



Outstanding 4-H Member



The Outstanding 4-H Member Award recognizes individuals who have actively participated in 4-H activities and served as role models to others. Many activities that enhance a successful 4-H experience include modeling good citizenship and leadership to other. 4-H'ers pledge to serve, not only their club, but also their community, their country and their world. So, many activities relating to community service or making the world a better place should be included in your application.

Your Outstanding 4-H Member application needs to include the following:

- Completed Outstanding 4-H Member Cover Sheet
- Cover letter
- Your Resume
- Your 4-H Story (minimum 500 words, no more than 2 pages)

View this application as developing skills you will use when applying for a job, college or scholarships in the future. Neatness, spelling and grammar will contribute to your overall score. Good luck and have fun!

Completed application must be submitted to the Van Buren County MSU Extension office or a pdf emailed to rajzerj@msu.edu on or before June 1 at 5:00 p.m.

I understand that if I am selected as Outstanding 4-H member, I will be requested to participate in activities at the Van Buren Youth Fair each evening and I will be required to participate in 4-H events throughout the year.

A sample schedule of duties may include, but not limited to with variance in schedule:

October: Promote National 4-H week to others

November: Talk to State Representatives, legislature or government or attend a local township meeting

December: Participation in a holiday parade representing 4-H

January: Attending a service organization meeting to promote 4-H

February: Attend a 4-H club meeting, not their own

March: Attend a County Board of Commissioners meeting

April: Be interviewed on a radio show to promote 4-H

May: Submit a letter to the editor or write an article in a local newspaper promoting 4-H*

June: Attend a county committee meeting (4-H Leaders' Association, LLC, Horse Council, SMAC)

July: Perform duties during the Van Buren Youth Fair

August: Submit a letter to the editor or write an article in a local newspaper promoting 4-H*

September: Assist at the Van Buren County 4-H Leaders and Youth Awards

*Topics to be written or talked about are selected by the youth with assistance from the 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator to ensure appropriate materials.



Outstanding 4-H Member Cover Sheet



NAME: _____

4-H CLUB: _____

Years in 4-H: _____ Current Age: _____

List three references. Include teachers, employers or social friends. **(Do not list relatives.)** One reference must be your 4-H Key Leader or a project leader.

1. _____
 (Name) _____

 (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)
 Email _____
 Telephone _____
 (Cell) (Other)

2. _____
 (Name) _____

 (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)
 Email _____
 Telephone _____
 (Cell) (Other)

3. _____
 (Name) _____

 (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)
 Email _____
 Telephone _____
 (Cell) (Other)

SAMPLE COVER LETTER

April 15, 2024

Van Buren County 4-H Awards Selection Committee
Michigan State University Extension
Van Buren County
801 Hazen Street, Suite D
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Dear Awards Selection Committee:

I would like to be considered for the 2024 Van Buren County Outstanding 4-H Member. I have been in 4-H for 6 years and the beef project for 4 years. My 4-H experience has taught me how to select a feeder calf, arrange financing for the purchase and upkeep of the calf, keep records of the feed, veterinary and other expenses related to raising a calf, and feed and prepare the calf for show at my county fair. I have also gained important life skills such as coping with the stress of preparing for and showing at the fair, decision making and problem solving.

The time management skills I learned in 4-H have helped me juggle my schoolwork, a part-time job at a local store and the vice-presidency of the 4-H Clover Beef Club. I have also been able to fit in two school plays this year and look forward to our county 4-H spring achievement day at the local mall.

Another ability I have developed through 4-H is public speaking. In addition to acting in school plays, I prepared and gave a demonstration on halter training a calf to a joint meeting of two 4-H beef clubs in our county.

In the future, I plan to attend college to study business and Polish. My experiences with the Polish American 4-H exchange have inspired me to seek a career in international business.

Thank you for considering my application for the Outstanding 4-Her.

Sincerely,
Sally Clover

SAMPLE RESUME

Jenny Penny

555 CHERRY STREET ▪ BURGUNDY, MI 32123

PHONE: (909) 323-1010 ▪ E-MAIL: JENNYPENNY@4H.ORG

SKILLS

Communication

- Special talent for delivering educational material in a fun way
- Well-developed speaking skills that allow me to speak in various group sizes and types
- Columnist for monthly 4-H newsletter
- Excellent networking skills

Leadership

- Possess ability to work in group or individual setting
- Will take the initiative to prepare and maintain projects
- Have organized various 4-H workshops for programs such as environmental education, animal science and communication

Organization and Time Management

- Possess ability to plan and implement programs in a timely manner
- Will use allotted amount of time for programs to educate the public to the fullest
- Have strong organizational skills

EDUCATION

Burgundy High School Burgundy, MI 2022-present

GPA: 3.8/4.0

Relevant Coursework: Ecology, Nature Writing, Landscaping and Design, Biology and Advanced Biology

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Burgundy Nature Center Burgundy, MI 2022-2003

Trail Guide

- Identified trees and flowers during nature walks
- Guided guests through three miles of trails
- Answered various questions pertaining to the local vegetation, insect, bird and mammal species

Festival of the Trees Burgundy, MI 2021

Educator

- Implemented educational tree programs at a tree farm

ACTIVITIES

SADD Member 2 years

French Club 2 years (Vice President, 1 year)

Students for the Environment 4 years (President, 2 years)

Your 4-H Story

Your 4-H Story is a very important part of your application. Try to convey how your participation in 4-H contributed to your self-respect and concern for others, how it has influenced you in school, in your use of leisure time and in your career plans. Your 4-H Story is the place to expand on facts and figures by telling what your experiences have meant to you; how they have developed and affected your confidence, your attitude and other factors. Your 4-H Story adds warmth and depth to your application packet. It should not be a relisting of what you included in your resume.

The following outline may help you develop Your 4-H Story. It is divided into parts simply to help you outline what you want to say about yourself. Do not identify these parts in Your 4-H Story.

Part 1

Introduce yourself. Include information about your age, interests, family, where you live, where you go to school, when and why you became involved in 4-H.

Part 2 = 10 points

Highlight your 4-H projects and activities, including major learning experiences, special interests and unusual situations you have encountered.

Part 3 = 15 points

Explain how 4-H has helped you become a better leader and citizen, how 4-H has increased your interest and participation in community affairs, and what you have learned from your team or group involvement and efforts.

Part 4 = 15 points

Describe how 4-H participation has helped you to feel good about yourself, influenced your school and career goals and your use of leisure time. Tell about your future plans and the career you want to pursue.

Have fun as you write your story!