



## Share Your Story



### 2019 4-H Youth in Action Awards Program Guidelines

Submission Deadline: October 22, 2018  
Questions: [YouthInAction@4-H.org](mailto: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, Citizenship, 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 selected 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](http://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 22. 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 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 19-27.
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. Each pillar area is represented by a variety of topics. Read the pillar descriptions below carefully 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

## 4-H Youth in Action: Citizenship Pillar

In Citizenship programs, 4-H'ers experience activities that encourage youth to engage others around causes or issues that are important to the community. Topics that may be covered in this pillar 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 16-19.** Applicants must be 16+ prior to the submission deadline and should not have turned 20 before January 1, 2018.
- 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 personal leadership. Each question includes sub-questions you may choose to answer to aid you in your responses.

1. **Describe how 4-H made an impact on you. (300 words)** *How did 4-H change/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 or passions, or gain any skills? Great submissions will provide clear examples of how 4-H has impacted you!*
2. **Describe a project, program, or 4-H activity in the pillar area in which you demonstrated leadership. Detail how your leadership in this pillar has improved or influenced your community. (500 words)** *What motivated you to be a leader? What was your leadership role? When and where did your work occur? Is it on-going? What steps did you take to carry out your work? Did teamwork play a role? What or who benefitted, and what are the long-term effects of your work? Great submissions will provide clear examples of how 4-H has impacted you!*

## 3. 60-Second Video

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

- You are passionate about your pillar. Imagine you have 60 seconds to share your passion with your peers. What would you say? Why is this pillar important? Why should they get involved?

Your video should:

- 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 demonstrating your work in the pillar; 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. National 4-H Council will contact the individual who completed the reference form for the top 3 finalists in each pillar for verification.

# Award Timeline

Date	Action
August 1, 2018	Online application opens
October 22, 2018	Online application closes
Week of November 12, 2018	Finalists selected
November 19-27, 2018	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 17, 2018	Award notifications sent to all applicants. All applicants will be notified via email. No phone or email inquiries, please.
January 2019	Finalists & Pillar winners announced to the 4-H Field. Pillar Winners announced externally to local community & media.
January – February 2019	Professional coaching for media and PR. Video shoot for National 4-H Council's Legacy Award spotlight. Travel arrangements finalized for trip to Washington, D.C.
March 9-13, 2019	National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards in Washington, D.C. All winners must attend.

## A. Questions?

We are glad to have you apply for the 2019 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 October 22, 2018!**

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_