



Instructions for Iowa 4-H Scholarships 2023-2024

Applications Open December 1, 2023, closes March 1, 2024

Due Dates:

March 1: 4-H Scholarships

March 1: Hills Bank Leadership Scholarships

March 15: First year Veterinary Medicine Scholarships

About the Iowa 4-H Scholarship Program

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 if they meet eligibility requirements. 4-H Alumni that are currently enrolled in college are also encouraged to apply. Applicants must enroll as a full-time student (minimum of 12 credit hours) to receive scholarship awards.

Scholarships are funded through donor contributions who set the scholarship criteria. There are scholarship opportunities for current high school seniors, collegiate undergraduates and students attending veterinary school.

About the Hills Bank Leadership Grant

The Hills Bank Leadership Program is for current **juniors** in high school in the Hills Bank service area. This area includes the following counties: Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine, and Washington. Potential participants apply as juniors and participate in year-long leadership training sponsored by Hills Bank. Upon completion of the leadership courses, each participant receives a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarships are for students applying to a two- or four-year college or university in the state of Iowa. Twenty students are selected for the program each year.

Students of Hills Bank employees are not eligible for the Leadership Grant. Applicants **do not** need to be 4-H members to apply.

Iowa 4-H Scholarships and the Hills Bank Leadership Grants use the same application system. Check the Iowa 4-H Scholarship List carefully for eligibility specifics relating to each scholarship.

The link to the application site is <https://iowa4h.awardspring.com/>

Scholarship Policies

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 two reference reflections, must be submitted online through the Awards Spring system no later than 11:59 P.M. on March 1 to be considered.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. Applications are evaluated in two rounds. (Please refer to the evaluation matrix at the end of this document.) Applicants that do NOT advance to Round Two will receive an e-mail notifying them of that status by April 10th. The e-mail address used in the application process will be the e-mail address used for this notification. Those selected as a scholarship recipient or selected as an alternate will receive a letter via e-mail from the Iowa 4-H Foundation on or before April 20th.
6. All scholarship recipients are required to write a thank you note to the scholarship donor, submitted through the Iowa 4-H Foundation. Scholarship recipients will receive information in their initial letter from the Foundation.
7. Scholarships are awarded at the Scholarship Reception in July. Attendance is not required but is *highly encouraged*. Recipients will have the opportunity to interact with and thank the donors of their scholarship.

Application Process

- Go to <https://iowa4h.awardspring.com/> and create an account.

IOWA 4-H
FOUNDATION
PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR IOWA'S YOUTH

Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarships
Hills Bank Leadership Grant
Application Site

Sign In

Email

Password

[Forgot password](#)

Sign In

Don't have an account?

Register

- Refer to the Scholarship Listing for individual scholarship eligibility requirements and special criteria.
- There will be an initial set of questions to be answered that will determine scholarship eligibility. Be prepared to include:
 - A current, complete, official or unofficial grade transcript (including current fall grades). 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.
 - ACT/SAT Scores
 - Cost of tuition for one semester at college of choice
 - Resume which includes involvement in 4-H school, church, community, and college. Not to exceed two pages.
 - Email contacts for a minimum of two references for Reference Reflections: (to be submitted online by the reference). Applicants will have the opportunity to submit up to four references.

- High school seniors: One of the references MUST BE an Extension staff member or 4-H volunteer.
- College undergraduates: Both references may be academic advisors.
- Hills Bank: All references are the applicant's choice.

— All 4-H scholarship applicants will be required to complete the following essay questions. Some scholarships may require additional questions, which are listed at the end of this document.

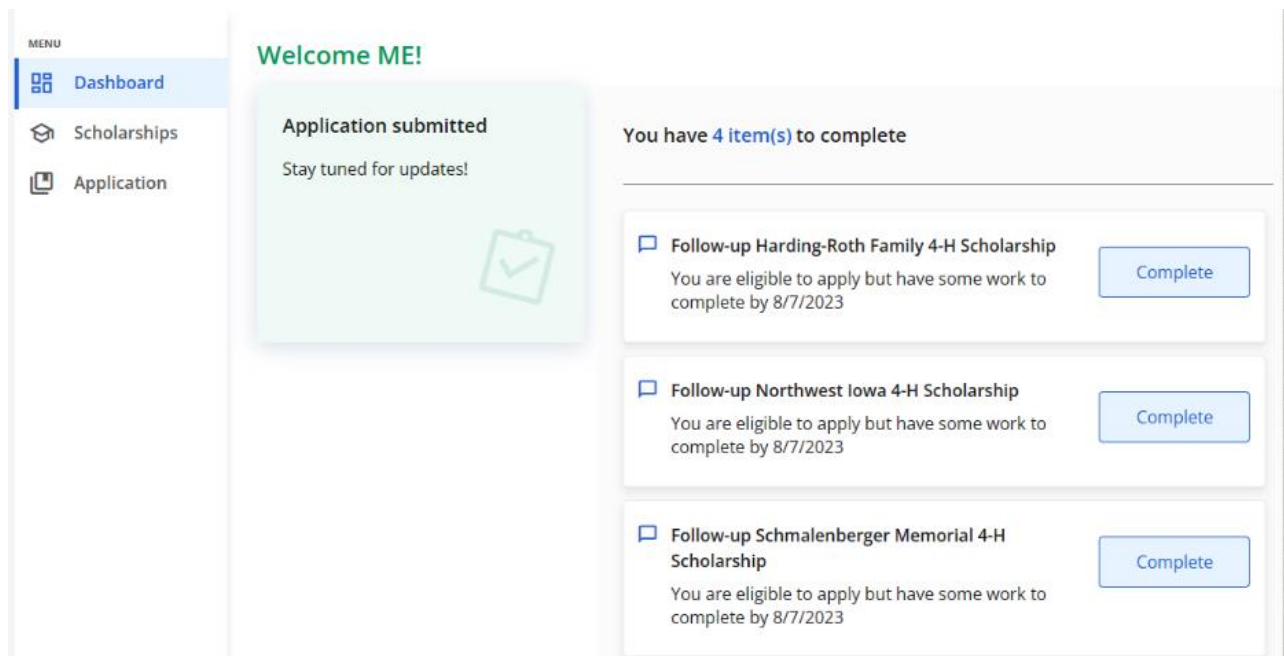
- What are your future career and personal goals and how did 4-H influence those goals?
- Of the Four H's, head, heart, hands, and health, which one is most important to you personally and why?
- Describe your most impactful 4-H experience.
- Describe any challenges you faced during your 4-H involvement. How did you overcome that adversity?

— 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.

— Once all questions for the scholarships have been completed, hit the “Submit Application” button at the bottom. Clicking on SUBMIT APPLICATION does not mean the application is closed. Your application remains open for edits until 11:59 p.m. on March 1st.



— Once the initial application is complete, return to the “Dashboard” to see if any of the scholarships you’ve qualified for have additional questions to complete.



FOR HILLS LEADERSHIP GRANT APPLICANTS ONLY:

There will be four short questions for juniors in high school to answer, they are listed here.

Please list any school activities you have been involved in throughout your high school career.

Please list community service activities you have been involved in throughout your high school career.

Please list any work experience you have had over the past three years.

What does leadership mean to you and why would you be a good candidate for the Hills Bank Leadership grant?

- Return to the scholarship tab to review the scholarship that you qualified for and the scholarships that you automatically completed based on your answers. Filter for “Applied” and “Qualified.”

Scholarship Name	Award	Deadline	Status
Alice Van Wert Murray 4-H Scholarship Provided by the endowment established by Alice...	N/A	Due Aug 07, 2023	Not Qualified
C. J. Gauger 4-H Scholarship 4-H alumni contributing to the Iowa 4-H Foundat...	N/A	Due Aug 07, 2023	Applied
Campbell-Determan Family 4-H Schola... The Determan Family provides this scholarship f...	N/A	Due Aug 07, 2023	Not Qualified
Career 4-H Scholarship Provided by Shirley A. Stakey, this scholarship is ...	N/A	Due Aug 07, 2023	Not Qualified

- Your application will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on March 1st. You can make changes to your application until the deadline. You can also check to see if your reference reflections have been submitted and follow up if needed.

Need Help?

Direct scholarship specific questions to Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarship Coordinator 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. Application platform related questions can be directed to the Award Spring Support Line: support@awardspring.com or call 888.258.5628, option 2.

Helpful Hints for Preparing Iowa 4-H Scholarships & Hill Leadership Grant Applications

- Your attention to detail and inclusion of specific information will help the selection committee consider each application and identify all worthy applicant(s).
- Gather all needed information before starting the online application.
- Include current, complete grade transcript (include current fall grades/classes if possible). **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. A “0” or “N/A” will suffice for those questions that do not apply to the applicant or they do not know the answer.
- 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.
- Reference Reflections - confide in those who provide recommendations for you the specific information that will help them more effectively support your application. Remember:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- Essay questions: you might consider writing your essay question responses in a word document and then transferring them into the system in order to better check for spelling and grammar errors.
- When writing your essay questions, you can see your entire entry into the text box by using the two diagonal lines in the lower right hand corner as seen below. Hold and pull down to expand the box.



- 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**.

Scholarship Specific Questions:

- *All Iowa Shaver Family* - Describe a personal experience that demonstrates your leadership abilities and commitment to good citizenship. Explore how the experience became an opportunity for growth, personal responsibility, or continuous learning.
- *All Iowa Shaver Family for Continuing Students* - Describe a personal experience you encountered after high school that demonstrates your leadership abilities and commitment to good citizenship. Explore how the experience became an opportunity for growth, personal responsibility, or continuous learning. How do you feel you are progressing in your area of study? Describe your specific plan working towards graduation, including a list of courses which meet the academic requirements for your degree or certification.
- *C.J. Gauger* - Please tell us how you have demonstrated and participated in 4-H leadership programs and activities.
- *Colvin* - Describe your biggest adventure that you experienced through 4-H.
- *Darla Merwald Memorial "Passion for Horses"* - What does giving back to 4-H mean to you? Describe how your experience and knowledge of the horse industry and how will advocate for that industry in the future. Describe your love of horses and share your favorite experiences and memories. List the years you exhibited horses at the Iowa State Fair. What was your favorite class and why?
- *Delores & Gail Nelson* - How would you encourage a younger 4-H'er to become engaged in the leadership project area?
- *DeVries* - Please tell us about growing up on a family farm and how that experience influenced your work ethic.
- *Donald and Ruby Godfrey* - Please describe what you hope will be your contribution to agriculture.
- *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?
- *Glen and Mary Jo Mente* - Describe your leadership roles in 4-H, school and community.
- *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.
- *Harding Roth* - Please tell us how you have demonstrated leadership skills.
- *Kiser* - Describe your participation and leadership in the 4-H Horse project area.
- *Lloyd and Myrtle Obrecht* - Please tell us how you have demonstrated leadership skills.
- *Oster* - Describe your experience in journalism.
- *Pence Communication* - Describe your participation and leadership in 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.
- *Persinger-Asmus-Ferrin* - Please tell us how you have demonstrated leadership skills. Please tell us how you have participated in communications in 4-H as well as your college activities.
- *Peterson* - Describe the biggest adventure that you experienced through 4-H.
- *Peyton* - How would you encourage a younger 4-H'er to become engaged in leadership projects? What does giving back to 4-H mean to you?
- *PIC I & II* - Please explain your experience with, interest in and aspirations to enter a career in the various aspects of the animal industry.
- *Scott and Stace Chapman* - Please share your leadership experiences in school, church, community and 4-H. What experience has been the most meaningful to you personally and why?
- *Siggelkow* - How would you encourage a younger 4-H'er to become engaged in leadership projects?
- *Stakey* - Please share why you selected the College of Human Sciences for your future studies.
- *Steve and Sue Wolken* - What is your fondest memory to date from your State 4-H Council experience and why? What is the most important attribute that you personally gained from being on State 4-H Council.
- *Story County Shaver Family Memorial* - Describe a personal experience that demonstrates your leadership abilities and commitment to good citizenship. Explore how the experience became an opportunity for growth, personal responsibility, or continuous learning.

- *Tobin* - How would you encourage younger 4-H'ers to become engaged in leadership projects? 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? If you knew someone who knew nothing about 4-H, what would you tell them about the organization?
- *Trans Ova* - Please explain your experience with, interest in and aspirations to enter a career in the various aspects of the animal industry.
- *Verle and Ellen Hunt* - Describe your leadership roles in 4-H, school and community.
- *Mahr Family Scholarship* – Please tell us how you have demonstrated leadership skills. 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.
 - 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.

4-H Scholarship Scoring Matrix 2024

4-H Participation/Service - 30 points maximum.

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|--------------|---|
| (1-10 pts.) | Participation at the club level, officers, committee members, workshops, events, camps, judging teams, communication events, service activities. |
| (11-25 pts.) | Participation at the county level, county council, workshops, clover kids, county communication events, county community service activities, demonstrated project depth & breadth of projects over the years of participation, CWF participation, camps, state conference delegates, etc. |
| (26-30 pts.) | Participation at the state level, state conference, state council, applying for state awards, state fair participation or other state or national level opportunities.
If applicant is a college undergraduate, college level participation should be included. |

Goals and Future Plans – 20 points maximum.

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|-----------------|---|
| (1 to 14 pts) | Clearly defines personal goals for the future. Perhaps demonstrating how project goals and participation influenced future goals. |
| (15 to 20 pts.) | Demonstration or insight into how 4-H had a major impact on defining their future. |

School Activities 15 points maximum.

- (1-7 pts.) Clearly stated involvement in school activities such as band, drama, athletics, etc.
(8 to 15 pts.) Extra effort made in school activities, perhaps taking on leadership roles in those activities.

Community Service – 15 points maximum.

- (1-7 pts.) Clearly stated involvement in 4-H community service activities/projects.
Include involvement with other community groups, i.e. church, mentor, etc.
(8 to 15 pts.) Extra effort made in community service, perhaps taking on leadership roles in those activities.

Character – 10 points maximum.

- (5-8 pts.) Reference Reflection indicates 4-H member in good standing with potential for the future.
(9 to 10 pts.) Reference Reflections indicate exceptional character in both school and community with wonderful promise.

Need – 10 points maximum.

- (5 to 7 pts.) Availability of financial support from parents, grants, and other scholarships, perhaps a job.
(8 to 10 pts.) Demonstrate extenuating circumstances such as illness or other hardship.