



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 static exhibits 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: Communications/Expressive Arts, Consumer & Family Sciences, Environmental Education and Earth Science, Healthy Lifestyles, Leadership & Citizenship, Plant Sciences, 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.

Counties will have the option to participate.

Counties that choose to participate will receive a package of all the material needed.

Package Includes:



Guidelines
Application
Promotional resources
Certificate of Participation
Instructions for submitting applications.

Youth interested in applying for this award will submit the application along with a picture of the exhibit to their respective Extension Office. Deadlines for youth to apply are due by the start of their county fair. 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.

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 are due by August 30th. All applications are submitted from each county.

Applications can be entered either through paper copy or electronically.

Each application will be judged on the following criteria:

- Applicant demonstrates Inclusivity, diversity, and self-realization concepts.
- Exhibits 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.

Judging will be conducted by the Diversity Committee Members and winners will be announced during National 4-H week.

NAE4-HYDP Diversity Committee Members:

Lori Swanson, Julie Oschner, Brandy VanDeWalle, Ann Dobesh, Stephanie Thorsen, Holli Alley, Shane Ahrens, Kaytlyn Kennedy