



4-H Alumni Award Overview

Sponsored by the Illinois 4-H Alumni Association

The highest honor is bestowed upon a 4-H alumnus by the Illinois 4-H Association and Illinois 4-H program on behalf of the University of Illinois. This award recognizes an elite group of Illinois 4-H alumni for their outstanding career accomplishments and leadership in civic, community, and professional activities.

The award was established by the Illinois 4-H Foundation in 1981 and was awarded through 2014. The Illinois 4-H Alumni Association re-established the award in 2023.

View all past award winners online: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/alumni/alumni-awards-and-recognition>

Any individual eligible to receive the award which was:

- An Illinois 4-H member for a minimum of three years
- Is living at the time of selection (Current 4-H staff are not eligible.)

Selection Process:

- A committee will review nominations.
- Up to two recipients will be selected statewide each year.
- Award winners will be notified following selection.
- Winners will be recognized one day at **the 2025 Illinois State Fair, August 8-10, 2025**
- The 4-H Alumni Award may only be received once per individual.

Attachments:

- References must be attached to the online nomination by March 15.
- A minimum of two references and a maximum of four, in support of the nomination. References are not scored; they only provide support for the nomination.
- Attach a resume of the nominee. (no vitae, please).

All nominations are kept on file for three years to be reviewed; however, nominators are encouraged to update forms if they are re-considered after the initial year of application.

Scoring Rubric

- Nominating Statement – 3%
- Career Accomplishments – 25%
- Summary of Accomplishments as a 4-H Member – 15%
- Impact of 4-H and Service – 25%
- Civic Leadership – 25%
- Awards and Honors – 7%

Application Criteria

***Required**

- **Nominator Information**
 - Nominator Name
 - Nominators Title
 - Nominator's Mailing Address
 - Phone
 - Email
 - Signature from Nominator
- **Nominee Information**
 - Name*
 - Phonetic Pronunciation of First and Last Name*
 - Birthdate*

- Active 4-H Member in Illinois County*
- Years in 4-H
- Year Graduated from 4-H (last year in 4-H)
- Spouses Name, if applicable
- Nominee Mailing Address*
- Cell Phone
- Home/Work Phone
- Email*
- Upload a Photo of nominee, head and shoulder photo preferred. *
- **Nominee Biography**
 - Nominee Post-Secondary Education (if applicable)
 - Present Occupation
 - Company Name
 - Title
 - Business Address
 - Work Telephone
 - Nominees Resume Upload (if applicable)
- **Nominating Statement *** - Please provide a summary (maximum of 500 words) of the nominee's achievement and excellence in their profession, service, and leadership in community programs. (This statement will be used to introduce the nominee if he/she is selected for the award.)
- **Career Accomplishments ***
 - Previous career experiences - Please list former occupations and positions chronologically, starting with the most recent first.
 - Career Accomplishments - Cite major accomplishments, innovations and/or successes in chosen profession/career. (max 300 words)
- **Summary of Accomplishments ***
 - Summary of Accomplishments as a 4 H Member - Please share key projects, achievements, leadership, and events attended at the club, county, state, national and international level(s) as an Illinois 4-H youth member. (Max. 500 words)
- **Impact of 4-H & Service *** - How has 4-H impacted the nominee's life? How has the nominee continued their commitment to 4-H as a 4-H alumnus? Please provide examples. (Max of 500 words)
- **Civic Leadership *** - Include specific examples of the nominee's contributions to the betterment of society through involvement in community and charitable organizations (civic, community, school, church, public service, etc.). List dates and leadership roles, if applicable. (Non-4-H Leadership) (Max of 500 words)
- **Awards and Honors *** - Please list awards and honors the nominee has received that are non-4-H related to their profession, community, and/or philanthropy. (Max. 300 words)
- **References** - A minimum of two references and a maximum of four, in support of the nomination. Preferred to have references attached below; however, they can be emailed directly to il4halumni@illinois.edu by the deadline. You must note on the online form how each reference letter will be received.

Questions, please contact:

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Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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