



Barron County 4-H Key Award Application and Resource Guide

This prestigious award is the highest recognition a 4-H member can receive and honors a select group of 4-H participants annually. The youth receiving this award are those who have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills, and actively participated in their club and community.

Requirements (see rubric for scoring guidelines):

- **11th Grade, 12th Grade, or 13th Grade (current year)**
- **Must have been involved in 4-H for 3 years or more.**
- **Cover Letter and Resume addressing the applicant's:**
 - Membership/Club Experience
 - 4-H Projects
 - 4-H Activities
 - Leadership
 - Personal development
 - County 4-H /Community Involvement
- **Photo (to use for media release)**
- **Short Bio (half page to be used for media release)**
- **Completed Essay Questions**
 - Share with us your favorite 4-H memory. Why will you never forget it?
 - How has your 4-H experience influenced an area of the 4-H Thrive model (sparks, belonging, relationships, or engagement)?
- **One Club, County or other 4-H Volunteer** letter of recommendation addressing areas above, as well as character of applicant. (submitted with application or sent to Barron County 4-H; Attn: Sara Waldron, 4-H Educator 1800 College Drive | Rice Lake WI 54868 or emailed to sara.waldron@wisc.edu

**A member must have achieved in the year prior to be considered for the Key Award*

Due by: June 11 of the Current year

Please send completed materials to:

Sara Waldron, Barron County 4-H Educator
1800 College Drive
Rice Lake WI 54868

Or
Sara.waldron@wisc.edu

The following pages might be helpful in completing Key Award Application, the use of this format is not required.

Scoring Guidelines:

	What to Review	Points	Comments
Application Materials	Review materials for accuracy, grammar, spelling, etc.	15	
4-H County Membership	Club participation, involvement in county programs.	10	
4-H Project Work	Projects challenged them, tried new things, progressed in learning.	10	
4-H Activities	Participation, assisted, led	10	
Leadership	Elevated leadership taken.	20	
Personal Development	Developed life skills through 4- H participation.	10	
County 4-H & Community Involvement	Community service/ recruitment / marketing of county 4-H program / other	10	
Essay Questions	Depth of answers.	25	
Recommendation	Highlights reasons applicant is deserving of award.	15	
TOTAL POINTS		125	

DATE

DATE YOU ARE MAILING LETTER

ADDRESS

INSIDE ADDRESS (ADDRESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING LETTER)

SALUTATION

GREETING TO INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING LETTER, FOLLOWED BY A COLON

PARAGRAPH 1

WHAT ARE YOU SENDING AND WHY ARE YOU SENDING IT? INCLUDE BY OUTLINING YOUR OBJECTIVE (I.E., KEY AWARD).

PARAGRAPHS 2 & 3

THIS IS THE "WHY ME?" PARAGRAPH. EXPLAIN IN NO MORE THAN TWO PARAGRAPHS WHY YOU ARE UNIQUELY QUALIFIED FOR THIS AWARD FOR BARRON COUNTY 4-H. ASK YOURSELF WHAT DISTINGUISHES YOU FROM OTHER APPLICANTS. GIVE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES TO HELP EXPLAIN YOUR STATEMENTS.

FINAL PARAGRAPH

CLOSE THE LETTER. THANK THE READER FOR CONSIDERING YOUR RESUME.

CLOSING

SINCERELY IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE CLOSING, FOLLOWED BY A COMMA

Chris Clover

SIGNATURE IN BLACK PEN; SHOULD BE LEGIBLE

NAME

TYPED NAME THAT MATCHES SIGNATURE

ENCLOSURE

INDICATE WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE ENVELOPE WITH THE COVER LETTER

NAME

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Phone Number

Email

Date**Wisconsin 4-H Key Award Selection Committee**

[County Name] Extension Office

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to apply for the Wisconsin 4-H Key Award Trip. As a long-time member of the Oak Grove 4-H Club, I have grown through hands-on learning, leadership opportunities, and service to my community. This award represents the highest level of achievement in 4-H, and I am eager to demonstrate how my experiences reflect the values of leadership, citizenship, and personal development.

Throughout my seven years in 4-H, I have been actively involved in club activities, county programs, and a variety of project areas. My dairy, photography, and foods projects have challenged me to try new things, build technical skills, and take on increasing responsibility. Whether caring for my dairy heifer, preparing a food demonstration, or experimenting with new photography techniques, each project has taught me discipline, problem-solving, and confidence.

Leadership has been one of the most meaningful parts of my 4-H journey. Serving as club vice president and secretary strengthened my communication and organizational skills, while participating in the County Youth Leadership Program allowed me to help plan events and support younger members. These roles taught me how to guide others, work collaboratively, and take initiative—skills I know will continue to shape my future.

Community service has also played a central role in my development. From helping with county 4-H promotion efforts to participating in food drives and veterans appreciation events, I have learned the importance of giving back and representing 4-H with pride. These experiences helped me understand the impact youth can have when we work together to support our communities.

4-H has shaped who I am today—responsible, motivated, and committed to learning. I am grateful for the opportunities this program has given me and excited for the chance to represent my county through the Key Award Trip. Thank you for considering my application and for your continued support of youth development in our community.

Sincerely,

NAME

NAME

ADDRESS LINE 1
ADDRESS LINE 2
PHONE NUMBER
EMAIL

OBJECTIVE Explain in one sentence which award trip you are applying for.

EDUCATION List school name, year in school, expected date of graduation,

MEMBERSHIP/CLUB EXPERIENCE

Club participation, involvement in county programs. List 4-H club name and years in 4-H. List club participation and involvement in county programs and a short explanation of your participation and involvement (how were you involved)

4-H PROJECTS **Projects challenged them, tried new things, progressed in learning.** List projects in which you are or have been actively involved in and the number of years enrolled. Demonstrate how projects challenged you, that you tried new things, progressed in learning. Provide a short explanation of your accomplishments (remember, accomplishments are not just trophies and ribbons!) in each project and what knowledge and skills you learned as a result.

4-H ACTIVITIES **Participation, assisted, led** List all prominent 4-H activities and the number of years participated. Provide a short explanation of your role and/or responsibilities (participant, assisted in, or led) in each 4-H activity and what knowledge and skills you learned as a result.

LEADERSHIP **Elevated leadership taken.** List all 4-H and non-4-H leadership roles and years held. Provide a short explanation of the responsibilities expected of you and what knowledge and skills you learned as a result. Biggest focus should be on 4-H leadership.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

List life skills you have developed as a result of your 4-H participation. (leadership, communication, responsibility, certifications, etc.)

COUNTY 4-H AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community service/ recruitment / marketing of county 4-H program / other -- List all significant contributions to the county 4-H program and community. Provide a short explanation of areas involvement and what your role was.

Chris Clover

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Phone Number

Email

OBJECTIVE: To apply for the Wisconsin 4-H Key Award and represent my county through leadership, service, and continued personal growth.

EDUCATION

Oak Grove High School, Junior

Expected Graduation: June 2027

MEMBERSHIP / CLUB EXPERIENCE

Oak Grove 4-H Club — 7 years

- Participated in monthly meetings, project workshops, and community events.
- Assisted with club fundraising and helped organize annual community service projects.
- Represented the club at countywide events, including Project Discovery Day and the County Fair.

County 4-H Programs

- Active participant in County Youth Leadership Program (3 years), helping plan youth events and supporting younger members.
- Served on the County Awards Committee (1 year), reviewing applications and helping prepare recognition materials.

4-H PROJECTS

Dairy Project — 5 years

- Learned daily animal care, feeding schedules, and showmanship techniques.
- Took on responsibility for training and preparing my heifer for the county fair.
- Improved record-keeping and budgeting skills through project financial logs.

Photography — 3 years

- Explored new techniques such as manual camera settings and composition.
- Entered photos in the county fair and received feedback that helped me improve.
- Developed creativity and attention to detail through themed photo challenges.

Foods & Nutrition — 4 years

- Tried new recipes and learned safe food-handling practices.
- Led a healthy-snack demonstration for younger members.
- Gained confidence in meal planning and kitchen safety.

4-H ACTIVITIES

County Fair Exhibitor — 7 years

- Exhibited multiple projects annually.
- Learned time management, responsibility, and how to accept and apply judge feedback.

Project Discovery Day — 4 years

- Participant and later assistant presenter.
- Helped younger members complete hands-on activities and answered questions.

Club Community Service Projects — 6 years

- Participated in roadside cleanups, food drives, and holiday card-making.
- Developed teamwork and community awareness.

LEADERSHIP

4-H Club Vice President — 1 year

- Led meetings in the president's absence, coordinated committees, and helped plan club events.
- Strengthened communication, organization, and decision-making skills.

4-H Club Secretary — 1 year

- Recorded accurate meeting minutes and maintained attendance records.
- Improved written communication and attention to detail.

County Youth Leadership Program Member — 3 years

- Helped plan countywide youth events and assisted with workshops.
- Learned event planning, collaboration, and leadership through service.

School Student Council Representative — 2 years

- Represented my grade level and helped organize school activities.
- Built confidence in public speaking and teamwork.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Strengthened leadership skills through officer roles and mentoring younger members.
- Improved communication through presentations, demonstrations, and leading activities.

- Developed responsibility through long-term project management and animal care.
- Gained confidence, problem-solving skills, and the ability to work with diverse groups.
- Built time-management and organizational skills through balancing multiple projects.

COUNTY 4-H & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

County 4-H Promotion Booth — 2 years

- Helped staff the booth at the county fair, answering questions and encouraging families to join 4-H.
- Supported recruitment efforts and shared personal experiences with potential members.

Community Food Drive — 4 years

- Assisted with sorting, packaging, and delivering donations.
- Learned teamwork and the importance of supporting local families.

Veterans Appreciation Event — 3 years

- Helped organize and serve meals at the annual event.
- Gained respect for community service and learned event-support skills.