



Share Your Story

2020 4-H Youth in Action Awards Program Guidelines

Submission Deadline: October 21, 2019
Questions: YouthInAction@4-H.org



About the 4-H Youth in Action Awards Program

Every 4-H'er has a story, and those stories are worth telling! Sharing your 4-H story could earn you a \$5,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington D.C. for National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards, where you'll have the chance to tell your story while meeting 4-H celebrities and other notable alums!

The program recognizes four confident young leaders in our core pillar areas of **Agriculture, Civic Engagement, Healthy Living and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)**, giving pillar winners the chance to share how 4-H changed their lives and how they have used the skills they gained in 4-H to change the lives of others.

Awards & Recognition

Each of the four Pillar Winners will receive:

- A \$5,000 scholarship for higher education, to be paid directly to the institution, including two-year and four-year colleges, trade schools or other advanced learning opportunities.
- An all-expenses paid trip for the pillar winner & a chaperone to Washington, D.C. The winner will be recognized at the Legacy Awards and participate in training opportunities and media engagements, while engaging with Council leadership, celebrities & other prominent 4-H alumni.
- An opportunity to be featured as the 4-H Youth Spokesperson for their pillar area.
- An official reference letter from National 4-H Council President and CEO, Jennifer Sirangelo.

One 4-H Youth in Action National Award winner will be select from the four pillar winners and will receive an additional scholarship and further opportunities to serve as a spokesperson for National 4-H Council.

Awardees agree to comply with the requirements on the application and the Pillar Winner agreement sent by National 4-H Council at the time of selection.

Selection Process

The 4-H Youth in Action Award selection process includes the following:

1. **Online Application:** Complete and submit the online application found at 4-H.org/YouthInAction. Applications will open on August 1 and should be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on Monday, October 21. You will receive a confirmation email when your completed application is received. Incomplete applications will not receive a confirmation and will not be reviewed. If you are unsure of your status, contact National 4-H Council at YouthinAction@4-H.org.
2. **Finalist Selection & Virtual Interview:** National 4-H Council will review all applications and select 3 finalists for each pillar. Those not selected will receive an email indicating their status. Finalists will be required to participate in a virtual, 1:1 interview, conducted between November 13-20, 2019.
3. **Pillar Winner Selection:** Finalists will be reviewed by a selection committee and will be notified of their status by National 4-H Council. Finalists who are not named the Pillar Winner will be recognized as Honorable Mentions by National 4-H Council on the 4-H Youth in Action website and social media.

Scores and/or comments concerning individual applications will not be released.

Pillar Areas

In the application, you'll be asked to share your story of leadership in your self-selected pillar area. Your work within the pillar may be a key project, program, or 4-H experience, or it may center around a series of activities in which you've served as a leader. Read the pillar descriptions below to choose the best fit for your work. **If you have questions regarding which pillar to select, please contact YouthInAction@4-H.org.**

4-H Youth in Action: Agriculture Pillar

In Agriculture programs, 4-H'ers experience activities that range from farming & raising animals to growing crops & other resources. Topics that may be covered in this pillar include, but are not limited to:

- **Animal Science** – responsibility, proper care & nutrition
- **Veterinary Science** – animal nutrition, examinations & treatment, infectious diseases
- **Biotechnology & Sustainability** – producing healthy, plentiful & environmentally responsible products
- **Plant Science & Forestry** – plants, insects, water, soil, tree identification, forest evaluation
- **Food Security** – growing and/or raising food to ensure reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious foods

4-H Youth in Action: Civic Engagement Pillar

In Civic Engagement programs, 4-H'ers experience activities encouraging youth to engage others around important causes or issues to the community. Topics that may be covered include, but are not limited to:

- **Community Action** - community service, service learning, community youth development
- **Communication & Expressive Arts** - artistic expression, communication
- **Civic Education & Engagement** - history & cultural heritage, civic & social responsibility, government principles, promoting quality of life and advocacy

4-H Youth in Action: Healthy Living Pillar

In Healthy Living programs, 4-H'ers learn about healthy eating, physical fitness, and developing & maintaining positive relationships. Topics that may be covered in this pillar include, but are not limited to:

- **Health, Nutrition & Fitness** – eating right, physical fitness, being active, good hygiene
- **Social & Emotional Well-Being** – alcohol/tobacco/drug use prevention, bullying prevention, stress management, encouraging good decision-making skills

4-H Youth in Action: STEM Pillar

In STEM programs, 4-H'ers learn about Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics through hands-on activities and projects. Topics that may be covered in this pillar include, but are not limited to:

- **Environmental Science & Alternative Energy** - alternative energy, conserving energy, limiting humanity's impact on the environment, natural science
- **Engineering & Technology** – rocketry, computer science, technology, engineering, mathematics



Application Requirements

1. General Information & Eligibility Requirements

- a. **Be 4-H member/recent alum** of any type of 4-H program in the U.S.
- b. **Be between ages 15-19.** Applicants must turn 15 by the application deadline and should not have turned 20 before January 1, 2019.
- c. **Submit personal and county/state 4-H contact information.** Please connect with your County 4-H Extension Staff and/or State Program Leader prior to completing the application. If you are selected as a finalist, National 4-H Council will contact your county/state for approval & to verify your 4-H participation.

2. Short Answer Questions

Respond to short-answer questions regarding your 4-H story and your pillar area leadership. Your work should provide benefit to others & require significant leadership. Each question includes sub-questions you may choose to answer to aid you in your responses.

1. **Describe how 4-H impacted you. (max: 2500 characters)** *How did 4-H change or improve your life? What have you learned about yourself? Has your 4-H experience helped you overcome something challenging in your life? Did 4-H help you define your interests/passions, or gain any skills? **Great submissions will provide clear examples of how 4-H has impacted you!***
2. **Describe a project, program, 4-H activity or series of activities in the pillar area in which you demonstrated leadership. Detail how your leadership in this pillar has improved or influenced your community. (max: 4000 characters)** *What motivated you to be a leader? What was your leadership role? When & where did your work occur? Is it on-going? What steps did you take in your work? Did teamwork play a role? What or who benefitted? What are the long-term effects of your work? **Great submissions will provide clear examples of your leadership in the pillar!***

3. 60-Second Video

Provide a link to a **60-second video** answering the following prompt:

- Finish this statement: **“4-H has inspired me to....”** and address how 4-H has encouraged or inspired you in your work in the pillar area.

Your video should:

- Be 60 seconds or less and feature only you speaking (no other speakers or visuals).
- Be recorded with a simple recording device/smart phone. No special equipment or editing expected.
- Be uploaded to YouTube & be viewable by anyone with the link.

4. Photos

Upload three individual photos. **Two should demonstrate your work in the pillar and one should be a headshot.** Photo montages will not be reviewed. File formats accepted include JPG, GIF, or PNG. Photos should not exceed 5 MB each.

5. Reference Form

Scan and upload the reference form found at the end of this packet. A letter of recommendation should not be submitted in place of or in addition to the reference form, as it will not be reviewed.

Award Timeline

| Date | Action |
|---------------------------|---|
| August 1, 2019 | Online application opens |
| October 21, 2019 | Online application closes |
| Week of November 11, 2019 | Finalists selected |
| November 13-20, 2019 | Online interviews begin <i>(If selected as a finalist, a 4-H staff member will have 3 business days to confirm an applicant's participation in 4-H)</i> |
| Week of December 16, 2019 | Award notifications sent to all applicants. All applicants will be notified via email. No phone or email inquiries, please. |
| Week of January 13, 2020 | Finalists & Pillar winners announced to the 4-H Field. Pillar Winners announced externally to local community & media. |
| January/February 2020 | Video shoot for National 4-H Council's Legacy Award spotlight. |
| February/March 2020 | Professional coaching for media and PR |
| March 2020 | National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards in Washington, D.C. All winners must attend. |

Questions?

We're glad you're interested in applying for the 2020 4-H Youth in Action Awards! We know that the application is an extensive process and you may have questions. Please use the following contacts:

General Award Questions: contact YouthInAction@4-H.org

Online Submission Issues: contact webadmin@4-H.org

We look forward to seeing your 4-H Youth in Action submission by October 21, 2019!

National 4-H Council's Youth in Action Awards

Reference Form

This form should be completed by a 4-H educator, 4-H volunteer, community leader, or key project stakeholder, and it should not be completed by a parent, relative or youth.

Applicant Name: _____

Reference Name: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____ Reference Phone Number: _____

Reference Email Address: _____ Years Known Applicant: _____

The following questions will assess the applicant's leadership skills within his or her project, program, and/or 4-H experience. Please answer each question honestly & to the best of your ability.

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|--|----------------|-------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| The applicant is a motivated & driven leader. | | | | | |
| The applicant understands the importance of teamwork. | | | | | |
| The applicant communicates well with others. | | | | | |
| The applicant takes initiative. | | | | | |
| The applicant's work has made a significant impact on his/her community. | | | | | |
| The applicant is confident when speaking in front of large groups. | | | | | |
| The applicant is a positive role model for youth. | | | | | |
| The applicant demonstrates a passion for 4-H. | | | | | |

Please share any additional information regarding the applicant here.

If the applicant advances to the finalist round of interviews, you will be contacted to verify this recommendation.

Reference Signature: _____ Date: _____