



**Missouri 4-H**  
University of Missouri  
4-H Center for Youth Development

## Missouri 4-H Key Award

### Purpose

#### To Encourage:

A **quality** educational programs for **all** members.

A **safe** environment where **all** youth feel like they **belong**.

An environment where youth have opportunities to connect with **caring adults**.

An environment where youth are actively **engaged** in **exploring** and **learning** about their **interests**.

Opportunities for youth to strive for **mastery** in subject matter of **interest**.

Opportunities for youth to set **goals** and be **actively involved** in planning, implementing and evaluating the group's program.

Opportunities to **experience** and **value service** to others and community.

A **vibrant** environment where youth **want** to participate.

#### To Provide

Recognition for 4-H youth reaching Missouri 4-H Standards of Excellence.

#### Eligibility

- Ages 14 to 18 years old (as of January 1 of the current year)
- 4-H member for at least one year
- Worked with an adult mentor

#### Application Process

- Visit with your 4-H youth development specialist or youth education assistant.
- Select an adult mentor who will support your work and help document your efforts.
- When you and your mentor agree that you have completed at least one section (for example, leadership), submit the documentation for the corresponding section of the *Y2300 Missouri 4-H Key Award Application*.
- Submit the section to your local extension office by the locally established date. You will do the same for each section upon completion.
- Members will receive a medallion upon completion for each section: leadership, community service, project excellence and personal growth.
- Members will receive the Missouri 4-H Key Award and certificate when all four criteria sections have been completed. The mentor will receive a 4-H Key Award mentor pin.

#### Application Format

- Complete the application form with all the required signatures.
- Documentation of achievements is important. Document your work to demonstrate that you have reflected on and applied the experience.
- Work with both the 4-H youth specialist and 4-H program assistant at the beginning of the 4-H year to determine the preferred method to capture what was achieved. The method needs to be consistent for all applications submitted by youth in the county. One method is to create a notebook divided into five (5) sections – Biographical, Leadership, Community Service, Project Excellence and Personal Growth. Other types of documentations, if approved locally, may include a scrapbook with pictures, captions, and reflective writing; video essays of their work; a scrapbook with an audio dialogue; or web pages with pictures and reflective essays.
- Make sure the documentation is easily accessible for the mentor and local staff. Completion of the criteria will take two to several years.



## Missouri 4-H Key Award Application

### Section A. Biographical Data

<b>County</b>		<b>Year</b>	
<b>Name</b>			
<b>Home Address</b>		<b>City</b>	<b>State</b> <b>Zip</b>
<b>Home Phone</b>		<b>Email</b>	
<b>Age</b> (as of January 1) when completed Key Award		<b>Gender</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	
<b>Name of 4-H Club or Group</b>			
<b>Number of Years to Complete Award</b>		<b>Expected Year of High School Graduation</b>	
<b>Race</b> (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander			
<b>Ethnicity</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic			
<b>Residence</b> (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Farm <input type="checkbox"/> Suburb of more than 50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Rural less than 10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> City of more than 50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Town of 10,000 to 50,000			

### Leadership Criteria Completed

Date	Signature of 4-H Member
Date	Signature of Mentor
Date	Signature of Parent/Guardian

### Community Service Criteria Completed

Date	Signature of 4-H Member
Date	Signature of Mentor
Date	Signature of Parent/Guardian

### Project Excellence Criteria Completed

Date	Signature of 4-H Member
Date	Signature of Mentor
Date	Signature of Parent/Guardian

### Personal Growth Criteria Completed

Date	Signature of 4-H Member
Date	Signature of Mentor
Date	Signature of Parent/Guardian

### I have documented completion of all requirements for the Missouri 4-H Key Award

Date	Signature of 4-H member
Date	Signature of Mentor
Date	Signature of Parent/Guardian

### Section B. Leadership

#### ✓ Local Leadership

- Complete duties of a 4-H group officer
  1. Office
  2. Duties and responsibilities completed
  3. Lessons learned from serving 4-H as an officer
- OR
- Complete duties of a committee chair
  1. Committee
  2. Duties and responsibilities completed
  3. Lessons learned from serving as chair of the committee

- ✓ **County Leadership** – Give an example (such as camp counselor, county committee, special event, etc.) where you planned and carried out specific duties and responsibilities.
  - Describe county leadership role
  - Lessons learned from this leadership role
- ✓ **Leadership Initiative** – Consult with your 4-H youth specialist, 4-H program assistant or club/project leader and mentor to determine a special 4-H project for the current year.
- ✓ **Mentoring** – Select a project, activity or topic of interest that you work one-on-one for a full year with a younger member.
  - Describe the process of mentoring
  - Describe the activities you and your mentoree completed together
  - Lessons learned from working with a younger member

### **Section C. Community Service**

- ✓ **Individual Service to 4-H** – Thirty (30) or more hours of accumulative volunteer service (in one or more years) that may be in a variety of areas and/or in a variety of ways for the 4-H program.
  - Keep a log of dates, hours and description of service activities.
- ✓ **Unique Individual Service Project** – Thirty (30) or more hours to one specific service project (in one or more years) that does not have to be related to 4-H. For example, service to the local food bank or Habitat for Humanity. A member may create a special community service project in consultation with their mentor.
  - Keep a log of dates, hours and description of service activities.
- ✓ **Group Service Activities** – Thirty (30) or more hours accumulated by participating in groups such as 4-H, church or school service activities (in one or more years).
  - Keep a log of dates, hours and description of service activities.
- ✓ **Lessons Learned** – What lessons did you learn from the different types (individual, unique, group) of service?

### **Section D. Project Excellence**

For each project you enrolled for three or more years and completed (according to county requirements), summarize the experiences. Emphasize what you have learned and not what you have won. Include items such as:

- ✓ **What You Learned** - Growth in knowledge, skills and scope of project
- ✓ **How You Learned**
  - Public presentations. For example, demonstrations, illustrated talks, speeches and/or oral reasons at the local or county level
  - Project judging
  - Skill-a-thon
  - Exhibition
- ✓ **State Competition Learning**
  - State fair
  - State contests
  - State events

## Section E. Personal Growth

### ✓ Cultural Exchanges

- Explain how trips at the county/regional/state/national level have added to your personal growth (self-confidence, social development, communication skills, etc.)
- Consider camp, county exchanges, Missouri Youth Forum, State 4-H Congress, Citizenship Washington Focus, etc.


### ✓ Marketing 4-H - Include public presentations or interactions you experienced to market 4-H.

### ✓ Applying Your Leadership Skills - Describe your contribution to non-4-H groups (civic clubs, church, scholastics, athletics, etc.).

- Leadership roles
- What have you learned from your contributions?
- Describe your most significant project. How has this made a difference in your life?

### ✓ Health and Fitness - With your mentor, set and achieve one personal health/fitness goal.

- Describe the experience
- What did you learned about yourself?

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