

MARION COUNTY 4-H AWARD APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

AWARD APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Marion County 4-H Award Application is based off of the Illinois 4-H Award Application. Applicants for county award consideration must be 8-18 years of age by September 1 of the 4-H program year in which they are applying. The application consists of a cover page, three sections where applicants summarize their 4-H project(s) and activities, and essay responses where applicable.

Members who are 15-18 years of age will also be required to submit responses to two (2) essay questions. Members who are 12-14 years of age will be required to submit a response to one (1) essay question. Essay responses will not be required for those members age 8-11.

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 judging rubric posted on page 2 for a good review of what the judges will be looking for when scoring the applications. The maximum number of points available are as follows: 100 points for age 8-11, 150 points for age 12-14, and 200 points for age 15-18. Winners will be selected based on age and number of applications received in a single award area.

The Marion County 4-H Award Application may be typed or handwritten (please write neatly as points may be deducted if the judge cannot read the entries or essays). If you would like a digital application, please call 618-548-1446.

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.)



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.
- Essays are not required for members age 8-11. Essay 1 is required for members age 12-14, and both Essay 1 and Essay 2 are required for members age 15-18.

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

Section	Criteria	Max Pts.
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

MARION COUNTY 4-H AWARD APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please check the award area in which you are applying. If a member is submitting in multiple areas, the first three pages will be duplicated. The two essay questions (if applicable) will need to be individualized for the award area(s) in which you are applying. Descriptions of the award areas are included with the application instructions.

Community Service

Personal Growth

Communications

Project Mastery

Leadership

List Project: _____

County _____ Date Submitted _____/_____/_____

Name _____

Street Address _____ Apt. # _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Date of Birth _____ Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Email Address _____

Names of Parents/Guardians _____

Name of 4-H Club _____

VERIFICATION STATEMENTS

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

Signature of Member _____ Date _____

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

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature of 4-H Club Leader _____ Date _____

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

Signature of Extension Representative _____ Date _____

This page intentionally left blank.

