

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 lines may be added to sections or pages (besides those required for the essay questions) 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.

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. Applications will ONLY be accepted if *emailed* directly from Extension offices. 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 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.

Any 4-H member who has been selected as a State 4-H Award Winner is not eligible to apply for this award again.

(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.)



Illinois 4-H Award Application

NOTE: Except for Signatures, this entire application MUST be typed.

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 Area Mastered: _____

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 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. See the Judging Rubric below for information to include.

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 related to this award area 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. Depending upon your award area, this **could** include, *but is not limited to*, items such as the following:

- the impact of your 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,
- explaining challenges faced and what was learned in overcoming those challenges,
- the impact this area has had 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
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
Essay 1: Excellence in 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
Essay 2: Impact Essay	Impact on Applicant/Impact on Others (20) Challenges Faced/Overcome (20) Impact on Future Goals (5) Organization, Flow of Ideas - Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar (5)	50
	TOTAL POINTS	200