

## *Application Guidelines*



**DEADLINE:**

**Monday, November 30, 2015**

**12:00 PM ET**

**No applications will be accepted after the deadline.**

**All questions can be sent to Rachel Mentzer at [4HLegacyAwards@4-h.org](mailto:4HLegacyAwards@4-h.org).**

**APPLICANTS MUST HAVE APPROVAL BY A STATE PROGRAM LEADER  
OR COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT WITH 4-H OVERSIGHT FOR AN  
APPLICATION TO BE OFFICIALLY SUBMITTED.**

## A. AWARD DESCRIPTION

National 4-H Council's Youth in Action Awards recognize outstanding 4-H'ers who epitomize 4-H youth empowerment and leadership. We will honor four confident, accomplished 4-H'ers who have gained critical life skills through their 4-H experience and have utilized those skills to overcome a challenge, or challenges, they have faced. The award winners will also demonstrate how they have positively impacted their family, peers and community through their 4-H experiences.

The 2016 awards will expand to highlight youth in each of our core areas: Agriculture and Animal Sciences, Citizenship, Healthy Living and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Through a formal selection process, one awardee will be chosen within each pillar area:

- Youth in Action: Agriculture and Animal Sciences
- Youth in Action: Citizenship
- Youth in Action: Healthy Living
- Youth in Action: STEM

One overall national Youth in Action Award 2016 winner will be selected from the four pillar winners.

The Youth in Action Awards are presented at National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards. The 7th annual Legacy Awards will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, in Washington D.C. This special evening of celebration honors the accomplishments of both 4-H youth and the adults who make life-changing experiences possible for millions of 4-H young people.

## B. QUALIFICATIONS

Youth in Action applicants should possess the following qualifications:

- Applicants should be a 4-H member or recent alumni within the United States, ages 16-21.
- Applicants should represent the passions of 4-H youth nationwide, demonstrate outstanding leadership, showcase the essence of 4-H positivity and possess a proven ability to engage others.
- Applicants should be able to demonstrate:
  - **Personal Impact:** How 4-H personally impacted their life and developed them as a True Leader;
  - **Community Impact:** How 4-H has empowered them to positively impact family, peers and community; and
  - **Project Excellence:** How they have demonstrated excellence in a 4-H project.
- Applicants should be able to self-select their pillar area between the four options: Agriculture and Animal Sciences, Citizenship, Healthy Living and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)

## **C. PILLAR AREAS**

This section serves as an explanation of the four pillar areas from which the applicants must self-select. All applicants should demonstrate community impact, personal impact and project excellence.

### Youth in Action: Agriculture and Animal Sciences

Agriculture and Animal Sciences were the foundation of 4-H and remain an important part of the program today. When 4-H was established in 1902, building community clubs to help solve agricultural challenges was a first step toward youth shaping their communities through embracing best practices. Although Agriculture has traditionally been defined as the production of plants and animals, today, science and technology allow us to include new areas of research and investigation into the agriculture arena. Young people continue to make strides in the modern, high-tech, and fascinating field of agricultural science. The Agriculture and Animal Sciences pillar includes, but is not limited to, agriculture, agricultural sciences, life sciences, veterinary sciences and animal sciences.

### Youth in Action: Citizenship

Since its inception, 4-H has placed emphasis on the importance of young people being engaged, well-informed citizens. By connecting to their communities and community leaders, youth understand their role in civic affairs and expand their role in decision making processes. It's clear that civic engagement provides the foundation that helps youth understand the "big picture" of life and find purpose and meaning. The Citizenship pillar includes, but is not limited to, civic engagement (voice, advocacy, activism), service (community service, service learning, community youth development), civic education (government principles, processes and structure; personal roles & responsibilities, history & cultural heritage), expressive arts, and leadership (leadership, respect, understanding, character development).

### Youth in Action: Healthy Living

Pledging one's health to better living has been embraced by the program since its inception in 1902. Having a long history of promoting healthy living among youth and their families, 4-H has become a national leader in health-related education and influencing positive behavior adoption. No matter what specific project area a young person chooses, healthy decision-making and actions are foundational for all. The 4-H Healthy Living pillar engages youth and families through access and opportunities to achieve optimal physical, social, and emotional well-being. The Healthy Living pillar includes, but is not limited to, nutrition, physical activity, social-emotional health, prevention of injuries and prevention of risky behavior such as alcohol and other drug use.

### Youth in Action: STEM

The need for science, engineering, and technology education is essential for today's young people. 4-H programs prepare youth for the challenges of the 21st century by engaging them in a process of discovery and exploration. The STEM pillar includes, but is not limited to, applied mathematics, environmental and natural sciences, consumer sciences, engineering and technology.

## D. AWARD INFORMATION

An awardee within each of the four pillar areas will be selected and will receive:

- A \$5,000 scholarship for higher education, to be paid directly to the institution. This includes both two-year and four-year colleges, trade schools or other advanced learning opportunities.
- A \$5,000 grant to the awardees' 4-H County. Please see section Appendix A for more information.
- An all-expenses paid trip for the awardee and one chaperone to Washington, D.C. to be recognized at the National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards on April 12, 2016 and participate in media and speaking opportunities before and after the event.
- An opportunity to be featured as the 4-H Youth Spokesperson for their pillar area.
- An official reference letter from National 4-H Council President and CEO, Jennifer Sirangelo and National 4-H Council Chair of the Board of Trustees Alison Lewis, Global Chief Marketing Officer, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc.
- A shopping experience (valued at \$1,000) to select attire for the 4-H Legacy Awards event.

One national Youth in Action Award winner will be chosen from the four pillar awardees and will receive, in addition to the benefits above:

- An additional \$5,000 scholarship for higher education, to be paid directly to the institution.
- An opportunity to speak at National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards.
- An opportunity to be featured in media spotlights.

## E. AWARD TIMELINE

September 15, 2015	<b>Online application opens</b>
November 30, 2015, 12:00PM EST	<b>Online application closes</b>
December, 2015	Award notifications will be sent to all applicants. All applicants will be notified via email. No phone or email inquiries, please.
January, 2016	Pillar winners announced externally.
January - March, 2016	Professional coaching for media and PR Video shoot for National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards spotlight Travel arrangements made
April 12, 2016	National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards in Washington, D.C. All winners must attend.

## F. AWARD SELECTION

The award selection is a competitive process, determined by a selection committee comprised of National 4-H Council staff, National 4-H Council Board of Trustees members and pillar sponsor representation. The selection is based on how well the applicant demonstrates Personal Impact, Community Impact and Project Excellence. Once chosen, the awardees will be informed by National 4-H Council, offering congratulations and providing additional details for next steps. The awardees agree to comply with the requirements set forth in the application and to utilize the 4-H Name and Emblem (Clover) when publicizing the award.

Those not selected will receive an email message indicating that their application was not selected. Scores and/or comments concerning individual applications will not be released.

## G. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The following criteria will be required for an acceptable application. Proper preparation of the application is required and must include each of the following elements as listed. Successful applicants will receive an email confirmation of their submission.

### 1. Video Submission Component

In a **4 minutes or less** video, the applicant should address the following questions/statements:

- How has 4-H changed your life? What critical life skills did you grow through 4-H?
- How have you applied those critical life skills to an adversity or challenge you or your community were facing?
- What positive impact have you had on your family, peers, community and others?
- How are you a True Leader? (Must use the phrase, "I am a True Leader because...")
- What is your 4-H project of excellence? Why did you select this project area?

**Videos may be uploaded to YouTube and shared on the application or uploaded directly into the application. If the video file is uploaded directly into the application, the file size should not exceed 50MB.**

### 2. Online Application

The online application consists of an essay about the applicant's 4-H project (not to exceed 500 words), personal contact information, extension agent contact information, and video upload. The online 4-H Youth in Action Awards application can be found at:

[www.4-h.org/YouthinAction](http://www.4-h.org/YouthinAction). Only applications submitted via the National 4-H Council online portal will be accepted for review. Applications that deviate from the instructions outlined in the application **will not** be reviewed.

### 3. Applicants must have approval by a State Program Leader or County Extension Agent with 4-H oversight for an application to be officially submitted.

The online application allows applicants to supply their State staff or County 4-H Extension Agent's email address (or the Extension staff member with oversight for the County 4-H program).

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An automated email will be sent to the Agent, asking them to review and approve the application. Once reviewed and accepted, the applicant will receive a confirmation email that their application has been accepted.

It is highly recommended that you connect with your State Program Leader or County 4-H Extension Agent prior to completing the online application. If state or county office information is unknown, please utilize the Find 4-H Website here: [www.4-h.org/find4h](http://www.4-h.org/find4h).

## **H. APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

Only applications that include all of the following sections will be considered:

- Uploaded video
- Completed online application form
- Approval from State or County 4-H Extension Agent

## **I. QUESTIONS?**

General Award Questions contact: Rachel Mentzer at [4HLegacyAwards@4-h.org](mailto:4HLegacyAwards@4-h.org) or (301) 961-2940.

Online Submission Issues contact: [webadmin@4-H.org](mailto:webadmin@4-H.org).

## APPENDIX A: LOCAL GRANT

As part of the Youth in Action Awards, the County that produces a Youth in Action pillar winner will each receive a \$5,000 grant to grow the reach and impact of their proven programming.

Before accepting the award, the County Agent must review and accept the requirements of the local grant, as outlined in a memorandum of understanding. The requirements are as follows:

- Sign a MOU agreeing to spend the \$5,000 grant on activities related to the winner's pillar area (i.e. Agriculture and Animal Sciences, Citizenship, STEM or Healthy Living).
- Allot 30 minutes quarterly to share success stories with Council. Quarterly check-in dates will be determined together with National 4-H Council and may include phone calls, digital reporting or written summaries.
- Write a short blog post about how the local grant affected the county; best practices for writing a blog are included on 4-H.org.
- Acknowledge the award on website and social media channels.
- Capture photos, videos and other digital assets, as able, to share with National 4-H Council
  - Have program participants sign media release forms, template provided by Council.
- Issue a press release, provided by Council, publicizing the grant through local media outlets (print, online, TV, radio). Give links to any successful utilization of the press release through local media outlets.