



Developing passion. Finding purpose. Inspiring others.



2023 4-H Youth in Action Awards  
Program Guidelines

Submission Deadline: March 28, 2022  
Questions: YouthInAction@4-H.org

# About the 4-H Youth in Action Awards Program

In 4-H, you've developed your passion. You've found your purpose. You've inspired others – and now you're moving forward. Share how 4-H propelled you to change your community and you could earn a \$5,000 scholarship and the chance to serve as a spokesperson for National 4-H Council!

The 4-H Youth in Action program recognizes four confident young leaders in our core pillar areas of **Agriculture, Civic Engagement, Healthy Living and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)**, giving winners the chance to share how 4-H changed their lives and how they have used the skills 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 travel as **the youth spokesperson** for their pillar area.
- An official **reference letter** from a National 4-H Council leader for educational or career purposes.

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](https://4-H.org/YouthInAction). Applications will open on January 10 and should be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on Monday, March 28. 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](mailto:YouthinAction@4-H.org).
2. **Finalist Selection & Virtual Interview:** National 4-H Council will review all applications and select three 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 June 23 – July 1.
3. **Pillar Winner Selection:** Finalists will be reviewed by a selection committee and will be notified of their status by National 4-H Council in early August. 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](mailto: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 & activity, good hygiene, food disparity
- **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, 2022.
- 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, and to complete a reference form.

## 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 impacted 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:

- **How has 4-H helped your find your spark?** *You could talk about your 4-H experiences, how 4-H helped you discover passion or shape your direction for the future, and more!*

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.



# Award Timeline

Date	Action
January 10, 2022	Online application opens
March 28, 2022	Online application closes
Week of June 20, 2022	Finalists selected
June 23 – July 1, 2022	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 August 8, 2022	Award notifications sent to all applicants. All applicants will be notified via email. No phone or email inquiries, please.
Week of October 3, 2022	Finalists & Pillar winners announced to 4-H networks. Pillar Winners announced externally to local community & media.
Fall 2022/Winter 2023	Video shoot for National 4-H Council's Legacy Award spotlight.
March 2023	National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards, pending lifted travel restrictions. All winners must attend.

## Questions?

We're glad you're interested in applying for the 2023 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](mailto:YouthInAction@4-H.org)

**Online Submission Issues:** contact [webadmin@4-H.org](mailto:webadmin@4-H.org)

**We look forward to seeing your 4-H Youth in Action submission by March 28, 2022!**