



Part 1: Overview

State and National 4-H Awards

Why should you write a resume and participate in an interview?

"Learning by doing" is the principle on which 4-H is founded. As you participate in 4-H and other activities, you gain knowledge and skills in your areas of interest. Many of these skills are transferable. A transferable skill is one you can use to help you reach other goals, such as applying to college, getting a job, winning a scholarship, or being selected to attend a National 4-H trip. Describing your skills and accomplishments may take some time and thought, but the effort will be worth it.

Applying for state and national 4-H awards is similar to applying for a job. Each part of the awards packet builds upon the others. Create interest in the cover letter by addressing the goals of the award opportunity, emphasize two or three 4-H strengths in the resume, and finish by focusing on other areas in the narrative. Provide clear dates and examples to make the application tell a story. Remember the judges do not know you, like your 4-H leader and county educator do, and will base their decision on the application packet. This application should be easy to adapt to a job resume.

What are the Awards?

State 4-H Achievement Award –

- Applicants must be 14 yrs and older (as of Jan 1 of the calendar year the event will be held)
- State 4-H Achievement Award recipients are those 4-H members who have significant outstanding accomplishments in the 4-H Youth Development Program. This is an opportunity for New Hampshire to recognize youth who are maximizing their potential through 4-H participation.
- 4-H member must demonstrate excellent communication skills and have the ability to explain the scope of their 4-H experience
- Award recipients will be honored at the New Hampshire State 4-H Activities Day Awards Program held the Saturday after Memorial Day.
- All youth who apply for a national award will also be considered for a State Achievement Award.

National 4-H Achievement Awards

National 4-H Congress

- Applicants must be 14 yrs and older (*as of Jan 1 of the calendar year the event will be held*)
- The Congress provides youth, ages 14-19, a quality, educational, and cross-cultural experience that combines seminars, discussion groups, and a service learning experience. The nation's most outstanding community leaders, speakers, and educators present the most current and timely information available.

- The objectives of National Congress are:
 - To improve the ability of teen 4-H youth to express themselves in written and verbal forms of communication that are necessary and important "life skills" for today and in the future.
 - To increase the awareness of the importance of Leadership, Citizenship, and Community Service in 4-H Youth Development.
- To receive the award to attend National 4-H Congress the 4-H member needs to exhibit leadership experience, demonstrate excellent communication skills, and the ability to explain the scope of their 4-H experience and highlight how they would share the information from attending Congress with the youth and adults when they returned.
- Congress is held the weekend after Thanksgiving from Friday through Tuesday and participation is paid in full by the *4-H Foundation of New Hampshire* (with the exception of airline luggage fees and minimal miscellaneous expenses).

National 4-H Conference

- Applicants must be 15 years of age (*as of Jan 1 of the calendar year the event will be held*)
- Each county can nominate a maximum of three applicants.
- National 4-H Conference is an exciting educational and leadership opportunity, convening 4-H youth, Extension professionals and adult volunteers to learn and share information on current trends and/or issues relevant to 4-H and youth, building effective partnerships, creating innovative 4-H programs, expanding the use of technology, working with diverse groups, and impacting community needs.
- The purpose of National 4-H Conference is to build on the Essential Elements; Belonging, Mastery, Generosity and Independence, with the following objectives:
 - Stimulate thought around current priorities/needs and move youth delegates to action in their local communities;
 - Reinforce the rich history of 4-H and its valuable tie to Cooperative Extension and the land-grant system;
 - Engage delegates with leaders from USDA, CSREES, the Land-Grant University system, as well as, their local, state and national partners;
 - Enlighten delegates to the valuable work and research coming out of the land grant universities;
 - Provide an opportunity for delegates to engage as citizens by meeting with their congressional representatives to discuss issues affecting their communities;
 - Enhance valuable 21st century skills leadership skills such as adaptability, team-building and communications.
 - Gather feedback from our most important stakeholders – youth!
- To receive the award to attend National 4-H Conference the 4-H member must demonstrate good communication skills, leadership experience, a broad knowledge of the total 4-H youth development program, be able to identify strengths and challenges of the NH program, be aware of current issues they would like to discuss with their national congressional delegation, convey skills needed to be a good team member and provide ideas of how they could implement a plan of action when they return to [home](#).
- National Conference is a 6 day conference held between mid-March and early April and participation is paid in full by the *4-H Foundation of New Hampshire* (with the exception of airline luggage fees and minimal miscellaneous expenses).

National 4-H Dairy Conference

- Applicants must be 15 years of age (*as of Jan 1 of the calendar year the event will be held*) and have at least three years experience in the 4-H Dairy project including the current year.
- This premier event is designed to assist 4-H youth in learning more about the dairy industry. Youth explore dairy careers, debate contemporary issues facing the dairy industry, share ideas, interests, and concerns with peers nationwide, and practice leadership, communication, and group participation skills. 4-H members exhibiting at World Dairy Expo or participating in the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest are not eligible to participate in Dairy Conference in the same year.
- To receive the award to attend the National 4-H Dairy Conference the 4-H member must demonstrate good communication skills, have a broad understanding of the dairy industry and the desire to learn more about careers related to the dairy industry. The member needs to be able to discuss how the 4-H experience has prepared them for leadership roles and how they would share the information gained from attending the conference with other when they return home.
- National Dairy Conference is a 4 day conference held in late September or early October and participation is paid in full by the *4-H Foundation of New Hampshire* (with the exception of airline luggage fees and minimal miscellaneous expenses).

Are You interested in Applying?
See Part 2, Selection Criteria for New Hampshire