

# Michigan 4-H Dog Patch Program Overview

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## What is the Dog Patch Program?

The Dog Patch Program is designed to recognize the personal achievements of individuals participating in the 4-H Dog Program. The program has been in existence since 1987 and provides youth with goals to work towards in this project area.

## Patches Available and Their Qualifications:

- 1. Dog Project Patch** – for 4-H members who have been in the Dog Project for six months. The dog must participate in a competitive event, at which time its participation is evaluated. This patch is available to all members in the Dog Project.
- 2. 4-H Junior Showmanship Champion Patch** – for 4-H members who have placed first, second or third in a Dog Showmanship Class **three** times. There must be at least four persons competing in this class to qualify as a win.
- 3. 4-H Junior Showmanship Champion Excellent Patch** – for 4-H members who have placed first in a Jr. Showmanship Champion Class **three** times. There must be at least four persons competing in this class. If no 4-H Jr. Showmanship Champion class is offered, or there is less than four persons competing in the Champion Class, winning Best Junior Handler will qualify as a win.
- 4. 4-H Pre-Novice Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Pre-Novice Obedience.
- 5. 4-H Companion Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Novice Obedience.
- 6. 4-H Companion Dog Excellent Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Open Obedience.
- 7. 4-H Graduate Novice Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has **three** scores by two different judges in Graduate Novice Obedience.
- 8. 4-H Advanced Graduate Novice Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Advanced Graduate Novice Obedience.
- 9. 4-H Pre-Utility Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Pre-Utility Obedience.
- 10. 4-H Utility Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Utility Obedience.

- 11. 4-H Tracking Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who is certified or who has passed on a track with the AKC Tracking Test requirements by two different judges.
- 12. 4-H Working Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has placed or passed in **three** working events by two different judges. Dogs must compete in events such as hunt tests, field trials, herding, coursing, etc.
- 13. 4-H Leader Dog Puppy Patch** – Participation in **three** public exhibitions or demonstrations with the Leader Dog Puppy. These must be confirmed in writing by the 4-H Leader Evaluator.
  - a. While the puppy is in training as a Leader Dog, a member may fulfill a remaining patch requirement by giving a talk, demonstration or exhibit about the puppy program.
  - b. The evaluation a puppy receives when turned into the Leader Dog School will count as one patch requirement whether the dog is accepted or rejected.
- 14. 4-H Service Dog Puppy Patch** – Participation in **three** public exhibitions or demonstrations with the Service Dog Puppy. These must be confirmed by the 4-H Leader Evaluator.
  - a. While the puppy is in training as a Service Dog, a member may fulfill a remaining patch requirement by giving a talk, demonstration or exhibit about the puppy program.
  - b. The evaluation a puppy receives when turned into the Service Dog organization will count as one patch requirement whether the dog is accepted or rejected.
- 15. 4-H Visiting Pet Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has visited a nursing home, Juvenile Home or facility for physically or emotionally challenged individuals. Requires **five** separate visits confirmed in writing by the 4-H Leader.
- 16. 4-H Beginning Agility Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Beginning Agility.
- 17. 4-H Intermediate Agility Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Intermediate Agility.
- 18. 4-H Advanced Agility Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Advanced Agility.
- 19. 4-H Beginner Freestyle Dog Patch** – for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying beginner scores by two different judges in either Heel-to-Music or Musical Freestyle.
- 20. 4-H Intermediate Freestyle Dog Patch** - for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying intermediate scores by two different judges in either Heel-to-Music or Musical Freestyle.
- 21. 4-H Advanced Freestyle Dog Patch** - for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying advanced scores by two different judges in either Heel-to-Music or Musical Freestyle.

- 22. 4-H Freestyle Brace Dog Patch** - for a 4-H dog(s) who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in the Brace category.
- 23. 4-H Freestyle Pair Dog Patch** - for a 4-H dog(s) who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in the Pair category.
- 24. 4-H Freestyle Team Dog Patch** - for a 4-H dog(s) who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in the Team category.
- 25. 4-H Rally Novice Dog Patch** - for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Rally Novice.
- 26. 4-H Rally Advanced Dog Patch** - for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Rally Advanced.
- 27. 4-H Rally Excellent Dog Patch** - for a 4-H dog who has **three** qualifying scores by two different judges in Rally Excellent.

### **Earning Dog Patches**

Youth should carry a *Qualifying Score Sheet* and *Judge Signature Sheet* with them to all shows. When the individual wins a class, or earns a placing listed in the requirements for the patch they are working towards, they should be sure to get the signature of the judge for that class and fill in the appropriate information about that placing. Once the participant has received all the signatures that are required for that patch and have completed all the requirements they need, the County 4-H Youth Educator should request the appropriate patches from the State 4-H Office.

### **Receiving Patches**

Once youth have earned one of the available patches they must submit the Qualifying Score Sheet, with the required number of signatures, to their county office. The 4-H Youth Educator will verify that the requirements have been met and then send a list of the patches requested to:

Neil Kentner  
4-H Youth Development  
Michigan State University  
160 Agriculture Hall  
East Lansing, MI 48824

Please enclose a check payable to Michigan State University. **The cost is \$2.50 per patch ordered.** Counties may purchase patches in multiple lots for county distribution. Please allow 8-10 weeks for bulk deliveries.

To request additional Qualifying Score Sheets, Judges Signature Forms, the Dog Patch Program Overview or Patch Qualification Requirements, please visit the 4-H Animal Science web page at: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/aniscipr.html#Companion>

If you have further questions, feel free to contact the State 4-H Office. Please encourage your 4-H members to participate in the 4-H Dog Patch Program. **Please discard any previous dog patch program information.**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is the deadline to order patches for the Dog Patch Program this year?**

There is no annual deadline to order patches. Patches can be order throughout the year once they are earned by the member.

#### **Is there a limit to the number of patches that a member can earn in one year?**

The sky's the limit! There is no limit as to how many patches a member can earn each year.

#### **Can the same patch be earned more then once?**

Yes, if the patch is earned with a different dog each time then the patch can be earned more then once. In the case of the "Freestyle" patch it can be earned more then once if multiple levels are accomplished.

#### **Are cloverbuds eligible to earn patches?**

Cloverbuds are only eligible to receive the "Dog Project Patch." As 4-H Cloverbud classes are non-competitive. Cloverbuds are simply required to participate in the dog project for six months and exhibit their dog at an open event.