

# Application Guidelines



**DEADLINE:**

**Monday, October 24, 2016**

**5:00 PM EST**

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

**All questions can be sent to [YouthinAction@4-H.org](mailto:YouthinAction@4-H.org)**

**APPLICANTS MUST HAVE APPROVAL BY A STATE PROGRAM LEADER  
OR COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT WITH 4-H OVERSIGHT IN ORDER TO  
BE SELECTED AS A FINALIST**

## A. AWARD DESCRIPTION

National 4-H Council's 4-H 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 for personal impact (to overcome a challenge, or challenges, they have faced) and community impact (to positively impact their family, peers and/or community).

National 4-H Council will give four 2017 4-H Youth in Action Pillar Awards—one in each of our core pillar areas: Agriculture, 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
- Youth in Action: Citizenship
- Youth in Action: Healthy Living
- Youth in Action: STEM

One of these pillar winners will also be selected as the 2017 National 4-H Youth in Action Award winner.

The 4-H Youth in Action Awards are presented at National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards. The 8th annual Legacy Awards will be held on Tuesday, March, 21<sup>st</sup> 2017, 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

4-H Youth in Action Award applicants should possess the following qualifications:

- Age: Applicants should be a 4-H member or recent alumni within the United States, ages 16-19 (*NOTE: Applicants should fall within this age range by January of the application year. Applicants who turn 20 starting January 1 of the application year (2016) will not be eligible to apply*)
- Achievement & Impact: Applicants should be able to demonstrate:
  - **Pillar Area Achievement**: A successful accomplishment or subject matter mastery through a 4-H project or activity within one of the four pillar areas: Agriculture Citizenship, Healthy Living and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
  - **Personal Impact**: How 4-H personally impacted their life and helped the applicant develop life skills to overcome a personal obstacle; and
  - **Community Impact**: How 4-H has empowered the applicant to positively impact (produce positive outcomes) for their family, peers and/or community

## **C. PILLAR AREAS**

This section serves as an explanation of the four pillar areas from which the applicants must self-select for the award application.

### 4-H Youth in Action: Agriculture

Award applicants in the Agriculture pillar should demonstrate Achievement in projects or activities that include, but are not limited to: agriculture, agricultural sciences, life sciences, veterinary sciences or animal sciences.

### 4-H Youth in Action: Citizenship

Award applicants in the Citizenship pillar should demonstrate Achievement in projects or activities that include, but are 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, or leadership (leadership, respect, understanding, character development).

### 4-H Youth in Action: Healthy Living

Award applicants in the Healthy Living pillar should demonstrate Achievement in projects or activities that includes, but are not limited to: nutrition, physical activity, social-emotional health, prevention of injuries or prevention of risky behavior such as alcohol and other drug use.

### Youth in Action: STEM

Award applicants in the STEM pillar should demonstrate Achievement in projects or activities that include, but are not limited to: applied mathematics, environmental and natural sciences, consumer sciences, engineering or 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.
- An all-expenses paid trip for the awardee and one chaperone to Washington, D.C. to be recognized at National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, and to participate in media and speaking opportunities before and after Legacy Awards.
- 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
- A shopping experience to select attire for the 4-H Legacy Awards event.

One National 4-H 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

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| August 15, 2016               | Online application opens   |
| October 24, 2016, 5:00 PM EST | Online application closes  |
| November 16, 2016             | Finalists selected, online interviews begin<br><i>(If selected as a finalist, a 4-H Staff member will have 3 business days to confirm an applicant's participation in 4-H)</i> |
| Week of December 12, 2016     | Award notifications will be sent to all applicants. All applicants will be notified via email. No phone or email inquiries, please.  |
| January 2017                  | Pillar winners announced to the 4-H Field  |
| January - February 2017       | Professional coaching for media and PR<br>Video shoot for National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards spotlight<br>Travel arrangements finalized for trip to Washington, D.C.         |
| February, 2017                | Pillar winners announced externally to their local community and media.  |
| March 21, 2017                | National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards in Washington, D.C. All winners must attend.  |

## F. 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. Applicants will NOT receive an email confirmation for incomplete applications. If you are not sure you have received a confirmation email, you may contact National 4-H Council at [YouthInAction@4-H.org](mailto:YouthInAction@4-H.org) to confirm the status of your application.

### 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?
- 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 name, phone number and email address (or the Extension staff member with oversight for the County 4-H program). Once the 3 finalists are selected, 4-H will send an email to the identified staff member asking that they verify the applicant as a current 4-H member.

IMPORTANT It is highly recommended that applicants connect with their State Program Leader or County 4-H Extension Agent prior to completing the online application. This variation is required in order for the applicant to advance to the finalist round. The staff member will be allowed 3 days to complete the verification. 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).

## G. AWARD SELECTION

The award selection is a two-round competitive process, determined by a selection committee comprised of National 4-H Council staff, Board of Trustee members, past Youth in Action winners and sponsor representatives. The selection is based on how well the applicant demonstrates Pillar Area Achievement, Personal Impact and Community Impact.

Three finalists will be chosen per pillar. Those finalists will be asked to participate in a live, 30 minute interview. 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.

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

## **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: [YouthInAction@4-H.org](mailto:YouthInAction@4-H.org)

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