

Nevada County 4-H Council Scholarship

Guidelines and Requirements

The Nevada County 4-H Council Scholarship is open to current Nevada County 4-H members. The applicants must be 4-H members in good standing and have participated in the Nevada County 4-H Youth Development Program for two (2) years prior to the application year.

Applicants must apply and be accepted into a higher education school for the same year of the scholarship application year. For example, apply in June for the scholarship, then go to school in fall of same year. A higher education school is defined as a university, community college, or trade school.

Applications must be submitted with ALL required supporting material to the 4-H office by June 4th. Incomplete or partial applications WILL NOT be accepted. Applications with non-official transcripts will not be accepted.

To Apply, members must:

- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 (C+) or higher
- Submit an official school transcript, or equivalent homeschool transcript outlining coursework and GPA, at time of application
- Not have any "NP" or no pass marks
- Write and submit with the application a two page business style letter in business format outlining the members:
 1. 4-H involvement, leadership, and achievements
 2. Educational and/or career goals
 3. Community service
- Submit two (2) letters of recommendation, including one (1) from the applicant's community club leader.
- Submit a 3x5 color picture and a one paragraph self biography.
- Attend the Annual Achievement Gala to receive award if possible.
- Submit proof of enrollment to an institution of higher learning or trade school to the 4-H office. Awards are given once proof of enrollment is received. Proof of enrollment is defined as class schedule or enrollment receipts.

Applicants will be notified of two (2) interview dates to select from once their application is received. Make up interview dates are not offered. Applicants are encouraged to bring their record book or other noteworthy materials such as a resume or personal portfolio to the interview. It is also recommended to wear the 4-H white uniform or business attire. Applicants should expect their interview to last between 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Applicants are evaluated based on their leadership, community involvement, and academic achievements along with their overall 4-H experience. Applications that are incomplete, do not have an official transcript, or do not meet the minimum requirements will be disqualified and receive no award. Applicants who do not attend an interview will also be disqualified.

Awards will be distributed based on the quality and ranking of the applications and the funds allotted for the scholarship year. Scholarship awards are remitted at the discretion of the scholarship committee and the 4-H County Council.

Questions regarding the scholarship application process should be directed to the Nevada County 4-H Cooperative Extension representative.

Remember, the 4-H motto is "To make the best, better". Scholarship candidates should embody the spirit of 4-H and all that it has to offer the youth of our community!

I have read and understand the requirements for submitting a scholarship application to the Nevada County 4-H Youth Development Program. Additionally, I understand I must submit my official school transcript with at least a 2.5 GPA, along with attend an interview as part of my application process.

Applicants Name, Print

Applicants Name, Sign

Parent/Guardian, Print

Parent/Guardian, Sign



Nevada County 4-H Scholarship Application Check List

- I have been a Nevada County 4-H member in good standing for two (2) years prior to this application year
- I have completed the online scholarship application prior to the deadline
- I have a GPA of 2.5 (C+) or greater at the time of application
- My transcript does not have a "NP" or no pass mark
- I have turned in an official school transcript, or homeschool transcript, by the application due date
- I have written and turned in, by the application due date, my two (2) page business style letter containing information about my 4-H involvement, my educational and/or career goals, and my community service.
- I have submitted two (2) letters of recommendation, one of which is from my club leader, by the application due date.
- I know the date of the Achievement Gala and will attend if possible.
- I have submitted my proof of enrollment into my institution of higher learning or trade school to the 4-H office to receive my scholarship award

Scholarship Award Budget - Recommended Distribution

The Nevada County 4-H Scholarship is designed to be a merit based scholarship. In 4-H, we encourage our members to strive to make the best, better. This is an important thing for our youth to learn. Hard work and good choices produce good results. It is our recommendation to keep a merit based approach to the scholarship, as it reflects 4-H values and encourages positive development in our youth members.

Highlights of recommendations:

1. Make clear ALL entry requirements and the potential disqualification of an applicant if they do not meet the qualifications and complete the application process. Add better description and instruction to the application process and provide applicants with a check list. Clarify information regarding the application process to prevent misunderstanding or disappointment.
2. Address the issue of "NP" or no pass marks on transcripts. NP marks mean the student received a D or F mark in the class. The NP mark is not factored into the students GPA. In light of a merit based scholarship, NP marks are D or F grades that were not factored in to the students overall GPA. If they were, the student would likely not have the minimum GPA to apply for the scholarship.
3. Addition of an interview. To evaluate a candidate by essay, letter, and transcript seemed insufficient for merit review. Placer county utilizes an interview alongside those elements and we felt it worthy to do the same. Personally meeting the candidate in an interview forum gives the candidate a chance to shine. Candidates are encouraged to bring their record book or other noteworthy material such as a portfolio or resume.
4. The need to address money distribution among candidates. The guidelines for distributing the money to candidates needed updating. Given the fact the scholarship is a merit based scholarship, distribution of funds should reflect that element. The recommendation is to weight the awards based upon merit of the candidate as discovered through the application process. The percentage awards are recommended as follows:

First Place: 35% of award

Second Place: 30% of award

Third Place: 15% of award

* Totaling 80% of the scholarship budget amount

The remaining candidates: Split the remaining funds, not to exceed 10% of the scholarship budget amount. This is to avoid a single candidate past 3rd place being awarded more than the 3rd place 15%. Remaining funds would roll over into next year's scholarship budget.

Example Award Distribution

Example based on \$6,250.00 scholarship budget with five senior candidates

First Place: \$2,187.50

Second Place: \$1875.00

Third Place: \$937.50

Fourth Place: \$625.00

Fifth Place: \$625.00