

Instructions for Iowa 4-H Scholarships 2023

Applications Open December 1, 2022, closes March 1, 2023

Due Dates:

March 1 for most 4-H Scholarships

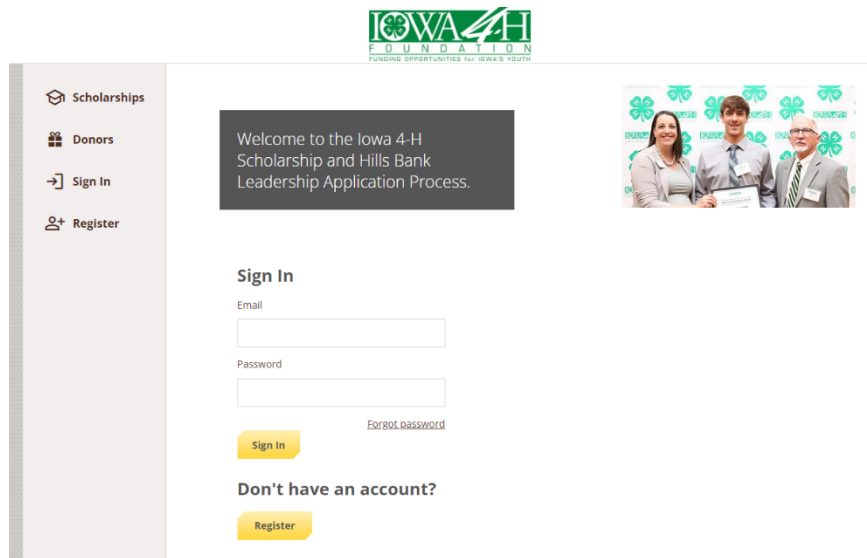
March 15 for 1st year Veterinarian Medicine Scholarships

The Iowa 4-H Scholarship program is designed to encourage Iowa 4-H members to continue their education beyond high school.

Iowa 4-H'ers participating in any 4-H and youth educational program are eligible to apply for 4-H scholarships if they meet eligibility requirements. **Check the *Iowa 4-H Scholarship List* carefully for eligibility specifics relating to each scholarship.** Applicants must enroll as a full-time student (minimum of 12 credit hours) to receive scholarship awards.

Unless otherwise stated, scholarship recipients will forfeit their award if they make changes to schools or majors that are not included in the scholarship criteria. Scholarships and amounts awarded are contingent on continued funding by award donors.

The Link to the Award Spring application site is <https://iowa4h.awardspring.com/>



The screenshot shows the Iowa 4-H Scholarship and Hills Bank Leadership Application Process website. At the top, there is the Iowa 4-H Foundation logo with the tagline 'FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR IOWA'S YOUTH'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: Scholarships, Donors, Sign In, and Register. The main content area features a dark grey box with the text 'Welcome to the Iowa 4-H Scholarship and Hills Bank Leadership Application Process.' To the right of this box is a photo of three people (two men and one woman) standing together. Below the welcome message is a 'Sign In' section with an 'Email' input field, a 'Password' input field, and a 'Sign In' button. A link for 'Forgot password' is located below the password field. Below the sign-in section is a 'Don't have an account?' link with a 'Register' button.

1. **The 4-H'er is responsible for completing the scholarship application. 4-H members must complete the application process, using their personal e-mail and password. Applications with the names of parents or guardians will be disqualified.**

2. **Online application materials, essays, transcripts and the required 2 reference reflections, must be submitted online through the Awards Spring system no later than 11:59 PM March 1 to be considered.** It is important to plan ahead when completing the application and submitting the required documents, including the reference reflections. Waiting until March 1st to begin this process is NOT RECOMMENDED.
3. 4-H Scholarships are for high school seniors (will be college freshman fall 2023) and for current college students seeking financial assistance.
4. The following items are required with application: (all items will be submitted online)
 - a. Current, complete an **UNOFFICIAL** grade transcript (include current fall grades) to be uploaded with application.
 - b. **For Freshman Application, if college courses were taken in high school** and are not listed on the uploaded high school transcript, upload a separate list of courses taken with of college courses and transcript(s) or student grade report(s).
NOTE: Multiple transcripts can be uploaded on a single application form.
 - c. ACT/SAT Scores
 - d. FASFA Score
 - e. Cost of tuition for one semester at college of choice
 - f. Two Reference Reflections: (to be submitted online by the reference via e-mail).
 - one from an Extension staff member or 4-H volunteer and
 - one from a school/college academic advisor or teacher or other individual of the applicant's choice.
[OR college undergraduates may submit **both** reference reflections from academic advisors.]
 - g. Applicants will have the opportunity to submit up to 6 references who can supply a reference reflection. Two reference reflections are required.

5. Reference Reflections must be submitted through the Awards Spring System. Applicants will submit the e-mail addresses of the appropriate references. The system will then send an e-mail requesting the reference reflections directly from the references. The references will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to complete the task. Two reference reflections are required, however applicants can provide names and e-mails up to six (6) references.

Reference reflections must be submitted electronically and come directly from your reference. Please note that the reference reflection requests may land in spam or junk mail of the references. It might be helpful for applicants to contact the references personally. Some of the references may not be able to send letters back due to firewalls on their computer. Suggest trying another computer or smart phone and the letters will probably go onto the system without issue.

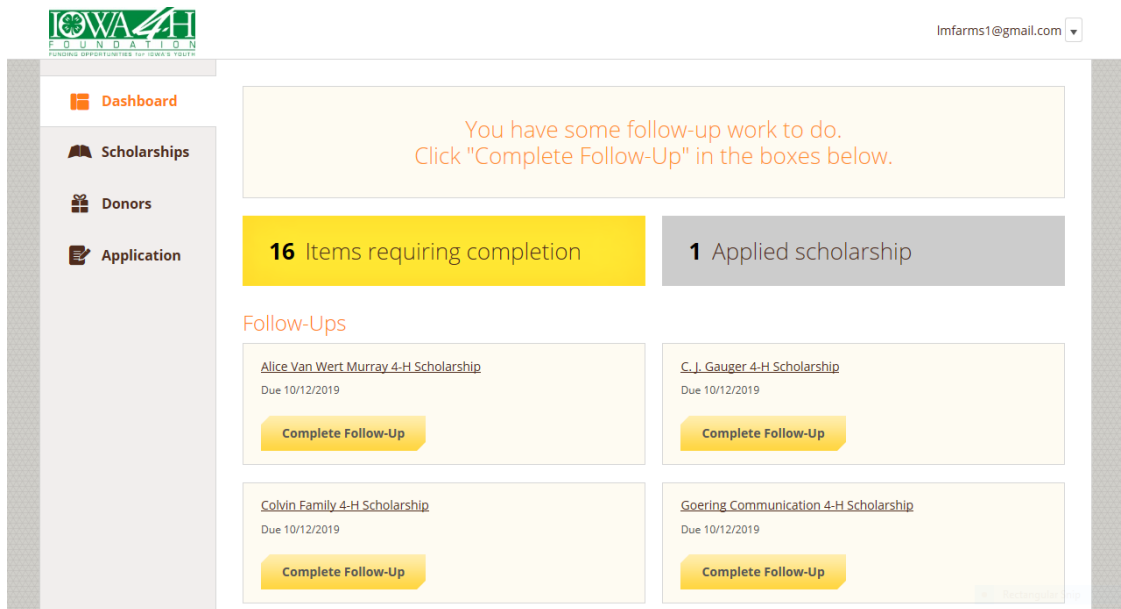
Applicants must follow up with their references to ensure that the reference reflections have been submitted. Each year 30 to 40 applications are eliminated simply because they only have 1 reference response rather than the 2 that are required.

Remember your account stays open until 11:59 p.m. on March 1st – you can check to see if your reference reflections have been submitted in a timely fashion.

6. Refer to the Iowa 4-H Scholarship Listing for Fall 2023 for individual scholarship eligibility requirements and special criteria. There will be an initial set of questions to be answered that will determine which scholarships the student is eligible to apply to. Each field throughout the application will need to have something in the field to advance to the next step. **Some scholarships may have additional questions or essays to complete once the eligibility has been determined. Applications are not complete until all additional questions/essays are submitted.**

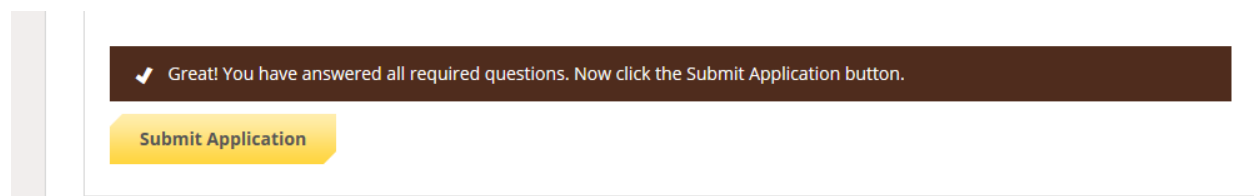
7. All confirmed 4-H scholarships are listed including eligibility requirements and criteria. Announcements of scholarships will be sent to the county Extension offices and news media.

8. Once the initial application is complete, students should return to the “dashboard” to see the scholarships which they have qualified to apply. Some scholarships will have additional questions to complete.



The screenshot shows the Iowa 4-H Scholarship Dashboard. At the top left is the Iowa 4-H Foundation logo. At the top right is the email address 'lmfarms1@gmail.com'. The dashboard has a left sidebar with navigation options: Dashboard (selected), Scholarships, Donors, and Application. The main content area features a yellow banner with the text: 'You have some follow-up work to do. Click "Complete Follow-Up" in the boxes below.' Below this are two summary boxes: a yellow one for '16 Items requiring completion' and a grey one for '1 Applied scholarship'. Under the heading 'Follow-Ups', there are four scholarship cards, each with a 'Complete Follow-Up' button. The scholarships listed are: Alice Van Wert Murray 4-H Scholarship (Due 10/12/2019), C. J. Gauger 4-H Scholarship (Due 10/12/2019), Colvin Family 4-H Scholarship (Due 10/12/2019), and Goering Communication 4-H Scholarship (Due 10/12/2019).

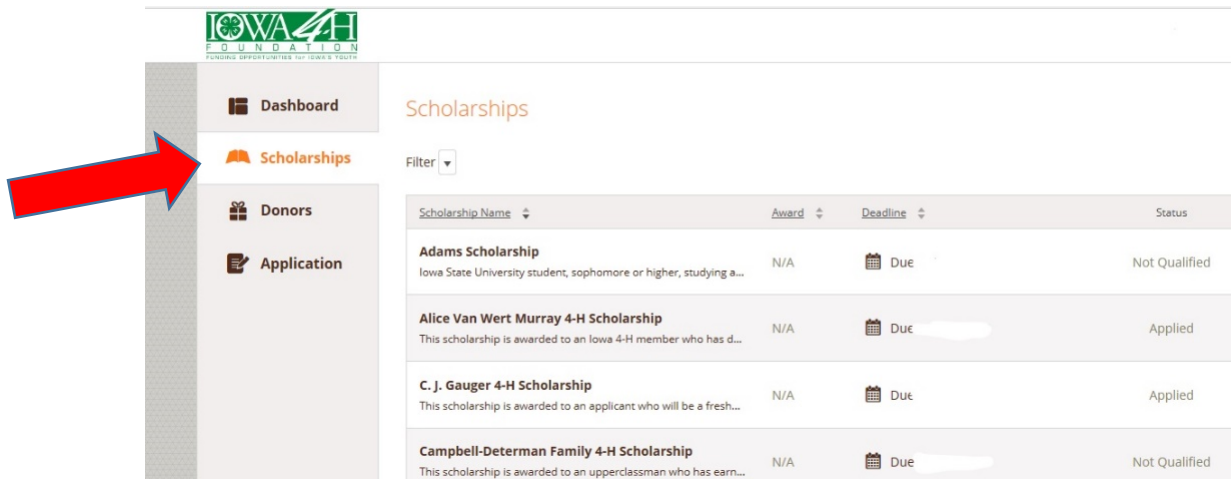
9. Once all questions for the scholarships have been completed, please remember to hit the “Submit Application” button at the bottom.



The screenshot shows a dark brown notification bar with a checkmark icon and the text: 'Great! You have answered all required questions. Now click the Submit Application button.' Below the notification bar is a yellow 'Submit Application' button. A red arrow points to the bottom of the button.

Even though you have hit Submit, you can return to your application until the deadline of 11:59 p.m. March 1st.

You then can also return to the scholarship tab to review the scholarship that you qualified for and the scholarships that you completed.



10. Only ONE online application form is needed for all 4-H scholarships listed for which the applicant is eligible. 4-H'ers will be considered for all scholarships they are eligible to receive. Only **one** 4-H Scholarship will be awarded to a 4-H member in any one academic year.

11. Evaluation Criteria (to be used as a guideline—individual scholarships may vary)

% Value

4-H Participation/Service	30 %
Goals and Future Plans	20 %
School Participation	15 %
Community Service Participation	15%
Character	10 %
Need	10 %

12. Each field in the application must contain something, a “0” or “N/A” will suffice for those questions that do not apply to the applicant or they do not know the answer.

Remember your account stays open until 11:59 p.m. on March 1st – you can check to see if your reference reflections have been submitted along with making sure all other details are correct.

Please note that in the past some donors have discontinued their scholarship funding due to recipients not attending the reception or if they have not received a thank you note from

the recipient. Therefore, thank you notes are now a requirement prior to funds are distributed. Please see *Components of a Good Thank You Note* at the end of this document.

Direct questions to Mary Clancy, clancy@iastate.edu, (712) 830-1321. Please feel free to call or text any time between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Computer related questions can be directed to Award Spring Support Line
Email support@awardspring.com | **Phone** 888.258.5628, option 2

Notifications of Scholarship Status

Each applicant will receive notification of their status after March 15th. Those that do NOT advance to Round 2 will receive an e-mail at the e-mail address used in the application process.

Those selected as a scholarship recipient or selected as an alternate will receive a letter via e-mail from the Iowa 4-H Foundation before April 10th.

Helpful Hints for Preparing Iowa 4-H Scholarships

Please keep in mind that the 4-H Scholarships and the Hills Bank Leadership Scholarships are using the same application system. The two scholarship programs requirements are different, and so are the instructions for some of the requested items, such as transcripts and reference reflections. Please read the specific instructions for the specific scholarships in which you are applying.

Your attention to detail and inclusion of specific information will help the selection committee consider each application and identify all worthy applicant(s).

Application material must be submitted online no later than 11:59 PM March 1 to be considered.

Helpful Hints

- Gather all needed information before starting the online application.
- Include current, complete grade transcript (include current fall grades/classes if possible). **For Freshman Application, if college courses were taken in high school** and are not listed on the uploaded high school transcript, upload a separate list of courses taken with known grades, or upload a copy of college transcript(s) or student grade report(s).
- Complete SAT and/or ACT or other college entrance exam scores. (If not available please explain on form.)

- Each field throughout the application will need to have something in the field in order to advance to the next step
- Financial need— Describe family income, unemployment, special circumstances, health, or other unexpected financial concerns. Include any facts you can to tell your financial needs and plans for financing advanced education.
- Include involvement in school, church, community, and college.
- **Reference Reflections - confide in those who provide recommendations for you the specific information that will help them more effectively support your application.**
 - **All reference reflections will be submitted electronically through the Awards Spring system by the references. The references must have a valid and working e-mail address.**
 - **Once the proper e-mails have been inputted into the system, the system will generate an e-mail to the references providing them with instructions on how to submit the reference reflections into the system.**
 - **Applicants can submit up to six references. 2 complete reference reflections are REQUIRED – one of which MSUT be from a 4-H volunteer or Extension staff member.**
 - **On occasion, the e-mail sent to the reference will land in their spam e-mail. Applicants should notify the references in advance of the request so that they can be looking for the e-mail.**
 - **See *Components of a Good Reference Letter* at the end of this document. Reference letters may be submitted along with the reference reflections.**

Scholarship Application questions:

- Explain any unusual family or financial circumstances.
- Please share any hardships that you have endured and how you worked through the difficult situation/s.
- How do you plan to finance your college education?
- What are your future goals and how will a college education help you attain them?
- Describe your high school and community activities outside of 4-H. Include leadership, citizenship, and communication experiences.
- Describe your most important 4-H experiences, accomplishments, and contributions.
- Explain if and how 4-H influenced your college choice as well as your educational, career, and personal goals.

- Provide any other personal information you believe the selection committee should know when considering your application. Tell us what makes you a qualified candidate for a 4-H scholarship.
- How has your 4-H experience helped you in your college coursework and/or influenced your involvement in college activities?
- Describe the biggest adventure that you experienced through 4-H.
- Describe how you have overcome adversity in your life.
- What impact has 4-H had on your educational, career or personal goals? Include any other personal information you believe the selection committee should know when considering your application. Tell us what makes you a qualified candidate for a 4-H scholarship.
- How would you encourage a younger 4-H'er to become engaged in the leadership project area?
- Of the 4 H's, head, heart, hands, and health, which one is most important to you personally and why?

Note: Selected scholarships may have additional questions related to participation and leadership in specific projects or activities.

Scholarship Specific Questions:

- Carl & Gaylene Lee Family - Please share any hardships that you have endured and how you worked through the difficult situation/s.
- Colvin – Describe how you have taken your own road to best fully experience 4-H and life.
- Darla Merwald Memorial “Passion for Horses” – Summarize your experience and knowledge of the horse industry. Describe why you love horses and share your favorite experiences and memories around horses. How will you promote, advocate for, and support the horse industry in your future plans?
- Delores & Gail Nelson - How would you encourage a younger 4-H'er to become engaged in the leadership project area? Of the 4 H's, head, heart, hands, and health, which one is most important to you personally and why?
- DeVries – Describe how important growing up on a family farm was/is to you, your future career and your work ethic.
- Excellence in 4-H Veterinary Medicine – How did 4-H include your decision to pursue veterinary medicine? What type of veterinary medicine do you plan to practice upon graduation? What does giving back to 4-H mean to you?
- Goering – Describe your participation and leadership in the 4-H Communication project. Describe the strongest attribute you have gained through the 4-H Communication Project.

- Oster – Describe your experience in journalism.
- Kiser – Describe your participation and leadership in the 4-H Horse project area.
- Lee - Please explain any hardships you have experienced and have you handled those hardships.
- Pence Communication – Describe your participation and leadership in the 4-H Communication project. Describe the strongest attribute you have gained through the 4-H Communication Project.
- Pence Visual Arts – Describe your participation and leadership in the 4-H Visual Arts project. Describe the strongest attribute you have gained through the 4-H Visual Arts Project area.
- Peterson –Describe the biggest adventure that you experienced through 4-H. Describe how you have overcome adversity in your life.
- PIC I & II - Please explain your experience with, interest in and aspirations to enter a career in the various aspects of the swine industry.
- NW Iowa – Please describe your leadership involvement within your local community.
- Tobin - Please share what leadership means to you. What was your most meaningful 4-H leadership experience and why did it mean so much to you personally? Describe your 4-H participation in leadership. What leadership skills did you gain personally?
- Mahr Family Scholarship – Focus on a community service project related to college, field of study or community. Please see examples from past projects.

Mahr Community Service Example #1 - Scholarship recipient led the planning and development of the Ames Pet food Bank to provide pet food commodities for area qualified families to help care for their family pets. An immense amount of coordination was necessary to provide physical space, sourcing and stocking of animal food products, and identifying the people and equipment needed to establish the pet food bank and make it accessible to families in need.

Mahr Community Service Example #2 - Scholarship recipient developed a time management plan designed for students to utilize their time in the most efficient manner to optimize their needs for study, extracurricular, and personal time. This plan was presented to student groups on the campus of Iowa State University that emphasized excellence in student leadership development.

Mahr Community Service Example # 3 - Scholarship recipient utilized her abundant energy and leadership skills to organize a day for young women to gain information on becoming involved in the study of agriculture science and becoming leaders in the agriculture community at all levels. These events were developed as a day-long production of FARM-HER for high school and beginning college students, and have been presented on agriculture college campuses.