

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 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.** It is strongly suggested that members review the scoresheet posted on page 6 for a good review of what the judges will be looking for when scoring the applications.

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 Project Selection Guide. 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 and Food Preservation OR a Woodworking Project Mastery application could include information from Woodworking Levels I, II and III.)

Illinois 4-H Award Application

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 essay on the last page 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/xxxx) _____ 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.

Date Signature of Member

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

Date Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date Signature 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.

Date Signature of Extension Unit Representative

General Essay Instructions

- The response to your essay should include a 250 to 550 word narrative included on separate pages.
- Essay 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. Communications Mastery Essay; Robotics Mastery Essay).
- Please use a font size no smaller than Times New Roman 11 pt. for readability.
- Essay is worth 50 points. See the Judging Rubric below for information to include.

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.

Judging Rubric

Section	Criteria	Eligible Points
Section 1: 4-H Project/Program Summary	Illustrated Growth in Projects or Programs over time (30)	30
Section 2: Participation in other Community/School Activities/Events	Participation in Activities (6) Leadership Exhibited (6) Community Service (6) Knowledge/Skills Gained (6) Advanced Levels of Involvement (6)	30
Section 3: Participation in 4-H Events & Activities	Participation in Activities (5) Leadership Exhibited (10) Community Service (5) Knowledge/Skills Gained (10) Advanced Levels of Involvement (10)	40
Mastery Essay	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)	50
	TOTAL POINTS	150