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

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

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