



Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame Nomination Guide

Updated August 2025

In recognition of the Wisconsin 4-H Centennial, an inaugural 4-H Hall of Fame was started in 2014. The 4-H Hall of Fame provides statewide recognition for individuals and external organizations with significant contributions to the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development program on every level, preserve Wisconsin 4-H history and development, and has the potential to increase awareness of the 4-H Youth Development program. Potential recipients include 4-H volunteers, 4-H pioneers, external collaborating organizations and businesses, community leaders and retired Cooperative Extension and UW Madison Extension staff.

Implementation Framework

Number of Recipients	Approximately 5-10 honorees selected per year
Nomination Process	Any group or individual is eligible to submit a nomination for consideration. See the Hall of Fame website for nomination deadlines.
Selection Process	Selections made by state level committee based on submitted nominations (signature of UW-Madison Extension staff person required on the nomination signature page)
Selection	Nominator must electronically submit photo and 250 word bio describing the honoree's qualifications.
Recognition	Recognition at the Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame Celebration. Wisconsin 4-H may share contact information of the nominee and the nominator with local media.

Guidelines

- The Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame will use criteria similar to the National 4-H Hall of Fame.
- Any group or individual is eligible to submit a nomination to the state selection committee.
- All nominations must include the signature of a current or former UW-Madison Extension staff person.
- Complete nominations include: 1. Completed nomination form (with nominee contact info, essay question responses, signatures of nominator and staff person) 2. a digital head and shoulder photograph 3. a brief summary of nominee to be used as a biography in the Hall of Fame Publications (no more than 250 words) .
- UW-Extension staff members must be retired for three or more years before being eligible for nomination.
- Unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated for future consideration. *The criteria document should be revised to increase possibility of being selected.*

Honoree Qualifications

4-H volunteers, 4-H pioneers, external collaborating organizations and businesses, community leaders, and retired UW-Extension staff who have benefited from, and attribute their success to 4-H, or those who have made significant contributions of time, energy, and/or resources to the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development program on **any** level exemplifying the following criteria:

1. Citizenship as exemplified by being active in civic, community, state, regional or national public service activities evidencing impact on youth, families and communities especially 4-H.
2. Leadership impact as exemplified by qualities of leadership and acceptance of leadership responsibilities in civic, community, professional and business-related activities that directly or indirectly benefit 4-H.
3. Career Accomplishments as exemplified by accomplishments and success in his/her chosen career and as a mentor or role model.
4. Character as exemplified by evidence of the influence of 4-H involvement in the nominee's life and/or their commitment to 4-H is critical to the nomination.
5. Other Beneficial Information that would be helpful to the selection committee.

Questions can be directed to the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Office (pydadminteam@extension.wisc.edu) or by contacting the current Hall of Fame Committee Chair (see website for contact information).

Nomination Criteria – Expanded Version (Nominator Guide)

The Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame recognizes **significant** contributions (depth, scope and impact) on **any** level. Selection is based on five criteria. Below are suggested questions to adapt for nominees (i.e. deceased 4-H pioneer, 4-H volunteer, 4-H donor, external collaborating organization or business, community leader, or Extension staff).

Clear evidence of significant contributions with impact and influence on 4-H is essential. Describe things the nominee **accomplished** that were multi-faceted, unique and grew because of their leadership. Contributions and leadership that extend beyond county impact are important but not required. This includes changes or additions to 4-H programs initiated by the nominee or as a member of a team. Supportive data should include numbers that show 4-H growth, an increase in member and leadership opportunities and/or evidence of how the nominee extended 4-H to existing and new audiences. Evidence may also focus on how 4-H membership impacted career and life choices and a continued connection with 4-H.

- **Citizenship** as exemplified by being active in civic, community, state, regional or national public service activities evidencing impact on youth, families and communities especially 4-H.
 - What resources/abilities, beyond leadership, has the individual or organization/business brought to their citizenship efforts?
 - How does the public service demonstrate the impact on youth, families, communities and 4-H.?
 - How do others describe the nominee's civic contributions?
 - How has this individual or organization/business made a difference through community, state, regional or national public service?
- **Leadership** impact as exemplified by qualities of leadership and acceptance of leadership responsibilities in civic, community, professional and business-related activities that directly or indirectly benefit 4-H.
 - What leadership qualities does the individual or organization/business demonstrate across all leadership experiences: professional, community, personal?
 - How does this nominee empower groups they lead?
 - What difference has the leadership of this individual or organization/business made in the lives of others, especially 4-H and other youth?
 - How has the nominee's leadership contributions directly or indirectly benefitted 4-H?
 - What has been the influence of 4-H on the ability of the individual to assume leadership positions.
- **Career Accomplishments** as exemplified by nominee's accomplishments and success in chosen career field and as a mentor or role model. This includes tangible things done, such as programs implemented, resources raised, writing, business success, number of people affected, measured impacts on the lives of others, etc.
 - How have the nominee's career accomplishments and successes impacted others?
 - What examples of being a role model or mentor stand out?
 - How are things different because of this nominee's career or contributions?
 - What new innovations or approaches has this nominee introduced and sustained? How do others describe the nominee's accomplishments?
 - What has been the influence of 4-H on the career accomplishments of the nominee?
- **Character** as exemplified by evidence of the influence of 4-H involvement in the nominee's life and/or their commitment to 4-H is critical to the nomination.
 - What is the impact of 4-H involvement and 4-H commitment in the nominee's life?
 - If not a 4-H alumni, where did their commitment to 4-H originate and how is it strongly demonstrated.
- **Other Beneficial Information** that would be helpful to the Selection Committee.