

# 4-H Canada Leadership Excellence Awards of Distinction (L.E.A.D.)

2023 Application Guidelines



The Leadership Excellence Awards of Distinction (L.E.A.D.) showcases the accomplishments of four special 4-H senior youth members each year and recognizes their outstanding achievements in the area of leadership excellence.

The L.E.A.D. awards recognize outstanding 4-H'ers who epitomize 4-H youth empowerment. We are looking to acknowledge and honour confident, accomplished 4-H'ers who have gained critical life skills and leadership through their 4-H experience. The award winners will also demonstrate how they positively impact their community through their 4-H experience.

4-H Canada is proud to partner with CN in offering this distinguished award. 4-H Canada is grateful to CN for their support of youth in rural communities across Canada.

Selections for L.E.A.D. will be based on how well the applicant demonstrates Personal Impact, Community Impact and Leadership Excellence in one of the following four award categories:

## Award Categories

### Leadership Excellence in Community Engagement & Communications

To be in the running for this award, 4-H'ers will demonstrate their contributions to their club, community, country, or beyond! Leadership Excellence within the Community Engagement & Communications Pillar will be measured by a 4-H'er's participation in volunteer activities, involvement in community improvement through service, and demonstrated commitment to creating positive change in the world.

Being an outstanding young leader in the field of Community Engagement & Communications means:

- Making a positive difference in the world around them
- Seeking out ways to lend a hand and to take action
- Advocating for what matters to them, and helping others to do the same
- Being a role model for the change they want to see in the world

### Leadership Excellence in the Environment & Healthy Living

To be considered for an award in this category, 4-H'ers must have demonstrated Leadership Excellence by contributing to personal health and the health of others. They must lead by example in the way they treat and take care of themselves, the people around them, and the planet. 4-H'ers who show leadership in this area are passionate about health and well-being, act





as healthy living role models for their peers, and/or put solutions into practice for improving the health and sustainability of the environment.

Being an outstanding young leader in the field of the Environment & Healthy Living means:

- Be stewards of the environment and develop sustainable solutions
- Taking care of themselves and others
- Learn positive ways to stay healthy and active
- Make informed choices about their health and the health of the planet
- Dig in and get their hands dirty!

Leadership Excellence in Science & Technology

This award is intended to honour those who are passionate about learning the ins and outs of the world of science and diving into hands-on projects and activities. 4-H'ers who demonstrate leadership and innovation in this area are actively involved in the fascinating world of science and technology and are teaching others about the impact science and technology have on everyday life.

Being an outstanding young leader in the field of Science & Technology means:

- Engaging in the science and technology world
- Exploring ideas and career opportunities related to STEM
- Explaining how systems work and how agriculture is benefiting from STEM innovations
- Expanding their minds through experiential, inquiry-based learning

Leadership Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security

Candidates for this award are committed to growing and sharing skills and knowledge related to sustainable agricultural practices and the vital importance of food security at home and abroad. They are innovative leaders who not only appreciate but enjoy learning and teaching others about the food we grow and eat.

Being an outstanding young leader in the field of Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security means:

- Appreciate and learn about the food we eat and grow
- Explore innovative and sustainable farming practices
- Discover new ways of improving nutrition and food security
- Exchange ideas and solutions at home and globally



### Award Details

Four national Youth L.E.A.D. Award Winners will be selected (one in each pillar) and will each receive:

- A \$20,000 scholarship for post-secondary education (\$5,000 annually for a maximum of 4 years). Verification of ongoing successful academic achievement will be required prior to the funds being distributed in each subsequent year.
- Recipients will be recognized at the 4-H Canada Leadership Awards Banquet.
- Recipients will be paired with an industry mentor within each of the Leadership Development Pillars that they were selected in and will receive a reference letter.
- A phone call of congratulations from 4-H Canada's Chief Executive Officer.
- A framed certificate and 4-H Canada tie or scarf.
- The opportunity to be featured as a 4-H Youth L.E.A.D. Spokesperson.
- Profile story in 4-H Canada's national magazine, *The 4-H Advantage* (Fall 2023).

Award winners will have the following additional responsibility at the 4-H Canada Leadership Awards Banquet (if applicable):

- Award recipients showcase Youth Leadership Excellence by addressing invited guests in attendance. The speech should highlight the potential of young people as agents of change in their own lives and the lives of others. To be delivered in a virtual, pre-recorded manner if required.
- Award recipients will demonstrate the contributions and improvements they have made both personally and/or within their communities, through their active involvement in 4-H, and their engagement as leaders and community members.

Award winners will also be expected to demonstrate ongoing involvement in 4-H and/or their community during the four-year period during which they receive financial support through L.E.A.D.

This involvement could include:

- Starting or being involved in a 4-H college club
- Continuing your involvement in your local 4-H club in a leadership capacity
- Being engaged in a leadership capacity in your community
- Being an advocate for the promotion of positive youth development
- Being a champion for the importance of youth leadership in Canada
- Being a spokesperson and ambassador for 4-H Canada at events, in the community and/or through media.

### Eligibility

- Applicants must be at least 16 years of age by January 1, 2023 and a current 4-H member in good standing.
- Applicants must be Canadian residents in their final year of high school or CEGEP, and plan to attend an accredited Canadian post-secondary institution in the fall of 2023.
- Demonstrate a high level of involvement within both 4-H and their community.
- Applicants should represent the diversity and passions of 4-H youth nationwide, demonstrate outstanding leadership, showcase the essence of 4-H positivity and possess a proven ability to engage others.
- Applicants should be able to demonstrate:
  - Personal Impact: How 4-H personally impacted their life
  - Community Impact: How 4-H has empowered them to positively impact peers and/or community
  - Leadership Excellence: How they have demonstrated excellence within one of the four 4-H Leadership Development Pillars.

### To apply, applicants must:

Complete the on-line application form at [apply.4-h-canada.ca](https://apply.4-h-canada.ca) and submit:

- A transcript of marks for the current academic year, showing their numerical grade average in percentage form (i.e. 85%).
- A 500-word response to the each of the following three questions:
  - *How do you feel the Leadership Development Pillar under which you are applying supports the growth and sustainability of agriculture?*
  - *How do you feel your post-secondary education will support your demonstrated leadership in the category you applied under?*
  - *What do you feel are some of the barriers that youth in your community face today? Describe a challenge you have overcome and what role did you play in finding the solution?*
- Two letters of recommendation, one from the 4-H community and one from outside 4-H (must be non-family member).
- A description of their 4-H and community leadership involvement, awards and distinctions.
- A Letter of Acceptance from a Canadian post-secondary institution, stating the program into which you were accepted.

### Selection Criteria

The award selection is a competitive process, determined by a selection committee. Applicants will be shortlisted based on:

- Quality of their essay responses
- Overall academic standing
- Demonstration of excellence within one of the four 4-H Leadership Development Pillars
- 4-H and community involvement
- Letters of recommendation
- Confirmation of current good standing in a Canadian 4-H club

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to participate in an interview (virtual or in-person) involving members of the selection committee.

## 4-H Canada Leadership Excellence Awards of Distinction (L.E.A.D.)



The winners agree to comply with the requirements set forth in the application and to utilize the 4-H Name and Brand when publicizing the award.

Successful applicants will be notified in August 2023.

Scores or comments concerning individual applications will not be released.

### Online Applications

Applications open at 2:00 p.m. ET on April 26, 2023 and must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on July 5, 2023.

Verification of ongoing successful academic achievement will be required prior to the funds being distributed in each subsequent year.

To apply, visit [4-h-canada.ca/scholarships](https://4-h-canada.ca/scholarships) or [apply.4-h-canada.ca](https://apply.4-h-canada.ca).

### For more information

Have a question about the L.E.A.D. Scholarship? Contact Allison Hudson, Program Coordinator, Admissions and Travel at [program@4-h-canada.ca](mailto:program@4-h-canada.ca).