



Youth Leadership Application Guide

Grades 6 through 9

Learn * Lead * Serve

Applications **MUST** be postmarked no later than **April 8**.

This Guide Includes:

- Requirements and process
- Application
- Signature page
- NEW - 1 letter of nomination
- Responsibilities for Finalists

Program Purpose: Annually recognize outstanding youth leadership in the MN 4-H Horse Project

What is the Youth Leadership Award?

Recipients of the Youth Leadership Award are individuals who exhibit a strong commitment to **Learning, Leadership and Service** prior to 10th grade..

Recipients demonstrate a broad base of **Learning, Leadership and Service** experiences within the 4-H horse project, other 4-H project areas and within their community. They show a commitment to continuous improvement in their individual life skills and to the 4-H program, especially in the horse project.

Eligibility Requirements:

- ★ Completed 6th grade but not 10th grade (by July 1st)
- ★ At least one year of horse related leadership
- ★ Participated in at least one of the following:
 - Winter Roundup
 - YELLO, BLU or similar county, region, state, or national leadership event
 - Speech/Demonstration at State Horse Show
 - Judging, Hippology or Horse Bowl
 - County leadership workshop, camp or retreat

For all Youth Leadership questions contact:
[Cindy Goldade \(cingold35@mac.com\)](mailto:cingold35@mac.com) or 763-218-6301

Application Requirements & Process

Resume, Portfolio, Cover Letter

Purpose: Evaluate writing abilities and personal development

Life skills: Preparation of materials that are commonly used to secure employment

Requirements:

- ★ Resume (annotated, no more than 2 pages)
- ★ Portfolio (no more than 8 pages)
 - Focus on **Learning, Leadership and Service**.
 - Describe specific leadership skills mastered and how you applied these skills to help others as well as yourself.
 - How were these skills used in working with others and being of service to your "community"?
 - Describe your most significant experiences in the 4-H Horse project and activities, knowledge gained, the highlights, your successes and failures.
 - This is your story; it should expand on and explain your resume further
 - You may include appropriate photographs.
- ★ Cover letter (no more than one page)

Be sure:

- Font is readable and 10-point or higher.
- Name is in the header or footer of each page.

Make four sets. Each set includes a cover letter, resume, portfolio. Each set:

- must be in its own simple clear report cover (e.g. slide on spine)
- may not exceed 12 pages
- may not be stapled, punched or paper clipped

Submissions that do not follow these requirements will be severely penalized or disqualified.

Process

1. By **April 8th**, submit the following:
 - 4 copies of Resume, Portfolio, Cover Letter. Each set
 - contains one resume, portfolio and cover
 - is in its own simple report cover
 - 1 Application Form
 - NEW - 1 letter of nomination

- 1 Signature Page
 - 1 Photograph (head & shoulders suitable for publication) to adegroot@umn.edu
2. When your application packet is received, you will be sent a confirmation email.
 3. Results will be shared in June.

Responsibilities for Finalists

The Finalists:

- Will POSITIVELY represent 4-H, Minnesota 4-H Horse Project and the University of Minnesota 4-H Youth Development program through their appearance, herdsmanship and behavior during the state show and all other appearances.
- The youth leadership trip winners will be recognized in the center ring during the awards portion of the Grand Entry and will assist in the presentation of awards to the Dan Patch Finalists..
- Leadership trip winners will be included in the group pictures taken at the state show. Dan Patch award winners will coordinate a time for those photographs.

State Show Trips

- The Youth Leadership Finalists may show one horse in any class they received a blue ribbon at their current year's county show, including training program. (This horse must be state show eligible.)
- These trips are not part of any county quota.
- Trip winners may only show one horse in horse show classes, with the exception of step and level 6 tests. See the state horse show handbook for details on stalling of additional horses.

Stalling

- Youth Leadership Finalists will be stalled in the center aisle of the horse barn with the Dan Patch Finalists.
- Stalls may be decorated.
- Tack stalls will be provided and shared.
- While not being judged on herdsmanship, finalists are expected to work together to keep the center aisle free from manure.
- Stalls will be assigned by the committee.

Application Form

Youth Leadership (Grades 6-9)

Postmarked by April 8th – no late entries accepted

You will receive a confirmation notice when your application is received

Grade completed before July of 2024 _____

Age on January 1, 2024 _____

Birth date _____ (Month/Day/Year)

Full Name: _____

Home Address _____

County _____ Shirt size S M L XL XXL

Home Telephone (_____) _____ School/Work (_____) _____

E-mail address _____

E-mail address of parent for results notification _____

If you don't receive a confirmation within one week of expected delivery date, contact: **Amy DeGroot**: adegroot@umn.edu

Number of years as a 4-H Horse/less project member _____

Number of years in 4-H _____

The following items **MUST** be included with this application form

- 4 copies of your resume & portfolio with cover letter, each copy in its own cover
- 1 application form
- 1 signature page

Mail to: Amy DeGroot, 5245 Hidden Acres Rd., Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

NEW - Letter of Nomination

Youth Leadership (Grades 6-9)

As part of this application process, one of the non-family signers from the signature page is to write a *Letter of Nomination*.

The purpose of the Nomination Letter is to provide a bit more grounding and personal validation of what is written in the applicant's submission. This letter will support/validate what the applicant states in the resume and portfolio. Since the award is about learning, leadership and service, it is believed the person writing this will have had contact with the applicant in regards to at least one of these three pillars.

An example of an interaction can be shared in the letter. Here is a short example: "*As seen in the resume and portfolio, _____ shared some of her experiences as Horse committee chairperson. As her unofficial Horse Committee chair mentor, I would remind her to prepare the agenda and send it to the office. I was also able to sit near her at meetings and offer suggestions if things had to move on, call for a motion, calm down, etc. It has been such a joy to watch her learn and grow in confidence, time management and all the skill sets required for leading a meeting.*"

The closing of the letter would be an affirmation that the youth has written this independently and has presented an accurate representation for the Dan Patch award.

In other words, the nomination letter is a space to share how this applicant learns, leads and/or serves. Any reservations about this applicant's honesty or integrity can be shared here as well. Extension and committee envisions this letter to verify the content in the submission is accurate. This letter is for the office and Dan Patch committee to have one more layer of authenticity/validation. It will **not** be sent to the judges.

Please limit the submission to one page, 1500 words or less.

As a submitter of this letter and a signer on the application, it is expected you have read and verified the content in the resume and portfolio.

Letter can be submitted to Amy DeGroot adegroot@umn.edu directly or the applicant can include it in their submission packet.

Signature Page

Youth Leadership (Grades 6-9)

Applicant

I have personally prepared this application and all related materials and certify all the information is current and accurate. I have met all eligibility requirements and understand my responsibilities as an applicant.

Applicant _____ Date _____

Parent

I/We have reviewed this application and all related materials and believe it to be correct. I am aware of the requirements for this award and believe that the applicant is eligible.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Club Leader

I have reviewed the application, resume and portfolio. I believe it to be correct.

This applicant is an active member of _____ 4-H club.

4-H Club Leader/ Contact Leader _____ Date _____

Printed name _____ Phone# or email _____

Project Leader

I have reviewed this application, resume, and portfolio. I believe it to be correct. This applicant has been an active member of the 4-H horse project for 2 or more years and has participated in at least one of the following: Winter Roundup, BLU, Project Bowl, Judging, Hippology team, Speech/Demo or other 4-H leadership event.

4-H Horse Project Volunteer Leader _____ Date _____

Printed name _____ Phone# or email _____

Name of person submitting letter of nomination

Print the name of the person submitting the letter of nomination and a contact phone number. This person may be contacted by phone to discuss further the contents of your portfolio or resume..

Printed name _____ Phone # or email _____

Extension Educator

I have reviewed this application, resume, and portfolio. I believe it to be correct. I am aware of the requirements for this award and believe that the applicant is eligible. I also certify that the people signing above are recognized county leaders for the horse project and for the applicant's 4-H Club.

Extension Educator _____ Date _____

Printed name _____ Phone # or email _____