

## ***“I Belong” Award Application***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of your 4-H experience, project or program:

*[For projects related to fair, please include project area and exhibit class number. If your experience is related to a 4-H program, workshop or other activity, please include the name of the activity, location, and date(s).]*

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*Use a second page to answer these questions.*

1. How does this 4-H experience, project, or program encourage your feelings of belonging to the Nebraska 4-H Youth Program?

2. How does this 4-H experience, project, or program give you the opportunity to Belong?

3. List your favorite involvement with 4-H. What personal strengths did it allow you to see in yourself?

4. In your own words, state what you feel it means to Belong in 4-H.

## 4-H “I Belong” Award

**Objective:** Recognition of 4-H youth demonstrating concepts from the areas of inclusivity, diversity, self-realization at the county level through 4-H programs.

Youth will be recognized for their participation in 4-H programs and projects that incorporate and/or demonstrate:

- Concepts of self-reflection and explorations of one’s own heritage.
- Explorations of one’s own heritage, culture, and cultural lens
- Application of knowledge including advocating for others in all curriculum areas.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** Nebraska 4-H follows the Diversity and Inclusion beliefs of the University of Nebraska:

- We value equity, inclusion, and dignity for all.
- We strive for excellence and recognize that our differences make us stronger. We respect and seek out inclusion of differences, realizing we can learn from each other.
- We insist on a culture of respect and recognize that words and actions matter. The absence of action and words also matter.
- We believe in the freedom of speech and encourage the civil and respectful expression of ideas and opinions.
- We all share in the responsibility to create a positive culture and to safeguard equity, inclusion, dignity, and respect for all. Each member of the University community—faculty, staff and students—should be a role model for others.
- We take action when we observe someone being treated unfairly or in a demeaning manner.

<https://diversity.unl.edu/our-core-values-beliefs>

**Curriculum Areas:** Animal Science, Communications/Expressive Arts, Consumer & Family Sciences, Environmental Education and Earth Science, Healthy Lifestyles, Leadership & Citizenship, Plant Sciences, and Science, Engineering & Technology (SET).

Examples of Applications:

- A heritage exhibit that shows cultural heritage or origin
- A club project that exhibits belonging through a 4-H Club experience.
- A baked product that is made from a family recipe.
- Participation in a school enrichment program allows one to see others or themselves through a different lens.
- Participation in 4-H programs such as camp or afterschool where one felt accepted and respected.
- An exhibit or program that represents how you learned to share ideas or accept new viewpoints.

Youth interested in applying for this award will submit the application along with a picture of the exhibit or program to their respective Extension Office. Deadlines for youth to apply are due by the start of their county fair. Counties can select the date which works best for them. All youth who participate will receive a Certificate of Achievement. Counties can award this during the county fair or their 4-H Awards program in the fall.

**Award Application includes:**

- Completed application no longer than 2 pages.
- A picture of the experience, project or program.

Applications are due to your local Extension Office by the start of your respected county fair.

Applications can be in paper form or submitted electronically at <https://go.unl.edu/ibelongaward4h2024> or via QR code:

**Judging:**

All applications will be submitted to the NAE4-HYDP Diversity Committee for judging. Awards will be given to the top applicants from across the state. Applications will be submitted by the County Extension Office no later than August 30<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be announced during National 4-H Week in October.

**Each application will be judged on the following criteria:**

- Applicant demonstrates inclusivity, diversity, and self-realization concepts.
- Exhibits, projects, or programs allow youth to grow and strengthen their personal attributes and talents.
- Applicant promotes a sense of belonging to the Nebraska 4-H program for all youth.
- Answers are complete and demonstrate correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.