

# Illinois 4-H Award Application Information and Instructions

## Illinois 4-H Award Application Instructions

The Illinois 4-H Award Application follows this cover page. Applicants for state award consideration must be 15-18 years of age by September 1 of the 4-H program year in which they are applying. The Application consists of a 3-page form and attached pages with responses to two required essay questions. No additional pages (besides those required for the essay questions) may be added to this application.

Members may submit in more than one Award Area, but may not submit more than one application in the Project Mastery area. (For example, a member may submit applications in Community Service, Leadership, and Project Mastery – Robotics, but may not submit two applications in Project Mastery in the areas of Robotics AND Photography.)

Information placed on this form (except as noted for the essay questions) should include up to, **but no more than, the member's past three years of 4-H membership.**

## State 4-H Award Selection Process

4-H members should provide a hard copy of the application to their local Extension office prior to the State deadline (early January). University of Illinois Extension staff will review the application, sign the application, then scan and email the application to the State 4-H Office for consideration. University of Illinois Extension staff, 4-H volunteers, and past State 4-H Award winners will review and score the applications. Depending upon the number of applications, a specified number of semi-finalists will be named in each award area.

Semi-finalists will be required to participate in a 4-H award interview in order to be selected as a State 4-H Award Winner. Interviews will be conducted by a team of selected individuals. All interviews will be scheduled on the same day at a location in Champaign/Urbana. Scores for the interviews will be added to scores from the award application to obtain a final score for each 4-H members. State 4-H Award Winners will be the top scoring applications in each area. Should a member score the highest in more than one area, they will be named a State 4-H Award Winner in the area with their highest score and another winner will be named in the second category.

Youth who are selected as State 4-H Award Winners will have the opportunity to choose their award from one of three options: 1) Trip to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA, 2) College Scholarship, or 3) Scholarship to help cover expenses to a national 4-H event/conference such as Citizenship Washington Focus, National 4-H Dairy Conference, or a national 4-H competitive event to which the awardee is eligible to attend. Each award is worth approximately \$1,000 or the actual cost of the event, whichever is less. Twenty Illinois State 4-H Award Winners will be selected each year.

For 2016, any 4-H member who has been selected as a State 4-H Award Winner is not eligible to apply for the award again. However, the youth may apply for State 4-H Blue Award Winner status by submitting an updated award application. In order to receive Blue Award status, the member must receive no fewer points on their application than the semi-finalists for the category entered. *(\*The State Blue Award will not be available after the 2016 State 4-H Award Selection process. The Blue Award will transition into a new recognition opportunity that will focus on growth and excellence of the individual 4-H member.)*

(continued)

## Illinois State 4-H Award Areas

- **Community Service** – Focus of your 4-H work in service to/for others. Work should focus what you have done as an individual, not only as a member of your club working on group projects.
- **Communications** – Focus of your 4-H work in the art of communicating with others, including *but not limited to* public presentations, 4-H ambassadors, Speaking for Illinois 4-H, presentations to elected officials, television/radio interviews, etc.
- **Leadership** – Focus on the development of your leadership skills, including offices held, committees served on, programs lead, public presentations on behalf of 4-H, any of the following Teen Leadership roles - teaching, mentoring, planning, promoting, advocating, or advising, etc.
- **Personal Growth** – Focus on your own personal growth through participating in the 4-H program. Could include, but is not limited to growth in skills, demonstrated initiative, self-confidence, interpersonal interactions, poise, etc.
- **Project Mastery** – Focus on your 4-H work in your **primary** project (i.e. Woodworking, Photography, Beef). Only one project should be included in the application and members should not submit an application in more than one “Project Mastery” area. For award purposes, “project” is defined as those areas of enrollment as listed in the Illinois 4-H Clover or as a county-offered project (i.e Llamas, Reading, etc.). A member could include multiple areas of study in their project mastery application if the member was enrolled in multiple areas within a specific project during those 3 years. (i.e. A member could complete their application in Food and Nutrition and include information on Cooking 301, Meat and Other Proteins, and Food Preservation OR a Woodworking Project Mastery application could include information from Woodworking Levels I, II and III.)



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Please check the award area in which you are applying. If a member is submitting in multiple areas, the first 3 pages will be duplicated. The two questions on the last pages will need to be individualized for the award area(s) in which you are applying. Descriptions of the areas are included with the first page of instructions and information..

Community Service  
 Communications  
 Leadership

Personal Growth  
 Project Mastery  
 List Project: \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
 Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name you wish used in publicity \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  Home  Cell  
 Date of Birth (xx/xx/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_ Gender  Female  Male  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names of Parents/Guardians \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of 4-H Club(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## Verification Statements

I personally have prepared this application and certify that it accurately reflects my work.

\_\_\_\_\_

DateSignature of Member

I personally reviewed this application and certify that it accurately reflects the member's work

\_\_\_\_\_

DateSignature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_

DateSignature of 4-H Club Leader

I have reviewed this application and believe it accurately reflects the member's work and approve it for state competition.

\_\_\_\_\_

DateSignature of Extension Unit Representative





## **General Essay Instructions**

- The response to each essay should include a 250 to 550 word narrative included on separate pages.
- Essays should emphasize activities in the last three years, but may also speak to earlier motivations and experiences that laid the foundation for the member's current involvement.
- Include the Award Area in the title of the essay (i.e. Communication Essay #1; Project Mastery – Robotics Essay #2).
- Please use a font size no smaller than Times New Roman 11 pt. for readability.
- Each essay is worth 50 points.

### **Essay 1: Excellence in Mastery Essay**

Explain how you have mastered or excelled **in the award area**. This should not be a listing of awards received. This can include, *but is not limited to*:

- describing skills developed in the area,
- what you have accomplished by using those skills to teach others,
- how you have given back to your community,
- demonstrated leadership,
- extended applications of learning,
- goals set and how they were achieved, etc.

### **Essay 2: Impact Essay**

Describe the impact your experiences **in the award area** have made on you and/or others. This can include, *but is not limited to*:

- the impact of community service projects on your community,
- results of teaching or mentoring youth in various subject matter areas,
- impact of a specific project area on your family relationships,
- effects of overcoming challenges,
- impact on your future goals, etc.

### **Judging Rubric**

A 4-H member needs to receive a minimum of 125 points out of the 200 points available and score in the top 10% of the Award Area to be named as a semi-finalist.

Section	Criteria	Eligible Points
<b>Section 1: 4-H Project/Program Summary</b>	Illustrated Growth in Projects or Programs over time (30)	<b>30</b>
<b>Section 2: Participation in other Community/School Activities/Events</b>	Participation in Activities (6) Leadership Exhibited (6) Community Service (6) Knowledge/Skills Gained (6) Advanced Levels of Involvement (6)	<b>30</b>
<b>Section 3: Participation in 4-H Events &amp; Activities</b>	Participation in Activities (5) Leadership Exhibited (10) Community Service (5) Knowledge/Skills Gained (10) Advanced Levels of Involvement (10)	<b>40</b>
<b>Essay 1: Excellence in Mastery Essay</b>	Demonstrated Mastery/Goals Achieved (20) Sharing with or Teaching Others/Giving Back (10) Leadership Demonstrated (10) Extended Application of Learning (5) Organization, Flow of Ideas - Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar (5)	<b>50</b>
<b>Essay 2: Impact Essay</b>	Impact on Applicant/Impact on Others (20) Challenges Faced/Overcome (20) Impact on Future Goals (5) Organization, Flow of Ideas - Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar (5)	<b>50</b>
	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>200</b>