



Iowa County 4-H Older Youth Travel Experiences, Awards & Scholarships 2024-2025

APPLICATION PACKET

FALL APPLICATIONS:

ALL MATERIALS DUE:
Friday, November 1, 2024

INTERVIEWS:
Wednesday, November 6, 2024

SPRING APPLICATIONS:

ALL MATERIALS DUE:
Friday, March 14, 2025

INTERVIEWS:
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

The Iowa County 4-H program uses an application and interview process to support youth in building life skills as they pursue extraordinary 4-H opportunities and recognitions, including:

- **4-H Travel Scholarships** – See information and chart on following page
- **4-H Key Award** – Top award a WI 4-H Youth can receive (11th-13th Gr)
- **4-H College Scholarships** – Funds for post-high school education (12th-13th Gr)

There are two parts of this process:

Part 1 - Application: Youth must submit a written application. Depending on the opportunity a youth is applying for, the youth must complete a cover letter, resume, and essay, and must collect a recommendation letter. Applicants should write about their 4-H experiences in a way that highlights the skills they have developed. Youth will...

- Use **time management skills** to prepare the materials and ensure they are submitted on time
- Build valuable **record keeping** and **communication skills**

Part 2 - Interview: Youth applicants will participate in an interview with a small panel of 4-H adult volunteers and community members. Youth will...

- Practice **communication** and **social skills** as they talk about their 4-H experiences in a way that is understandable to people both within and outside of the organization
- Use **critical thinking** skills to formulate appropriate answers to interview questions

This packet contains:

Page 2-3: List and Description of 4-H Travel Experiences, Awards, & Scholarships
Page 4: Tips for Composing Your Application
Page 5: Application Requirements Chart

Page 6: Essay Question
Page 7-8: Adult Recommendation Form
Page 9: Application Reflection (*required*)
Page 10: Interview Schedule Sheet (*required*)

TRAVEL FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS – The chart below shows the approximate costs for each statewide experience (note: costs are subject to change). The Iowa County 4-H Leaders pays 1/3 of the cost of trips, except for Fall Forum, for which they pay ½ of the cost. If a youth chooses to go on two trips, the 4-H Leaders will pay 1/3 of the cost of one trip. If a youth is participating in a trip or State Team for the second time, the 4-H Leaders will not provide any support. Some 4-H clubs in Iowa County also provide financial support to members who go on 4-H trips. *Needs-based scholarships are also available for youth who participate in Statewide 4-H Educational Experiences. Scholarships require an application that is submitted to the state office. For more information and to apply, please visit the [Statewide Scholarship Website](#).*

	Trips and Awards	Age eligibility	Total Cost	Your cost (approximate)
Fall Application	Advanced Space Academy February 15-22, 2025: Fly to Huntsville, Alabama. College and career experiences, astronaut exercises, engineering challenges.	10 th to 12 th grade	About \$2700	About \$1,800
Fall Application	Space Camp May 1-5, 2025: A camp experience where you learn and experience a ton of different aspects of life exploring places beyond Earth!	6 to 8 th grade, max age 15	About \$1300	About \$867
Spring Application	Fall Forum November 4-6, 2024: Our hope is that 4-H youth and adult leaders will come together to connect, collaborate, celebrate, and continue building excitement and energy for a new year of 4-H learning.	7 th to 13 th grade	About \$185 (Day only \$65)	About \$92.50 (Day only \$32.50)
Spring Application	Summer Academy, Madison, WI, June 16-19, 2025: Participate in a variety of seminars, motivational speakers, dances, recreation, and more. Stay on campus at UW-Madison.	7 th to 10 th grade at time of selection	About \$600	About \$400
Fall Application	Citizenship Washington Focus June or July 2025: 9 days across the country and in Washington, D.C., meet 4-Hers nationwide, learn about citizenship, government, history. Lots to see and do. Two weeks offered	10 th - 12 th grade at time of selection. Min. age 15	About \$2,500	About \$1,667
Fall Application	National 4-H Conference Nov. 29-Dec. 3, 2024: Arlington, Virginia April 19-24. Wisconsin 4-H annually selects only 8-10 youth to attend this conference. One day is spent on Capitol Hill updating legislators on current developments in 4-H and touring.	10 th - 12 th grade at time of selection. Min. age 15 Max age 18	About \$2,000	About \$1,333
Spring Application	National 4-H Congress, Atlanta, GA April 11-16, 2025: Travel by plane to Georgia where you will spend Thanksgiving weekend celebrating accomplishments you and others have made in 4-H. Expect a lot of motivation and inspiration at this one.	Grades 10-12 at time of selection. Max. age 18	About \$1,500	About \$1,000
Fall Application	American Spirit East June or July 2025: Youth will learn about America’s heritage and build awareness of the many steps taken to gain US Independence and freedom by visiting historical sites in Philadelphia, New York, Boston and more. June/July dates	Grades 8 – 10 at the time of registration	About \$2,200	About \$1,467

For more information about each of these great experiences and more scholarship opportunities, please visit the following website: [Statewide Events and Opportunities – Wisconsin 4-H](#)

4-H AWARDS

Fall Application

4-H Key Award

This award is the highest award a 4-H member can receive in Wisconsin 4-H. It recognizes members in **10th-13th grade** who have shown consistent growth in their 4-H program, developed leadership abilities, and been helpful to other members in their club and community. Youth must have completed at least three years of 4-H club membership.

Award application materials REQUIRED: Cover Letter, Resume (1-2 pages), Long Essay (150-300 words), Recommendation Form/Letter, Application Reflection, Interview Preference Form, and address the Iowa County Board of Supervisors.

4-H SCHOLARSHIPS

Fall Application

Scholarship application materials REQUIRED: Cover Letter, Resume (1-2 pages), Long Essay (150-300 words), Recommendation Form/Letter, Application Reflection, and Interview Preference Form.

4-H Adult Leaders Scholarships

Applicants must be enrolled in Iowa County 4-H at the time of application, have been enrolled in Iowa County 4-H for at least three (3) years, graduating from 4-H, and be enrolled or planning to enroll at a university, college, or technical school during the upcoming academic school year. Applicants may only be awarded this scholarship once. Annually, there scholarships available and awarded at the discretion of the interview committee.

Shelly Osterdorff 4-H Scholarship

Shelly Osterdorff dedicated over twenty-two years to Iowa County 4-H, serving as a club leader for the Rewey Lucky Stars 4-H club and in multiple positions within the Leaders Association. Shelly had a passion for agriculture and an even greater love for 4-H where she enjoyed watching and teaching every 4-H member she met. Shelly's family and the Rewey Lucky Stars 4-H club are honored to present a scholarship in her memory.

Applicants must be enrolled in the Iowa County 4-H at the time of application either as a current senior or graduating member. Applicants must be enrolled in Iowa County 4-H for at least three (3) years and be enrolled or planning to enroll at a university, college, or technical school during the upcoming academic year. Annually, the scholarships available and awarded are at the discretion of the Osterdorff family/Rewey Lucky Stars Leaders.

TIPS FOR COMPOSING YOUR APPLICATION PACKET

Reference the “Applications Requirements Chart” on the next page for what is required for each opportunity. One application may be submitted for multiple awards or scholarships, but it is CRITICAL that the applicant identifies in the COVER LETTER what exact travel scholarship(s), college scholarship(s) or award they wish to be considered for.

When it comes to the cover letter and resume, please note...

- **Use a computer.** You can save your work and make revisions from year to year. If you do not have a computer at home, work with your school, a friend, or a local public library. The cover letter, resume, and essay questions **must** be typed with a computer.
- **Plan ahead.** Go through each part of the resume and cover letter before typing. Collect your thoughts and use the guide materials in this packet. As much as possible, think of your 4-H experience as a job. What do you do? What skills have you developed as a result of participation in 4-H? How have you personally changed as a result of your 4-H experience?
- **Consider layout, design, and abbreviations.** Your cover letter and resume should be easy to read and understand. Arrange your resume as illustrated in the sample copy provided.
 - Choose a common and professional font, such as Arial or Calibri. Your font size should be 11-12 point. Use the same font throughout your application documents.
 - Use between .5” and 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides of your page.
 - Avoid using too many abbreviations, as not everyone may be familiar with them.
- The cover letter for this application should be no longer than one page and **must** specify what award or scholarships(s) you are applying for.
 - **Travel Scholarship Applicants:** Short and concise letters are encouraged! Don’t make this overly hard on yourselves; the first and last paragraph can be as short as just 1-2 sentences.
 - **Award & College Scholarship Applicants:** Write this letter as you would for a job application, specifying why you are qualified and deserving of this recognition.
- **Order is important.** Resumes are typically put together by organizing information in the order that it happened. Arrange information in reverse chronological order (most recent first) within the sections designated in the examples in this packet.
- **Individualize it.** This is YOUR resume and cover letter. Outlines and samples are provided to assist you, but you **must** add your own personality and experience to it.
- **Proofread!** Your documents should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. Use spell check and follow up by having at least two other people proofread your cover letter, resume, and essay response. Don’t lose points in the process by neglecting to proofread!
- **Ask for help if you need it!** If you have never gone through this process, you will probably have questions. Don’t hesitate to ask! Dan’s office number is (608) 930-9850, and his email is dan.brandt@wisc.edu. Ask questions or get clarification if you don’t understand something!

Please neatly compile and submit to the Iowa County UW-Extension Office by:

- Fall Applications: Friday, November 1, 2024
- Spring Applications: Friday, March 14, 2025

Your application packet can be dropped off in person, emailed, or mailed to the UW-Extension Office.

Applications Requirement Chart

Which of the following application components are required for each opportunity?

	Cover Letter	Resume	Essay	Recommendation Form(s)	Reflection	Interview Preference	Application Timeline
Advanced Space Camp Scholarship	Yes	1-2 page	Long Essay	1	Yes	Yes	Fall
Space Camp Scholarship	Yes	1 page	Short Essay	1	Yes	Yes	Fall
Fall Forum Scholarship	Yes	1 page	Short Essay	1	Yes	Yes	Spring
Summer Academy Scholarship	Yes	1 page	Short Essay	1	Yes	Yes	Spring
American Spirit Scholarship	Yes	1-2 page	Long Essay	1	Yes	Yes	Fall
Citizens Washington Focus Scholarship	Yes	1-2 page	Long Essay	1	Yes	Yes	Fall
National 4-H Conference Scholarship	Yes	1-2 page	Long Essay	1	Yes	Yes	Fall
National 4-H Congress Scholarship	Yes	1-2 page	Long Essay	1	Yes	Yes	Spring
4-H Key Award	Yes, with more explanation	1-2 page	Long Essay	2	Yes	Yes	Fall
4-H Adult Leaders Scholarship	Yes, with more explanation	1-2 page	Long Essay	2	Yes	No	Fall
Shelly Osterdorff	Yes, with more explanation	1-2 page	Long Essay	2	Yes	No	Fall

Please see page 14 for instructions on including your preferred interview time with your application materials.

ESSAY QUESTION

Include in your application packet an essay response to the appropriate question:

Short Essay: *(100-150 word response)*

What has been one of your most positive 4-H experiences?
What about this experience made it so positive?

Long Essay: *(150-300 word response)*

4-H youth learn important life skills through involvement in their 4-H clubs, projects, and groups, such as problem solving, responsibility, empathy, and leadership. What life skills has 4-H enabled you to learn and practice? How will these skills help you in the future, whether in school or work?

Tips for completing your essay response:

- Choose a common and professional font, such as Arial or Calibri. Your font size should be no less than 11 point and no larger than 12 point. Use the same font throughout your document.
- Include your name, grade, and 4-H club at the top of the page for your essay response.
- The essay response should be single-spaced.
- Use 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides of your page.
- Be thoughtful and honest in your response.
- Proofread your essay response and have someone else proofread it as well for accuracy in grammar and spelling.
- You will be evaluated on your depth of thought and how clearly you communicate.



RECOMMENDATION FROM AN ADULT
(NOT A PARENT OR RELATIVE)

Name of 4-H Member: _____

As part of the selection process for Iowa County 4-H Trips and Awards, the selection committee is seeking recommendation and information for candidates. Please provide us your input regarding the following areas:

	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>
Leadership Qualities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maturity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation in 4-H Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Positive Attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide additional comments in the space below:

Print Your Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recommendations should be mailed to Dan Brandt, UW-Extension Iowa County, 303 W Chapel St., Suite 1200, Dodgeville, WI 53533.
Please use this side of the page only.





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Maturity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation in 4-H Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Positive Attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide additional comments in the space below:

Print Your Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Please use this side of the page only.



APPLICATION REFLECTION

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Please complete the following reflection and submit with your application materials.

1. As a result of constructing my cover letter, resume, and essay, I: (check all that apply)

learned more about myself (*If checked, list at least one thing that you have learned*):

better understand why I'm in 4-H

better understand what skills I have gained from 4-H

better understand how to develop a resume

will set higher project goals this year (*If checked, list at least one goal you are setting this year*)

will take on a new 4-H challenge this year (*If checked, list at least one new challenge you plan to take on this year*)

Other(s): (*Please list*)

2. What is the most helpful or valuable part of this application process?

3. What ideas do you have for improving this application process?

Please return this form with your application materials.

Thank You!

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE PREFERENCE SHEET

Please identify your top four preferences for interview times (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th). Face-to-face interviews are required.

Also, please indicate if there is any time you could definitely NOT interview. Thank you.

Fall Interviews: Wednesday, November 6, 2024

___ 5:30 p.m.

___ 5:45 p.m.

___ 6:00 p.m.

___ 6:15 p.m.

___ 6:30 p.m.

Spring Interviews: March 5, 2025

___ 5:30 p.m.

___ 5:45 p.m.

___ 6:00 p.m.

___ 6:15 p.m.

___ 6:30 p.m.

Please return this form with your application materials.

Name _____