Cayuga County 4-H Interview & Award Application Information 2014

4-H Interviews will be **Sunday, September 14th, 2014 starting at 2pm**. As in the past, youth will be taken for an interview on a first come, first serve basis. If you have a specific need, please let 4-H staff know.

All awards (including trips and medals) are subject to funds, and will vary year to year.

Interviews are for enrolled Junior and Senior members. There are other award opportunities for Cloverbud youth.

*4-H Trip/Camp/Event/Senior County Medal Applications are due on your Interview Day. Please bring COMPLETED APPLICATIONS with you to your interview appointment! Nominations, other award applications and junior medal letters are due by October 1st. Please check out “Welcome to Cayuga County” awards packet for complete details! Questions, please ask!*

**Senior Members** (age 13 and older by January 1st) will need to participate in 4-H Interviews if they are interested in applying for a trip/camp/event scholarship, and/or earn senior county medal(s) at the Achievement Night Ceremony.

**Junior Members** (fully-enrolled members ages 8 through 12 by January 1st) will need to participate in 4-H interviews if they are interested in applying for a trip/camp/event scholarship. Each trip/camp/event may possess different requirements in relation to youth’s age, experiences, etc. Please be sure to review the trip/camp/event descriptions before making a selection to be interviewed for.

**Junior members who wish to apply for a county medal only, do not need to attend interviews; however, they will need to write a small essay to apply for a medal. Please see description below.**

All senior and junior youth who are interested in applying for awards must have completed all of the requirements (listed below) in order to be eligible to apply for an award trip/camp/event scholarship and/or county medal(s). If you have questions on eligibility requirements, please ask!!

Requirements for eligibility:
· Turn in record book/progress report by October 1st of the current year.
· Have been re-enrolled by December 31st for current members and enrolled by April 1st for new members
· Presentations: members must have participated in at least one presentation event
· Community Service-participation in at least 2 service events (please submit something to the office as proof)
· Fundraisers-participation in fundraising events or equivalent donation of $30.00 per member

**Senior County Medals:** (bring completed applications with you to your interview)
Senior County Medals are awarded to Senior (age 13 and older by January 1st) 4-H members for excellence in a particular project or skill. Members must have completed all their requirements to be eligible to interview for County Medals. You will need to bring your project record book (if you have one) and completed progress report to the interview, where you will be questioned about your involvement in 4-H projects and activities. From the choices listed below, choose up to three senior county medals you would like to be considered for this year. **Include your choices on the interview application, and bring this completed application with you to your interview.**

**Junior County Medals:** (essays are due October 1st, no interview required)
Junior County Medals are awarded to Junior (regular members ages 8 through 12 by January 1st) 4-H members for excellence in a particular project or skill. **Members must have completed all their requirements to be eligible to interview for County Medals.** To apply for one of the junior county medals, choose 1 project area (listed below) and write an essay (minimum of 100 words) explaining what you have learned about and done with that project area during your 4-H experience. **An adult may help you, but this essay must be your own work and submitted in your own handwriting**. Include your name, age, and the number of years you have been in 4-H (including Cloverbud years) in the heading of the essay. Also submit your completed progress report and relevant project record books with the essay. *If you have a special need in which the essay cannot be handwritten, please let the 4-H office know.

**Possible Senior/Junior County Medal Categories:** (If there is a category that you are interested in applying for, but it is not listed, please talk to 4-H staff.)

**4-H Award Trip, Camp & Event Opportunities:**

*NOTE:* All 4-Hers are invited to attend trips, camps and/or events, regardless of whether they win a scholarship or not. If space is limited, preference will be given to scholarship winners. Please read descriptions carefully as some trips, camps and events have age and/or experience requirements. *No substitutions will be made.*

Fully enrolled (Junior or Senior aged) 4-H members (at least 8 years old as of Jan 1st and enrolled in 3rd grade or higher) who have completed their requirements (as indicated above) are eligible to apply and interview for a partial award scholarship towards a trip, camp or event. Award opportunities and scholarship availability will vary year-to-year, and are subject to change. Based on funding availability, not all scholarship applicants may be awarded. Priority will be given to those who have not previously participated in the applied for trip, camp or event.

If you are selected for a trip, camp or event scholarship, you will be asked to write an article about your experience which will appear in a 4-H newsletter. Choose and rank up to three total: trips/camps/events you would like to attend. Include these selections on the interview application and bring the completed application with you to your interview. During the interview process, the interviewers will ask 4-H members questions on their past 4-H involvement and experiences. This is done in order to evaluate 4-H members to see if an award trip/camp/event scholarship is an appropriate match for them.

**Possible 4-H Trips/Events (subject to change):**

**Career Explorations:**
Career Explorations is a 3-day event for youth on the Cornell University campus. The purpose of this program is to provide youth with exposure to academic fields and career exploration, to develop leadership skills, to provide hands-on experience in a college setting and to introduce youth to Cornell University. The event is made up of 2 grade specific tracts: University U for youth entering grades 8-9, and Focus for Teens for youth entering grades 10-12. Career Explorations typically takes place in late June/early July. 2015 event dates have been announced as June 30-July 2. The above information was taken from the NYS 4-H Website.

**STARR (State Teen Action Representative Retreat):**
State Teen Action Representative Retreat (STARR) is a three-day, fun-filled event where 4-H teens participate in a variety of workshops and activities meant to challenge, excite and further develop life skills. The event is planned by teens and adults serving on the youth/adult STARR planning committee. STARR is open to all NYS 4-H Teens, age 13 and older. This event takes place at the New York State Fairgrounds, in Syracuse. STARR typically takes place in mid April. 2014 event dates have not been announced. The above information was taken from the NYS 4-H Website.

**Agribusiness Career Conference:**
Agribusiness Career Conference is a 2-day program aimed at developing an awareness of the great diversity of careers related to agriculture. Examples include: food industry, animal science, and marketing available in New York State. This trip which takes place at SUNY Cobleskill College is designed to show careers and describe the various levels of training needed for that particular occupation. 4-H members must be at least 14 years or older to attend the trip. This trip typically takes place beginning of October. 2015 event dates have not been announced.

**Capital Days:**
4-H Capital Days gives youth an opportunity to meet and interact with legislators and tell their 4-H story, create an awareness of career opportunities in New York State government, gives a better understanding of state government, and the opportunity to network with delegates from other counties. Delegates are chosen by their county 4-H program. Up to 2 4-H members, 14 years or older, preferably at least a sophomore in high school will be selected to attend this 2-day trip to Albany in March. Visits to our senator and Assembly persons, observing our state government in operation, and tours of the State Capitol are all a part of this trip. 2015 event dates have not been announced. The above information was taken from the NYS 4-H Website.

**Animal Crackers:**
4-H animal science project members (suggested age range 9-12) are strongly encouraged to attend (with their parents or chaperones). However, all youth 9 and up are welcome. Participants will get to meet Cornell faculty and students, learn about different aspects of animal care, interact and exchange information with professional producers, industry experts, and more! Animal Crackers participants have the unique opportunity to experience hands-on activities in a university setting, explore career options in animal science, and expand their knowledge through scientific inquiry. This Saturday workshop is held every May on campus (Morrison Hall) for 4-H members interested in learning more about their favorite livestock, companion or pet animal species; emphasis on different species groupings and activities varies annually. 2015 event date is not available at this time. The above information was taken from the NYS 4-H Animal Science Website.

(more trips/events on next page)
March Dog Madness:
March Dog Madness is an annual conference for adult and teenage 4-H volunteer leaders, held at Cornell University. Workshops engage participants in science based information on dog training. Current animal health, animal behavior, industry trends and youth development issues are addressed. This program helps community leaders understand and practice principles that they can take back and share with 4-H members at the local level. Adult and teen leaders gain networking skills, exchange ideas and have an opportunity to work together in a university setting. This event is typically held in March on the first Saturday of Cornell University’s "Spring Break". 2015 event date has not been announced at this time. The above information was taken from the NYS 4-H Animal Science Website.

NYS 4-H Forestry Weekend:
Join youth from across the state for a weekend of forestry activities, games, and competition. This three-day event is for youth ages 10 and up (and for staff and volunteers) interested in learning more about forests, and to select the NYS team that will go to the National 4-H Forestry Invitational (must be 14-19 for the national event). The forestry weekend activities include: tree identification, tree measurements, compass usage, map reading, insects and diseases, geocaching, nature games, night hikes and so much more! This event is typically held towards the end of May at the 4-H Camp Shankitunk in Delaware County. 2015 event dates have not been announced. The above information was taken from CCE Cortland County website.

Possible 4-H Camp Opportunities (subject to change):
4-H Camp Owahita:
Camp Owahita is located 10 miles east of Cortland, off Rt. 41. The camp operates six one-week long residential camp sessions open to youth ages 8 to 15. The camp’s 128-acre facility includes: five miles of woodland nature trails, large pond, expansive recreation field, certified low ropes challenge course, recreation/dining lodge, a large open pavilion, activity buildings, new basketball and hockey courts, a sand volleyball court, an infirmary, and bathhouses. Each session emphasizes a special theme day. Several 2 and 3-day trips are offered that include canoeing, biking, fishing, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, backpacking and more. 2014 residential camper fees were approximately $250 per camper. Additional fees apply when choosing “special daily activities.” Discounts are available for early birds and siblings.

Camp Bristol Hills:
11 miles south of Canandaigua. The camp operates six one-week long residential camp sessions. Program options include Day Camp for 5-10 year olds, 3-day Sprout Camp for 6-8 year olds, 6-day Residential Camp for 8-15 year olds, 5-day Teen Challenge Camp for 11-15 year olds, and a Backpacking Trip. Camp includes 126 acres of woods, 35 buildings (used for housing, recreation, health, and dining purposes), swimming pool, basketball and volleyball courts, open fields, and 3 ponds. Activities include swimming, environmental education, horseback riding, outdoor living skills, crafts, sports, fishing, backpacking trips, challenge ropes course, and a 3-level counselor-in-training (CIT) program. 2014 residential camper fees were approximately $335 per camper. Additional fees apply for the CIT and horseback riding programs. Discounts are available for early birds.

Hidden Valley 4-H Camp:
Hidden Valley 4-H Camp is located at the south entrance to Watkins Glen State Park with 50 acres in the Watkins Glen Gorge. Hidden Valley 4-H Camp is open to all boys and girls ages 8 through 17. Camp capacity is 175 campers. Program includes canoeing, horse programs, swimming, clowning, woodworkong, hiking, science fun, and a 2-level counselor-in-training program. Special out of camp trips include science camps, horse, canoe and bike programs. 2014 residential camper fees were approximately $300 per camper. Some additional fees may apply. Discounts are available for early birds and siblings.

4-H Camp Wabasso:
There is a “secret” place within Jefferson County that is located on 177 acres including a sandy shoreline on Millsite Lake, 30 miles north of Watertown. 4-H Camp Wabasso is a secluded treasure that allows kids, ages 6-15, to enjoy the natural environment while in the company of friends, both new and old. From the time the sun rises until after sunset, activities abound. Children may swim in picturesque Millsite Lake, frolic on the sandy beach, play volleyball or a game of kickball on the recreation field. There are nature trails, educational activities, songs by the campfire, and challenges provided by both low and high ropes courses. Kids sleep in rustic cabins, eat great camp food in the dining hall, and generate memories to last a lifetime. 2014 residential camper fees were approximately $360 per camper. Some additional fees may apply. Discounts are available for early birds.

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4-H Camp Wyomoco:
4-H Camp Wyomoco is located in Varysburg, NY (about 20 minutes south of Batavia) and has 280 acres of woods and meadows with a 3 acre pond. The camp operates for 8 weeks and is available for off-season rentals. Program features include horseback riding, counselor-in-training (CIT), canoeing, swimming, crafts, performing arts, photography, rocketry, outdoor living, woodworking, fishing and animal care. This camp experience is designed for youth ages 8-16. Special camp weeks are available, including horse and dairy (specialty camper fees apply). 2014 residential camper fees were approximately $300 for 4-H members. Some additional fees may apply. Discounts are available for early birds.

**2014 Other 4-H Sponsored Awards:**
For complete criterion & descriptions, please see the “Welcome to Cayuga County 4-H” Awards Packet. Many of these awards listed below require at least 1-2 letters of recommendation from a non-family member. Youth do not need to interview for the following awards.

**Banner Club:**
A Banner Club has a well-balanced, year-round program and meets given deadlines. Its club enrollment sheet is submitted on time each year, as are monthly secretary reports. The club completes a club story and a minimum of one club community service project. Each member of the club participates in at least one county event and completes at least one project. The club project completion sheet is then turned in to the 4-H Office.

**Dairy Care Award:**
This award recognizes the dairy cattle exhibitor selected by his/her peers as the exhibitor that gives the best care for animals and fellow exhibitors, has the best attitude, is the most reliable, and is the most enthusiastic show person. Nominations should be submitted by youth dairy exhibitors to the 4-H office by October 1st. Award is available to fully enrolled youth only. (no cloverbuds please)

**Youth Development Award:**
The 4-H Youth Advisory Committee recognizes those 4-H members who participate in many of the 4-H activities offered. Any 4-Her who earns the appropriate number of points, and turns in their progress report, as well as their point sheet, will be considered for a Youth Development Award. Selected 4-H members will show positive development of key life skills and be a representative of everything 4-H can be. All applications are reviewed by the current 4-H Youth Advisory Committee. Cloverbuds and Fully enrolled youth are encouraged to apply. Please update your applications to reflect the most recent activities.

**Most Supportive Parent Award:**
This award is given in memory of Norm Trendowski and is presented to a parent or parents who have demonstrated extraordinary support to their child(ren) during their 4-H years. This award requires a letter of nomination from the child(ren).

**Outstanding 4-Her Award:**
This is awarded to members, at least 16 years of age, with at least four years of 4-H experience who demonstrate good citizenship, participate in county projects, represent 4-H as a positive role model, show leadership, and willingly volunteer. This award, which requires 2-3 letters of nomination per individual, cannot be rewarded more than once to each individual.

**Volunteer of the Year Award:**
This recognizes an adult volunteer who has gone above and beyond to support Cayuga County 4-H. S/He is a never-ending supply of enthusiasm and support for the program and provides caring guidance for its members throughout the year. This award requires 1 to 2 letters of recommendation per individual.

**4-H Excellence Award:**
This award recognizes active members, with one to four years of 4-H experience, who demonstrates a desire to help their community, participate in public presentations, show willingness to help, and are enthusiastic. This award requires at least 2 letters of recommendation per individual.

(more awards on next page)
**Honor Secretary Award:**
Honor secretaries submit all of their club’s monthly reports, October through September. Reports must be submitted by the 15th of the following month. (Ex: April report is due by May 15th). In following with NYS 4H rules, this award is available to fully enrolled youth only. (no cloverbuds please)

**News Reporters Recognition Award:**
For this award, members should submit a small paragraph on what responsibilities they held while being the club’s news reporter for the current 4-H year. Youth need to attach at least 2 newspaper clippings from outside agencies showing their submitted articles in order to be considered for this award. Articles need to have been written by the club news reporters. Outside agency examples include: The Citizen, The Post Standard, School Newsletters, Country Folks, Focus on Farming, etc. In following with NYS 4H rules, this award is available to fully enrolled youth only. (no cloverbuds please)

**Window Displays:**
Displays are judged on how well they attract attention, hold the viewers’ interest, promote 4-H, convey a message, offer ways to learn more information about the 4-H program, their overall appearance, workmanship, and that they credit their creators. Window displays are put up during the National 4H week (October 5-11, 2014) throughout the county. The theme for 2014 has not yet been announced. Displays should be put in high traffic areas, be well organized and positively promote 4-H using the current year’s theme. Judges will view displays during the National 4H week, and awards will be presented at the annual Achievement Night Awards Ceremony.