



2025-2026 Green County 4-H Youth Travel Experiences, Awards & Scholarships APPLICATION PACKET

FALL APPLICATIONS:

ALL MATERIALS DUE:
Monday, November 3, 2025

INTERVIEWS:
Wednesday, November 12, 2025

SPRING APPLICATIONS:

ALL MATERIALS DUE:
Monday, March 16, 2026

INTERVIEWS:
Wednesday, March 25, 2026

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

- **4-H Travel Scholarships** – Funds to cover 25% of a 4-H Travel Experience (6th-12th Gr)
- **4-H Key Award** – Top award a WI 4-H Youth can receive (11th-13th Gr)
- **4-H College Scholarships** – Funds (\$500-\$1,000) for post-high school education (12th-13th Gr)

There are three parts of this process, and further support youth in building important life skills.

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, essay, and collect a recommendation letter. Youth should focus their written application on describing their 4-H experiences in a way that highlights the career, hobby and life skills they have developed. Youth will...

- Use **self-discipline** to prepare the materials and ensure they are submitted on time.
- Build **record keeping** and **communication** skills while preparing for the workforce.

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.

Part 3 - Feedback: Youth will receive a written evaluation with feedback on both their application and interview, as well notification about whether or not they were selected for an award or scholarship. Youth will build **resiliency** and **character** as they receive feedback on what they did well and what they could improve on in future applications and interviews.

This packet contains:

Page 2-3: List of 4-H Travel Opportunities
Page 3: List of College Scholarships
Page 4: List of Awards
Page 4: Tips for Composing Your Application
Page 5-6: Cover Letter Outline & Sample

Page 7-8: Resume Outline & Sample
Page 9: Essay Question
Page 10: Adult Recommendation Form
Page 11: Application Reflection (**required**)
Page 12: Interview Schedule Sheet (**required**)

2026 4-H TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

TRAVEL FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS – Youth register for a 4-H Travel Experience on 4HOnline, but pay the cost of the travel experience in advance of the experience to the 4-H Adult Leaders Association. Youth selected for a 4-H Travel Scholarship through the application and interview process will be eligible for a scholarship of 25% off the total registration cost for any of the following 4-H Travel Experiences. Youth can only receive a scholarship to attend each travel experience once, with the exception of Summer Academy. Youth may attend and receive a scholarship for more than one 4-H Travel Experience in 2026. **Please note:** Travel scholarship awardees are required to give a presentation about their experience at an Adult Leaders meeting upon their return.

Additional 4-H funding may be available from the 4-H Junior Leaders group, for active 4-H Junior Leader participants; contact advisor Deb Myers (april18@tds.net) for more information on 4-H Junior Leaders.

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:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/statewide-scholarships/>.

****NEW for 4-H Travel Scholarships in 2026...**

- Youth can apply in either the Fall OR Spring Application cycles for a scholarship for any 2026 4-H Travel Experience.
- Youth also only need to apply and be approved once for a 4-H Travel Scholarship and it can be applied to any 2026 4-H Travel Experiences.
- **All 4-H Travel Scholarships REQUIRE:** Cover Letter, Resume (1-2 pages), Short Essay (100-150 words), Application Reflection and Interview Preference Form.

CWF & Ignite— Washington, DC

This new 4-H conference, open to youth in grades 10-12 has two options for participating...

CWF @ Ignite – March 24-29, 2026

A cornerstone leadership experience for teens passionate about civic engagement, public policy, and advocacy as pathways to community change. Participants will strengthen their understanding of the democratic process and cultivate leadership skills rooted in civic responsibility. The cost is \$2,800 per youth. Only 20 Wisconsin spots available. Registration will be through 4HOnline, **September 8-29, 2025**.

Ignite by 4-H – March 25-29, 2026

Delegates will have their choice of a Animal Science or STEM track. The Animal Science track is an immersive experience focused on the science and care of animals through hands-on learning in fields such as veterinary science, meat science and production, ranching, livestock management, and equine science. In the STEM track, teens will experience innovation in action through hands-on challenges in engineering, coding, robotics, and emerging technologies. The cost is \$2,800 per youth. Only 20 Wisconsin spots available.

For more info: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/ignite-by-4-h/>.

Registration will be through 4HOnline, **September 8-29, 2025**.

Space Camp – Huntsville, Alabama

When: April/May 2026

Delegates participate in hands-on mock space missions and other activities in this NASA program while exchanging ideas with youth from across Wisconsin: <https://bit.ly/Space-camp>. 4-H members must be in 6th-8th grade at the time of the trip.

National 4-H Conference – Arlington, Virginia

When: When: April 2026

Only 4-5 youth from Wisconsin are selected to attend this annual conference. Each participant selects an issue and works with other youth from across the country to develop plans that help direct future 4-H programming. One day is spent on Capitol Hill meeting with legislators and touring. 4-H members must be in 10th-12th grade (maximum age of 18 as of Jan. 1, year of travel). For more information, see:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/national-4-h-conference/>

Summer Academy – UW-Madison

When: June 14-18, 2026 (*tentative*)

This experience helps youth in 8th-11th grades explore career and hobby pathways in various fields like agriculture, STEM, leadership, arts, and more. While on campus, youth will stay in campus dorms, tour parts of campus, build friendship and participate in a variety of fun hands-on activities!

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/summer-academy/>

American Spirit – U.S. East Coast

When: June/July 2026

An opportunity for youth in grades 8-10 to immerse themselves in history and heritage through a 10-day bus journey to the East Coast and Canada, including visiting historical sites in Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/american-spirit-east/>

National 4-H Congress – Atlanta, Georgia

When: Nov. 27-Dec. 1, 2026 (*tentative*)

The premiere nation-wide event for 4-Hers in 9th-12 grade to network with others from around the country, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Youth will participate in educational workshops, international events, community service, educational tours, the National 4-H Congress Gala, and explore the city.

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/national-4-h-congress/>

4-H COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Spring Application ONLY

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 Green County 4-H at the time of application, have been enrolled in Green 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 school year. Applicants can be awarded this scholarship only once. Annually there are three \$500 scholarships available and awarded at the discretion of the interview committee.

Cindi Miller Memorial Scholarships

Applicants must be enrolled in Green County 4-H at the time of application and be enrolled or planning to enroll at a university, college or technical school during the upcoming academic school year. Key criteria for selection of this scholarship will be a high level of community involvement. Applicants can be awarded this scholarship only once. Annually there are three \$1,000 scholarships available and awarded at the discretion of the interview committee.

4-H AWARDS

Spring Application ONLY

4-H Key Award

This prestigious award is the highest award a 4-H member can receive in 4-H. It recognizes members in **11th-13th grade** and who have shown consistent growth in their 4-H program, developed their leadership ability, and been helpful to other members in their club and community. Youth must have completed at least three years of 4-H club membership and one year of youth leadership. A limit of only 3-4 members from Green County can be selected for this annual award.

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

NEW – State Top 10 Key Award Program: County Key Award winners will have the opportunity to apply for a state level Key Award competition. From these applicants the state will choose the Top 10 Key Award recipients annually. The Top 10 winners will be highlighted via media/social media and will receive a special state award. For more information: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/state-4-h-awards/>

TIPS FOR COMPOSING YOUR APPLICATION PACKET

- Use a computer. You can save your work and make revisions from year to year. The cover letter, resume, and essay questions **must** be typed with a computer.
- 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 is familiar with them.
- The cover letter for this application should be no longer than one page. Please 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** use your own words, personality and experience in 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! Ellen's office number is (608) 328-9440 and her email is ellen.andrews@wisc.edu. Ask questions or get clarification if you don't understand something!

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

COVER LETTER OUTLINE

NAME

ADDRESS LINE 1

ADDRESS LINE 2

PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL (if applicable)

Date (that you are mailing it in)

(Note: Use a font size no smaller than 11 pt. and no larger than 12 pt.)

Green County 4-H Program
UW-Extension Green County
2841 – 6th Street
Monroe, WI 53566

Dear Selection Committee:

FIRST PARAGRAPH:

What are you sending and why are you sending it? Include a listing of the travel experiences, awards and/or scholarships for which you want to be considered (ex. Space Camp, Key Award, Adult Leaders Scholarship).

MIDDLE PARAGRAPH(S):

This is the “why me?” paragraph(s). Explain in no more than two paragraphs why you are well qualified to represent Green County 4-H. Also share why you are interested in receiving this experience/award/scholarship. Give examples to help explain your statements.

FINAL PARAGRAPH:

Close the letter. Thank the committee for considering your application.

Sincerely,

Type Your Name Here As You Will Sign It Above
(Don't forget to sign your letter!)

IMPORTANT: Please compose the cover letter in your own words, not in the exact words from the sample on the next page!

SAMPLE COVER LETTER

NAME
ADDRESS LINE 1
ADDRESS LINE 2
PHONE NUMBER
E-MAIL (if applicable)

October 10, 2025

Green County 4-H Program
UW-Extension Green County
2841 – 6th Street
Monroe, WI 53566

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to submit my resume and essay response to be considered as a delegate for 4-H Summer Academy.

This is my seventh year as a 4-H member. I have been very active with my projects and as a member in my club, Lucky Clovers. My enclosed resume highlights my 4-H involvement. Participation in county programs including 4-H Officer Training and 4-H Project Day has made me interested in attending 4-H Summer Academy.

Last year I became involved as a county Cloverbud project youth leader. I had to learn to work as part of a planning team to get ready for a program. One of my jobs was preparing packets of craft project materials before a meeting and then teaching the craft to Cloverbuds. This was a chance for me to use my organizational and leadership skills. Other 4-H members who attended Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference told me about the opportunity to take youth leadership seminars. If I got to attend I would do a good job representing Green County and would use the leadership skills and project ideas from these seminars in my club and in the county Cloverbud project.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to speaking with you during the interview.

Sincerely,

Chris Clover

Chris Clover

RESUME OUTLINE

NAME
ADDRESS LINE 1
ADDRESS LINE 2
PHONE NUMBER
E-MAIL (if applicable)

EDUCATION School name, grade in school

4-H SUMMARY 4-H club name, years in 4-H (please count years as a Cloverbud)
List major projects in which you are or have been enrolled. Include the number of years you have been or were a member of that project. Indicate in which projects you are currently enrolled. (Prioritize projects if limited in space; quality over quantity)

4-H ACTIVITY INVOLVEMENT Summarize the 4-H activities in which you have participated and the number of years you participated. Include leadership and community service involvement, on the club and county level. (Prioritize activities if limited in space; quality over quantity)

SKILL DEVELOPMENT Translate what you have learned as a result of participation in 4-H projects and activities into skills you have developed.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT Translate what you have personally gained as a result of participation in 4-H projects and activities into personal attributes.

OTHER ACTIVITIES In this section, include school activities, work experience, or other community/extracurricular activities and the number of years you participated.

IMPORTANT: Please compose the resume in your own words, not in the exact words from the sample on the next page!

SAMPLE RESUME

CHRIS CLOVER

4hrocks@email.com

Forestville, WI 12345

(608) 444-4444

EDUCATION	Forestville High School, 10 th grade
4-H SUMMARY	Lucky Clovers 4-H Club, 6 years Arts & Crafts, Archery, Photography, Sheep, 5 years (current projects) Foods & Nutrition, 3 years Poultry, 2 years
4-H ACTIVITY INVOLVEMENT	<u>Club:</u> Offices held: Reporter, Treasurer, Vice President Fundraising Committee, 2022-2025 Senior Center Community Service Project, 2021-2025 Parade Float Committee, 2020-2024 Window Display Committee, 2020-2022 <u>County:</u> Animal Science Committee, 2023-2025 County Fair Assistant, 2023-2025 4-H Cloverbud Camp Helper, 2023-2024 <u>State:</u> 4-H Fall Forum Delegate, 2024 4-H Art Beat, 2020
SKILL DEVELOPMENT	*Gained knowledge of effective photograph composition *Developed proficient knowledge of sheep nutrition, fitting, and showing *Identified optimum feeding rations for market animals, staying within farm budget and utilizing crops produced *Advanced showmanship skills through workshops and competition experiences *Collected 57 pairs of mittens for community service project *Documented growth and learning in project areas annually through record book *Strengthened organizational skills through arrangement of state art exhibit featuring over 100 pieces of artwork
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	*Strengthened communication skills, including spoken and written *Grew as a team player and role model *Exhibited sportsmanship in and out of competitive situations *Organized special events and meetings while paying close attention to detail *Used parliamentary procedure to manage club meetings with over 30 members *Taught groups of up to 10 younger members in sheep, arts & crafts, and archery *Worked with peers, younger members, and adults on multiple committees
ACTIVITIES (outside of 4-H)	*Dish Washer at Tasty Restaurant, 2023-2024 *Community Choir, 2023-2024 *Forestville High School Soccer Team, 2022-2023

ESSAY QUESTION

Include in your application packet an essay response to the appropriate essay questions.

NOTE: Your submission of an essay implies consent for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension to use your comments in Extension reports, articles, and publications designed for educational, informational, and promotional purposes.

Travel Scholarship Essay: (100-150 word response)

4-H youth learn important life skills through involvement in their 4-H clubs, projects and groups, such as problem solving, responsibility, cooperation, empathy and leadership.

What is a life skill 4-H has enabled you to learn and practice? How have you developed this skill through 4-H? How will this skill help you in the future?

College Scholarship & Key Award Essay: (150-300 word response)

4-H provides youth a place to belong, matter and explore their interests, while supported by caring adults and peers. A high quality, engaging 4-H experiences set youth up to grow and thrive into the future.

What has been one of your most positive and impactful 4-H experiences? What about this experience made it so valuable? How has or how will this experience better prepare you for your future?

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.
- Proof read your essay response, and have someone else proof read it as well for accuracy in grammar and spelling.
- You will be evaluated on your depth of thought and how clearly you can communicate.

ADULT RECOMMENDATION

The following applicant, _____, is applying to represent the Green County 4-H Program as a 4-H travel experience scholarship, award and/or college scholarship recipient. You have been identified as a person who could speak to their qualifications for these recognitions.

Please only complete the following recommendation if you are *not a relative of the applicant* and are willing to provide the applicant an honest and favorable recommendation.

- 1.) Below or on a separate sheet, please discuss why the applicant is deserving of the scholarship and/or honors. Feel free to describe the applicant's character attributes and leadership skills (ex. communication skills, self-confidence, teamwork, time management, responsibility, compassion, community engagement, etc.) as well as any additional information that would be helpful to the selection committee.

Name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Title/Relationship to Applicant: _____

Recommendations can be on this form OR in a letter format, and returned to the applicant, to be submitted with their complete application by:

Fall: November 3rd, 2025

Spring: March 16, 2026

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 preferred, but interviews via Zoom will also be accepted, if necessary.

Also, please write in if there is any time you could definitely not interview. Thank you.

Fall Interviews: November 12, 2025

____ 6:00 p.m.

____ 6:15 p.m.

____ 6:30 p.m.

____ 6:45 p.m.

____ 7:00 p.m.

____ 7:15p.m.

Spring Interviews: March 25, 2026

____ 6:00 p.m.

____ 6:15 p.m.

____ 6:30 p.m.

____ 6:45 p.m.

____ 7:00 p.m.

____ 7:15 p.m.

____ 7:30 p.m.

____ 7:45 p.m.

____ 8:00 p.m.

____ 8:15 p.m.

Please return this form with your application materials.

Name _____