



2025-2026 MERRICK COUNTY 4-H AMBASSADORS



Program Information

The purpose of the Merrick County 4-H Ambassador Program is to recognize and award outstanding youth in Merrick County who exemplify the qualities of true leaders while creating awareness for the 4-H Program.

- **ELIGIBILITY**

- Open to all youth 4-H age 15 –18 (as of January 1, 2025) who are currently enrolled in the Merrick County 4-H Program and have been a 4-H member in good standing in the previous 4-H year.
- Ambassador alums are welcome to continue to work with teams throughout their 4-H career.

- **EXPECTED DUTIES**

- Serve as Ambassador for two (2) years after the announcement at the 2024 Achievement Party and ending at the 2026 Achievement Party. Official years of service are 2025 and 2026.
- Attend 4-H events held throughout the term such as but not limited to: Achievement Party, Pancake Feed, any 4-H Open House, Promote National 4-H Week or Nebraska 4-H Month by visiting area schools and other events, hand out ribbons at county fair and contests, grant interviews with the media, assist with Focus on 4-H events, etc.
- Possibly fill youth positions on the 4-H Council or attend meetings to gain first-hand knowledge of the workings of the 4-H Council and be involved in planning upcoming events.

- **APPLICATION PROCESS**

- Submit official entry application, short bio, and Nebraska 4-H Senior Achievement Application to the Extension Office by:
Monday, October 1, 2024.

- **JUDGING**

- Contestants will be judged on the following criteria during a personal interview, a prepared speech and impromptu questions.
- Categories will be scored as follows:

- **Personality & Appearance**
 - Personal Interview
 - Ability to communicate and interact comfortably with the public in a mature, friendly, and positive way

- **Speech**
 - Contestants will give a prepared 2 – 5 minute speech on "*What 4-H Means to Me*"
 - Answer impromptu questions after speech

- **4-H Knowledge**
 - Answer Questions regarding 4-H History & Purpose
 - Recite the 4-H Pledge and Motto
 - Achievement Application—4-H and leadership experiences, community involvement/service learning experiences, and career spark
 - Ability to explain the 4-H program and projects to all individuals including those unfamiliar with 4-H
 - Ability to explain reasons for livestock handling and care practices to individuals who may hold such practices in a negative light (even if a 4-H member is not active in any livestock project, they should have a reasonable understanding of these projects so they can effectively represent them as necessary)

- **SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT**
 - The 2025-2026 Merrick County 4-H Ambassadors will be named during the 2024 4-H Achievement Party

- **AWARDS**
 - Each ambassador will receive the following:
 - \$500 Scholarship
 - Merrick County Ambassador Jacket
 - Merrick County Ambassador Polo Shirt (2)
 - Merrick County Ambassador Name Tag
 - Photo sitting for a formal portrait to be used for publicity purposes



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OFFICIAL APPLICATION

NAME: _____ 4-H AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SIZE JACKET: _____ SIZE POLO: _____ *(both may run true to size or a little small)*

EMAIL: _____ PHONE # _____

Why do you want to become a Merrick County 4-H Ambassador? _____

Submission Deadline: **Monday, October 1, 2024.**

Submit:

1. Official Application
2. Nebraska 4-H Senior Achievement Application
3. Short Bio which includes: "What 4-H means to me" and "How can I advocate for 4-H"

All applications must be submitted to the Merrick County Extension Office or emailed to merrick@unl.edu by **Monday, October 1, 2024.**