four “H’s”
- * The chairperson or Honor Club president represents the HONOR “H”

Special note: The room should be dimly lit.

Tennessee 4-H Honor Club Recognition Ceremony Staging Diagram



1. Semi-circle of formerly initiated Honor Club members holding unlit candles
2. Chairperson/President
3. Central candle (already lit)
4. Table
5. Member representing HEAD "H"
6. Member representing HEART "H"
7. Member representing HANDS "H"
8. Member representing HEALTH "H"

Ceremony Script

Chairperson/President:

The Tennessee 4-H Honor Club is a part of UT Extension, a cooperative effort between the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture and county governments.

4-H Honor Club members should consider this recognition as an opportunity to help render greater service in the county. You who are soon to be initiated as Honor Club members should be more closely tied to 4-H Club work because this award gives you a unique opportunity to continue service to the 4-H youth development program.

(Chairperson/President approaches the central candle and lights her/her candle from it.)

(Member representing the HEAD “H” steps forward and lights his/her candle)

Member representing the HEAD “H”:

As I take this light from the candle of 4-H spirit, I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking.

(Goes back to circle. Member representing the HEART “H” steps forward and lights his/her candle)

Member representing the HEART “H”:

As I take this light from the candle of 4-H spirit, I pledge my HEART to greater loyalty.

(Goes back to circle. Member representing the HANDS “H” steps forward and lights his/her candle)

Member representing the HANDS “H”:

As I take this light from the candle of 4-H spirit, I pledge my HANDS to larger service.

(Goes back to circle. Member representing the HEALTH “H” steps forward and lights his/her candle)

Member representing the HEALTH “H”:

As I take this light from the candle of 4-H spirit, I pledge my HEALTH to better living.

(Goes back to circle)

All members in the semi-circle:

(repeat together)

For my club, my community, my country and my world.

Chairperson/President:

Since the spirit of 4-H Club work is shared by all Honor Club members, will you please light the candles of the other Honor Club members in our circle.

(Representatives of the four “H’s” light the other candles in the semi-circle)

The 4-H Honor Club provides recognition to 4-H members who have shown consistent growth in their communities. It also encourages young people to continue their work in the 4-H Club and their service to others.

The official emblem of the 4-H Honor Club is a four-leaf clover in green with five “H’s” in gold. The fifth “H” in the center stands for HONOR. The emblem is embossed on a gold key which bears the words “4-H Honor Club – Tennessee.

As I call your name, please come forward and stand in the circle with the other Honor Club members.

(Chairperson/President calls the name of each member to be initiated — pausing between names.)

Chairperson/President:
(After all new members have taken their places in the semi-circle)

You have been recognized as outstanding 4-H Club members. By virtue of this recognition, you are now eligible to be initiated into the Tennessee 4-H Honor Club. If it is your desire to become a member of this club, please state... **IT IS MY DESIRE.**

Candidates:
(repeat together)

It is my desire.

Chairperson/President:

Please light the candles belonging to our new Honor Club members.

(Formerly initiated Honor Club members light the candles of the newly initiated Honor Club members standing to their left.)

Chairperson/President:

Please repeat the Honor Club pledge after me.

(Say slowly — one line at a time. Wait for initiates to repeat the line after you before reading the next one.)

As a 4-H Honor Club member,
I pledge myself
to give service to the 4-H Club
of _____ County
to further develop my leadership ability
and to merit the respect
of my fellow men through example.

Chairperson/President:
(optional)

Please bow your heads for prayer.

Give us grateful hearts, Our Father, for all Thy blessings. Help us to be more worthy members in our homes and more responsible citizens in our communities; make us mindful of those in need; give us strength to do our full part; and grant peace in our time. Amen.

(Lights may be turned on fully)

Chairperson/President:

Each of you will now receive the Certificates of Honor *(and the 4-H Honor Club key if your county presents the 4-H Honor Club key).*

(Chairperson/President introduces the 4-H Extension agent who will make the presentations.)

4-H Extension agent:

I am honored to have the privilege of presenting the awards to these outstanding and deserving 4-H'ers.

The awards you are to receive are awards you have not won. They are awards you have earned. You have earned these awards on the basis of your outstanding work as shown by your record of participation during all the years you have been a 4-H member.

I am privileged to present each of you a Certificate of Honor which reads: "Tennessee 4-H Honor Club membership is hereby awarded to you in recognition of your outstanding contributions to 4-H Club work through the development of citizenship, leadership and community service."

(Omit this paragraph if your county does not present keys.)

In order that you may always have with you further evidence of the honor you have achieved, I am privileged to present each of you the official Tennessee 4-H Honor Club gold key. I hope you will wear this gold key with pride so others may be encouraged to strive for this esteemed award.

As I call your name, please step forward.

(Present the awards and congratulate each member. Members remain standing until all of the awards are presented. Then, applaud the entire group.)

Chairperson/President:

You are now life members of the Tennessee 4-H Honor Club. We welcome you into its membership and charge you ever to be true to the pledge you have taken. Let your deeds and words be such that others will emulate you. Be ready and willing to lend a helping hand and to give words of encouragement to younger 4-H members.

Do your full part in carrying out the 4-H youth development program in your community, your county, your state and your nation.

Live in such a way that you will be a leader of those who are working for the progress and improvement of family and community life. But, above all, be honest with yourself.

You have now achieved the first level of recognition for Tennessee 4-H members. I challenge you to strive for the next level, 4-H All Star, and for the highest level, Vol State. You may extinguish your candles and be seated.



Become a Tennessee 4-H All Star Member

Do you enjoy doing things for others? Are you interested in making your community a better place to live? Then maybe the 4-H All Star organization is for you!

All Stars are outstanding Tennessee 4-H members who have pledged to encourage service to others through both individual and cooperative efforts. The purpose of the group is expressed in its motto: “Service.”

The requirements for All Star membership are simple. Here’s what you need to do:

- Be a senior 4-H member during the current calendar year.
- Complete three years of 4-H.
- Be a Tennessee 4-H Honor Club member.
- Complete an individual or group community service project.

Ask your 4-H Extension agent or local volunteer leader about the All Star organization. Join the thousands of Tennessee 4-H member who already enjoy 4-H All Star activities.

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Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.