

Peoria County 4-H

Tips for Preparing Your Year Focus 4-H Award Application

Specifications:

- Printed or done on computer
- 8 1/2 x 11 inch white paper
- Font no less than 10 but preferably 12 characters per inch (Times New Roman)
- Margins - 1 inch minimum on all 4 sides
- Maximum of 4 pages (one side only) The 4 pages does not include the front page with personal information.

The Applications are:

- Easily updated
- Easily adaptable for future award applications, scholarships & job applications, etc.

Filling out your "4-H Award Application"



What is Leadership? (20 points)

- Leadership means:
 - ✓ Giving direction
 - ✓ Planning
 - ✓ Teaching
 - ✓ Organizing
- Acting in a supporting role such as helping, assisting does not score as highly.



What is Community Service? (20 points)

- Assisting with the improvement of something in the community
- Can include individual or group projects that benefited the community
- Definition of impact: Measure of the tangible and intangible effects (consequences) of one thing or entity's action or influence upon another. In other words - how will the community service project affect the lives of those in your community?

Levels of Participation in 4-H:

- (L) Local {club or community level}
- (C) County
- (R) Regional /Multi County
- (S) State
- (N) National
- (I) International

Summary of 4-H accomplishments (10 points):

- 4-H Accomplishments in project areas (should include size, growth of project/ knowledge & skills gained).
- Include additional 4-H/Extension Activities you may have participated in or awards earned



What is Size & Growth?

- Size is anything that can be expressed in quantity: took 360 photos in 2011
- Growth shows a progression from the first year to the present:
 - ✓ Took 100 pictures in 2013: 250 in 2014, etc.
 - ✓ Or progression from simple to more complex



Knowledge & Skills:

- Explain the types of things you learned through 4-H projects and experiences
- Use a variety of verbs, how complex the skill, etc.

Highlight of School, Church or other Community Activities (10 points)

- Summarize your participation in activities, awards earned, etc. in groups other than 4-H
- Show how involved in the community you are

Tell Us About You (15 points)

- Information related to the award areas (leadership & community service)
- Unusual situations or experiences
- Things you learned that you didn't know before
- Things you tried successfully or unsuccessfully
- How 4-H helped you become a better leader and citizen
- How 4-H has impacted you and your family
- How 4-H has affected your confidence, attitude, self-respect, etc.

Future Education & Career Plans (5 points)

- As of right now what are your short term and long term plans or goals for your future?

Recommendation Letters (15 points)

- Ask someone who knows you and is familiar with what you are involved in but not a relative
- When asking someone to write a letter for you, be clear and concise on what should be included in the letter & when the deadline is to submit the application and letters. (Don't wait till the last minute to ask!)

Application Bonus Points (5 points)

- These points may be given at the judging committees discretion



A few Hints to organizing your Application:

- Organize your information
- Summarize the most important information
- Prioritize, you may have to leave something out
- Use action verbs to explain what you did (try not to use the same verb over and over - example: I helped with...)
- Spelling and Neatness is important! Ask a parent or teacher to proof read.
- Read and Follow Directions!
- Award applications are a great way to reflect on your accomplishments and keep track of them for future use on scholarship and job applications.