

CUSTER COUNTY 4-H ACHIEVEMENT APPLICATION DIRECTIONS



Due Date: October 1, 2024

The 4-H Incentives and Awards Program begins with you as a 4-H youth doing your best and recording your accomplishments.

The 4-H Achievement Application is an organized presentation of what has been learned and accomplished in 4-H. When accurately and carefully assembled, it is a useful tool for determining progress and personal growth. Careful planning and recording of facts and the selection of only the most important information is essential to preparing a neat, complete, and organized application.

All 4-H youth were required to use the 4-H Achievement Application format to apply for 4-H awards (county and state), beginning in the Fall of 2019.

The following materials are required in the Custer County 4-H Achievement Application, and should be assembled in the order listed. Include all materials in one application book. Note the penalizing criteria.

1. COVER

Use an Acco-type fastener (a stiff 8½" x 11" binder). These covers can be purchased from the Extension office. DO NOT USE a loose-leaf ring binder.

2. CUSTER COUNTY 4-H ENTRY SHEET

Fill in name, complete mailing address, phone numbers, email address and birthdate. Date and sign the entry form along with a parent's signature. Signatures certify that the information on this application is accurate and complete.

3. CUSTER COUNTY 4-H ACTIVITIES SHEET

Check the contest and activities you participated in during 2024.

4. NEBRASKA 4-H ACHIEVEMENT APPLICATION FOR AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

All Nebraska 4-H participants, age 8-18 are encouraged to complete this application for acknowledgement of your achievements in 4-H and to be eligible for any county and state level awards.

My Experiences – All Applicants Complete this Section

Answer the following items within:

- A maximum of four (4) pages
- Single-spaced, 12-point font
- Please use headings to separate your responses.
- Creativity is encouraged, use bullet lists, photos, infographics, etc. to help tell your 4-H story.
- If the 4-H'er applies for an award, there should be evidence that the 4-H'er was enrolled in and participated in that project area.

4-H Experiences

Part 1 – Describe your collective 4-H experiences.

- Indicate the depth and breadth of your 4-H experiences.
- Identify the number of years in the program.
- Identify program experiences in which you engaged.
- What skills have you learned as a result of being a part of the 4-H program?
- What have you learned about yourself as a result of being a part of 4-H?

Part 2 – Describe your 4-H experiences within the last 4-H year.

- What was your level of involvement?
- **Ages 8 to 14: Identify two (2) program experiences** that you would consider a “highlight” of your year.
Ages 15 to 18: Identify three (3) program experiences that you would consider a “highlight” of your year.
 - Describe these experiences. What did you do? What was involved? Who was a part of this experience? Why did you want to participate? What was accomplished through this experience? What was your favorite part of the experience? What did you learn?
- How will this past year influence your future (i.e., 4-H experience, classroom experience, career, etc.)?

Leadership Experiences

Part 1 – 4-H Leadership Experiences

Describe your 4-H leadership experiences that have helped build your leadership skills.

- What type of leadership was it?
 - For example: Roles (Club President), Activities (4-H Lend a Hand Day), Experiences (Being a Junior Ambassador for my county).
- When did these experiences occur?
- Identify your part in the experiences:
 - Duties you completed
 - Responsibilities you fulfilled
 - Skills you utilized

Part 2 – Non 4-H Leadership Experiences

Describe your Non 4-H leadership experiences that have helped build your leadership skills.

- What type of leadership was it?
 - For example: Roles (Youth Choir Jr. Director), Activities (Warrior Football Camp), and Experiences (Student Council Member).
- When did these experiences occur?
- Identify your part in the experiences:
 - Duties you completed
 - Responsibilities you fulfilled
 - Skills you utilized
- What did you learn about leadership through these experiences?

Community Involvement/Service Learning Experiences

Describe two times you were involved in volunteer service to others and/or the community through 4-H or other opportunities

- List the type of involvement.
- When did the experiences occur?
- What were duties, responsibilities, and skills you used to be successful?
- What did you learn in each of your experiences?

Career Spark

Describe how your 4-H experiences have sparked your interest in a future career field.

- At present, what has 4-H “sparked” in you that you are curious to explore (both academically and in extra-curricular activities) in elementary school, middle school/junior high, high school or beyond?
- How do you see yourself contributing professionally to your community in the future? How has 4-H influenced how you see yourself in this future role?

- Explain any experiences you have pursued in connection with your career spark. Some examples:
 - Has 4-H sparked your curiosity about what it would be like to work in a certain career, and you have interviewed someone in that career?
 - Identify any influence your 4-H experience has had on your academic course selection.
 - Identify any junior leader/job shadow/internship/volunteer experience in which you engaged in an effort to explore your sparked interest.
 - Have you been a part of any formal or informal mentorships related to potential career interests?

FOR STATE COMPETITION ONLY!

Those Applying for National Trips (National 4-H Congress & National 4-H Conference) Only Complete this Additional Section – To Represent Nebraska 4-H – Senior Youth Ages 15 to 18

In one (1) additional page please respond to the items below. Your total application should not exceed five (5) pages. Please use headings to separate your responses.

Page 5 - Representing Nebraska 4-H

Share why you would like to represent Nebraska 4-H as a delegate at this national leadership opportunity.

These national trips will teach you how to grow your capacity as a leader in your community and for Nebraska 4-H.

- If you are selected to attend one of these opportunities, how will you share the skills and knowledge you gain with others in your county and throughout Nebraska?
- How will you promote this leadership experience to other 4-H'ers, volunteers and decision makers?

Please think carefully about Nebraska and write two to three sentences for each topic below that you would share with county, state and national decision makers if chosen for this leadership experience.

As a Nebraska 4-H youth leader, when I look at my state:

- I am proud of
- I am concerned about
- I want to start in Nebraska.

5. That's it and good luck! Questions - please call the Extension Office at (308) 872-6831.

6. Penalizing Criteria For The 4-H Application

The awards judging committee may not review 4-H applications submitted, if:

- 4-H Entry Sheet with signatures of member and parent are not included.
- 4-H Activities Sheet is not included
- Type size, format and pages do not comply with guidelines.
- Application is submitted in sheet protectors.
- Record Books and other items are included.

Please contact the Nebraska Extension in Custer County so we can assist you in this process.