**Oceana County Youth Council 4-H Scholarship Program**

Dear Applicant:

 Thank you for your interest in the Oceana County Youth Council 4-H Scholarship Program. The Oceana County 4-H Youth Council aims to provide financial support to graduating seniors who have been actively involved in its projects, programming, activities and events.

 A maximum of 5 scholarships in the amount of $400.00 will be awarded each year. To apply, applicants must be currently enrolled in Oceana County 4-H, have achieved a high school GPA of 2.5 or higher, been accepted at a college, university or secondary education program or enlistment in military service, and have a minimum of 4 years of involvement in 4-H. In addition, the applicant is required to provide a letter of recommendation from a school counselor, teacher or administrator along with a copy of his/her high school transcript along with the application. If homeschooled, a letter from a non-related individual such as club leader or community leader who is familiar with the applicant’s academic work will be accepted.

 In addition to the Scholarship monies, the Oceana County 4-H Youth Council seeks to provide education, experience and resources to assist individuals in attaining personal development skills which can be used to benefit students as they prepare for the next phase of their education or training. Assistance and feedback is available throughout the Scholarship Program process. It is hoped that skills used to complete 4-H’s process can be utilized in securing additional scholarship opportunities, internships or employment opportunities. Resources such as samples of completed scholarship applications and thank you notes, application completion assistance, sample interview questions, interview training/coaching, post interview feedback and more is available upon request.

 The deadline for submission of this year’s application is 4:00 pm on Friday, April 1, 2022 to the 4-H MSU extension office. (Note: This deadline has been set earlier than most applications to enable 4-H’s process to be used as a learning experience)

 Applications will be evaluated by the Scholarship selection committee based on the following criteria:

1. Presentation of application: Neatness, spelling, and format of answers 5 points

 2. Biographical Essay 20 points

 3. Memberships: 4-H Clubs, Committees and Others 10 points

 4. Awards and Honors 5 points

 5. Education and Training 10 points

 6. Leadership 10 points

 7. Fair Projects and Exhibits 5 points

8. Scholastic Achievements and Recommendation 10 points

 Applicants meeting the appropriate criteria will be invited to attend an interview with the Scholarship Selection Panel on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 and Scholarship Award letters will be mailed within 10 days of the interviews.

 Scholarship monies are paid directly to the Scholarship Award winner to reimburse educational, training or travel expenses incurred during the first year of secondary education or first year of active enlistment. To receive reimbursement, the applicant must provide proof of attaining a secondary education GPA of 2.5 or greater (based on a 4.0 scale) or receipts for military training related expenses within one year following high school graduation to the MSU extension office no later than February 1, 2023 along with a Thank You Note addressed to the Oceana County 4-H Youth Council.

 If you have any questions or would like to take advantage of our resources, please feel free to contact the MSU extension office. Thank you again for your interest in the Oceana County 4-H Youth Council Scholarship Program.

Sincerely,

Oceana County 4-H Youth Council Awards & Recognition Committee

**Oceana County 4-H Competitive Scholarship Application – 2022**

**Purpose:**

This scholarship is competitive and will only be awarded to highly qualified candidates. This scholarship is to assist 4-Hers, who are high school graduates, who seek further education beyond the secondary level or become actively enlisted in a branch of the United States Military. A maximum of 5 scholarships will be awarded in the amount of $400.00 and will be issued to the awardee upon successful completion (GPA of 2.5 or higher) of at least one semester and verification process or graduation of basic training.

**Requirements of Applicants:**

1. Will be a high school graduate by June of the current 4-H year with a GPA of 2.5 or greater

2. Has acceptance at a college, university or trade school or certificate program/course of study OR is actively enlisted in

 a military branch of service.

3. Is a currently enrolled 4-H membership with at least four years of total involvement in the Oceana County 4-H Youth

 Program

4. Provide proof of attaining a secondary education GPA of 2.5 or greater (based on a 4.0 scale) within one year

 following high school graduation or graduation of military basic training.

**5. Complete entire application packet for submission no later than 4:00pm on Friday, April 1, 2022 to 4-H**

 **Extension Office.**

6. Attend an interview with a Scholarship Selection Panel on Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

7. Applicant’s will be evaluated based on the following Point System:

 **Point System for Oceana County 4-H Competitive Scholarship**

 1. Presentation: Neatness, spelling, and format of answers 5 points

 2. Biographical Essay 20 points

 3. Memberships: 4-H Clubs, Committees and Others 10 points

 4. Awards and Honors 5 points

 5. Education and Training 10 points

 6. Leadership 10 points

 7. Fair Projects and Exhibits 5 points

8. Scholastic Achievements and Recommendation 10 points

9. Interview 25 points

**Format for Applicant’s Written Responses**

**I. Applicant’s Biographical Essay** – Provide a statement which will let the interviewer get to know you as a person. Include examples of how involvement in 4-H has been a positive impact on your life. Provide information about your employment history, educational goals, and community involvement. Describe ways you plan to be part of 4-H and your community as an adult. (Max 500 words)

 **II. Participation and Achievements** – Use the format provided in response to the following categories. Heading should appear at the top of each category. Lists should be constructed in reverse chronological order, with most recent experiences and achievements at the top:

. A. **Membership**

1. 4–H Memberships (List all 4-H clubs and committees you have been involved in)

2. Other memberships (List all other membership in school and community associations

such as scouting, church, athletic teams, student organizations, etc.

B. **Awards and Honors** (List awards and honors received such as presented by club and

at the Annual Fall Awards Banquet, school, community organizations, church, etc.)

C. **Education and Training** (List all activities involving education and training including classes,

seminars, trips, demonstrations, Exploration Days, State 4-H Shows, etc.)

D. **Leadership:** List 4-H and other leadership activities by year. (List may include Teen Leader, Club

Officers, 4-H Ambassador, Big Buddy, as well as community leadership such as student government, clubs, athletic teams, associations, charitable organizations, church, employment, etc.)

E. **Fair Projects & Exhibits:** (List your fair exhibits, demonstrations, projects, and other recognition

for each year of 4-H participation)

**III. Scholastic Achievements and Recommendation** – Complete the form to obtain a Letter of Recommendation from a school official. Once received, attach the Letter of Recommendation and Transcript copy to the form and add to the Scholarship Application.

 **Oceana County 4-H Competitive Scholarship Application**

**Please Note: Assistance and Samples of Completed Scholarship Applications are available upon request**

Applicant Information

 Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Gender:\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of High School Attending:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School Scholastic GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ points Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_students

Years of Completed 4-H membership:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Club(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

College, University of Higher Education facility accepted into: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I. Applicant’s Biographical Essay** – Provide a statement on a separate paper which will let the interviewer get to know you as a person. Include examples of how involvement in 4-H has been a positive impact on your life. Provide information about your employment history, educational goals, and community involvement. Describe ways you plan to be part of 4-H and your community as an adult. (Max 500 words)

**II. Participation and Achievements** – Use the following format to provide responses to the following categories. Heading should appear at the top of the paper and each category be included. Lists should be constructed in reverse chronological order, with most recent experiences and achievements at the top.

***A. Membership***: List your years of membership in 4-H Clubs, then other organizations:

Year:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 then

Year:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Organization:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ***B. Awards***: List the awards and honors you have received for 4-H, followed by school and community:

Year:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Award/Honor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 then

Year:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Academic, Athletic or Community Award/Honor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ***C. Education*** and Training: List all educational activities and experiences:

Year: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Activity: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ***D. Leadership***: List your involvement in leadership activities in 4-H, school and community:

 Year:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Activity: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ***E. Fair Projects & Exhibits***: List all completed fair projects and exhibits:

Year: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Project:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **III. Scholastic Achievements and Recommendation** – Complete the form to obtain a Letter of Recommendation from a school official. Once received, attach the Letter of Recommendation and Transcript copy to the form and turn in with the entire Scholarship Application.

**Applications must be received by the MSU Extension Office no later than 4pm on April 1,2022.**

 Oceana County 4-H Competitive Scholarship Application

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Applicant’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

High School:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Applicant GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Intended College or Trade School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Intended Degree or Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Dear School Official:*

 *The Oceana County 4-H Youth Council provides financial support to graduating seniors. Qualified applicants must have achieved a 2.5 GPA or higher and have been involved in Oceana County 4-H for 4 or more years. In addition, the applicant is required to provide a letter of recommendation from a school counselor, teacher or administrator. If homeschooled, a letter from a non-related individual such as a club leader or community leader who is familiar with the applicant’s academic work will be accepted.*

 *Please provide a letter of support for this applicant which includes the context in which you know the applicant, specific examples of outstanding skills, completed goals and accomplishments, demonstrated character, and leadership experience. Please include indications for the future success by this individual.*

***PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THE APPLICANT”S HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT TO THIS FORM***

Applicant’s GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2022 Applicant’s Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of School Official: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of School Official: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *MSU Extension Programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.*

**Guidelines for Oceana County 4-H Competitive Scholarship Interview Panel**

 Panel members will be provided a copy of each candidate’s application to be reviewed prior to the candidate entering the interview.

  ***PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE Oceana County 4-H Competitive Scholarship RUBRIC which will be used to score all candidates. A copy is provided.***

 The following questions are a guideline for you to use during the interview process. If you have other questions which you feel are pertinent, please ask them of the candidates. Keep in mind that possible points are awarded in the following RUBRIC categories: Projects, Leadership, Education and Training, Awards, Honors and Recognition, Community Involvement, Essay Questions and Interview. Questions are designed to evaluate the applicant’s ability to communicate his/her skills and abilities, accomplishments, goals, career plans, and future plans as well as gauge how the awarding of this scholarship will be beneficial. A copy of the Sample Interview Questions given to the applicants is attached also.

***Tell us about yourself and your family background.***

***Describe your most rewarding experience of participating in 4-H.***

***What is the most difficult thing you have encountered through 4-H and how did you overcome the challenge?***

***What are the three most important skills you have gained through your 4-H involvement and how will they benefit you in the future?***

***What would you say are the two most important characteristics of a successful person?***

***Who inspires you and why?***

***In what ways do you fulfill the 4-H pledge? (Head - Clearer Thinking, Heart-Greater Loyalty, Hands - Larger Service, Health-Better Living)***

***How have you incorporated the 4-H motto into your life? (“Make the Best better”)***

***Can you tell us about your career goals and the plans you have in place to achieve them.***

***What steps have you taken towards achieving your career goal?***

***How would receiving this scholarship be a benefit to you and how do you intend to use it?***

***What skills or talents do you have that will allow you to best serve your community?***

***Is there anything else that you would like this committee to know about you or take into consideration?***

 At the completion of the interview, each panel member will complete and total a rubric for the applicant. Once the rubric is scored and totaled, it will be given to the 4-H Scholarship Committee Delegate. All information which is presented and/or collected should be kept strictly confidential between the panel, the applicant and the committee delegate.

 Thank you for contributing your time and efforts to the Oceana County 4-H Competitive Scholarship Committee and to the success of Oceana County 4-H Programs.

*Sincerely,*

*Oceana 4-H Youth Council Awards & Recognition Committee*

**Oceana County 4-H Competitive Scholarship Rubric**

**Applicant’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Part One - Presentation/Application**   **of 5 points**

\* Points should be awarded for neatness, spelling, format of answers (how well they followed directions), completeness of application, as well as the overall appearance of the application.

 (Neatness \_\_\_/1 Typed \_\_\_/1 Spelling \_\_\_/1 Format:\_\_\_/1 Overall \_\_\_/1)

Feedback:

**Part Two - Biographical Essay of 20 points**

\* Points should be awarded based on the applicant’s ability to express themselves in a clear and concise manner which gives the reader an understanding of the applicant’s response to providing “**a statement on a separate paper which will let the interviewer get to know you as a person. Include examples of how involvement in 4-H has been a positive impact on your life. Provide information about your employment history, educational goals, and community involvement. Describe ways you plan to be part of 4-H and your community as an adult. (Max 500 words)”**

(Describe Self: \_\_\_/5 Pos 4-H Impact: \_\_/4 Employment History: \_\_/2 Ed Goals: \_\_\_/5 Community Involvement: \_\_\_/2 Adult 4-H Plans:\_\_\_/2)

Feedback:

**Part Three - Memberships: 4-H Clubs, Committee and Others of 10 points**

\* Points should be awarded based on the number, variety and type of 4-H memberships such as Club memberships, 4-H Council and Committee memberships and other memberships such as student organizations, church, clubs, athletics, scouting, charitable organizations, etc. Multiple years of membership and involvement should be valued more highly. (4-H Club(s): \_\_\_/4 Youth Council \_\_\_/1 Market Committee \_\_\_/1 Other: \_\_\_/3).

Feedback:

**Part Four - 4-H Special Awards, Honors and Recognition of 5 points**

\* Points should be awarded for the number and level of 4-H Awards and Honors on the Club, County, State and National level. (Club Awards:\_\_\_/1 County Awards:\_\_\_/1 State Awards:\_\_\_/1 National Awards: \_\_\_/2)

Feedback:

**Part Five - 4-H Education and Training Summary of 10 points**

\* Points should be awarded for attendance at Exploration Days, 4-H Sponsored events, attendance at additional fair, shows and clinics, as well as any activity which advanced 4-H Life Skill development and/or promotes the values. Method demonstrations, talks, camps and labs should also be

Valued. (Exploration Days \_\_\_/3 4-H Training/Workshops-online or in person \_\_\_/2 MSU Workshops \_\_\_/2 Shows/Clinics \_\_\_/2 Other \_\_\_/1)

Feedback:

**Oceana County 4-H Competitive Scholarship Rubric**

(continued)

**Part Six - Leadership of 10 points**

\* Points should be awarded based on the number, variety and type of additional activities which demonstrate the applicant’s leadership abilities, skills and achievements. Achievements and attitude towards civic duties, community service and leadership roles in school, clubs, charitable organizations and sports are included.

4-H Officers, Youth Council Membership, Market Committee Representatives, 4-H Teen Leadership, 4-H Ambassador and State Representatives should be valued more highly.

(Leadership in 4-H: \_\_\_/5 School: \_\_\_/1 Club(s): \_\_\_/1 Organizations: \_\_\_/1 Sports/Other: \_\_\_/2)

Feedback:

**Part Seven - Fair Projects and Exhibits of 5 points**

\* Points should be awarded for such things as number of fair projects/exhibits, variety of project and exhibit areas, years of 4-H participation, project achievements as well as understanding and sharing of project knowledge (Projects: \_\_\_/2 Years: \_\_\_/2 Other: \_\_\_/1)

Feedback:

**Part Eight - Scholastic Achievement and Recommendation of 10 points**

\* Points should be awarded based on GPA and Transcript, number and variety of Educational Achievement Awards/Recognition, Community Awards/Recognition, National Educational Honors/Awards, and Letter of Recommendation. (GPA \_\_\_/2 Transcript \_\_\_/2 Educational Achievements \_\_\_/2 Community Recognition \_\_\_/2 Recommendation \_\_\_/2)

Feedback:

**Part Nine - Interview (formerly Poise, Personality and Appearance) of 25 points**

\* Points should be awarded based on the applicant’s ***poise*** (eye contact, self-confidence, positive attitude, asks questions, and thanks interviewer), ***personality*** (ability to communicate and express thoughts, ideas and opinions effectively, express themselves in a clear and concise manner which is viewed positively by the audience, appropriate tone of voice, etc.) and ***appearance*** (dressed appropriately, introduces/greets interviewer with handshake and smile, is friendly, sense of humor). Additionally, points should be awarded based on the ***applicant’s responses*** to panel questions, how prepared for the interview he/she is, the amount of confidence and motivation displayed towards completing career goals and the ***interviewers overall perception*** of the applicant and his/her ability to benefit from the scholarship. Set on the quality.

(Poise: \_\_\_/5 Personality: \_\_\_/5 Appearance: \_\_\_/5 Applicant’s Responses: \_\_\_/5 Overall: \_\_\_/5)

 INTERVIEWER TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of 100 points

Feedback & Comments: