

HUGH BIRDSALL, JOHN WOOD & MARION BIRDSALL
4-H SCHOLARSHIPS – 2026

1. The Door County 4-H Leaders Association and its Executive Board will award scholarships of up to \$1,000 each to 4-H members who plan to further their education.

Eligibility:

- A. **Must be currently enrolled in Door County 4-H.**

Note: 4-H membership eligibility extends through the first year after high school graduation. (i.e.: Applicants are eligible for this scholarship in their first year of post-high school education as long as they are enrolled as a 4-H member in the Door County 4-H program)

- B. Must be currently enrolled or accepted as a full-time student in a post-secondary education program (2-year, 4-year, certificate, vocational training, etc.).
- C. Previous recipients may apply again, but will not be eligible to win the same name scholarship they previously were awarded (not eligible to win the same scholarship twice).

2. **TO APPLY:**

PART I: Applicant Information (*form*)

PART II: Cover Letter (sample attached) – *limited to one page in length*

PART III: 4-H Resume (*sample attached*) – *limit your resume to two pages or less in length*

PART IV: Choose and answer **ALL** of the following essay questions. Limit your response to no more than 500 words each (answer each on a separate sheet)

- 1) What 4-H experience had the biggest impact on you and why?
- 2) What life skills has 4-H taught you, and how do you currently use, or plan to use those skills?
- 3) In the 4-H pledge, we pledge our hand to larger service. What have you done in 4-H to help another person, your community, county, state, country, or world? How did that impact your perspective?

PART V: **Signed** Letter of Recommendation from 4-H Volunteer (club or project leader) or someone that can speak to your 4-H involvement

Signed Letter of Recommendation from another individual –can be from School (i.e. principal, advisor, teacher), Church, Employer, or Community Organization

3. In the event the applicant does not follow through with his or her plans for school or if no worthy applicants are found, the scholarships will be held over until the following year. In the case of a hold-over year, if funds are available, additional scholarships will be awarded the following year. In the event of a tie, the scholarships will be split, awarding half to each recipient. The Door County 4-H Leaders Association provides funding for these scholarships.
4. The Door County 4-H Leaders Association will oversee the selection of scholarship applicants. Scoring will be done by both 4-H volunteers and community members outside of 4-H.
No immediate relative of an applicant shall be involved in the selection of a winner.
5. Applications should be completed and postmarked on or before **March 2nd**. If the application is not complete, including recommendations, it will be disqualified. Follow-up is the applicant's responsibility. **No late applications will be accepted.**

6. Applications can be:
 - **Mailed** to: 4-H Scholarships, c/o Extension Door County
421 Nebraska Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.
 - **Dropped off** in person at the Extension Door County office located at 421 Nebraska Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. (Please call to confirm office hours ahead of time)
 - **Emailed to:** Candis Dart, Door County 4-H Program Educator at candis.dart@wisc.edu
7. Additional items that are submitted with the application packet will be removed from the packet before being shared with reviewers. Only include the required items with your application.
8. Results will be announced following selection. Scholarship recipients will receive the scholarship as determined each year by the 4-H Leaders Association. Recipients will also be recognized at the 4-H Recognition Celebration, held in the fall.
9. Applicants may apply more than once if they meet eligibility requirements.
10. The file will be available on the Door County 4-H Website to allow for easier completion: (<http://door.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/>). You may also contact the Extension office to have a Word-format emailed to you.
11. These scholarships are named after three long-time 4-H leaders, Hugh Birdsall, Marion Birdsall and John Wood, but the winners are not selected by immediate members of the Birdsall or Wood Family.

**APPLICATION FOR
HUGH BIRDSALL, JOHN WOOD &/or MARION BIRDSALL 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS**

Use this form as an outline and use extra pages as needed.

MAIL TO: 4-H Scholarships
c/o Extension Door County
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

DEADLINE: **MARCH 2, 2026**

PART I -- APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Name _____ Date of Birth _____

2. Address _____

3. Parent's Name (if applicable) _____

4. High School Attended _____

Date of Graduation _____ GPA _____

6. College, University or Technical School currently attending (if applicable):

Area of Study _____ GPA _____

OR

College, University or Technical School where you have been accepted/planning to attend:

Area of Study _____

PART II -- COVER LETTER (See Sample Below)

1. Write an introduction:

- a. Begin your cover letter by writing an introductory paragraph that describes who you are and why you're interested in earning a scholarship. You may discuss how receiving this funding could provide you with educational opportunities you may not have access to or how the organization relates to your academic and professional interests.
- b. Include information about yourself, such as the school you attend or the program you're interested in, your major and the degree you're earning. You can use the introductory paragraph to share your enthusiasm for your academic career and the subject you're studying. This allows members of the reviewing committee to learn more about your personality and interests.

2. Discuss 4-H experiences and describe your academic interest & goals:

- a. In your first body paragraph, discuss your 4-H experience or any internships you've completed and highlight how they relate to the scholarship or your academic major.
- b. Review committees may look for candidates who commit to their 4-H growth and development. Describing your 4-H experience can help you demonstrate you continue to challenge yourself and seek learning opportunities related to your field of study.
- c. Highlight your academic interests and goals. Scholarships typically assist students with educational funding, so reviewing committees may be interested in candidates with academic aspirations and desires.
- d. You can use this paragraph to describe the degree you're interested in pursuing or discuss why a particular program or university may support your plans.

3. Review your post-graduation aspirations:

- a. Besides your 4-H experience and short-term academic goals, consider discussing your post-graduation aspirations. Whether you're interested in pursuing a graduate degree, earning a particular professional license or entering the workforce, discussing these goals can help members of the scholarship committee gain a better understanding of your plans and desires.
- b. An organization that designates scholarships may view its funding as an investment in students and their futures. You may benefit from highlighting the long-term impact that receiving financial assistance could have on your academic and professional career following graduation.

4. Write a closing paragraph:

- a. You can end your cover letter with a closing paragraph that summarizes your goals and credentials. You can also use this section to thank the reviewing committee for their consideration and express your gratitude for the opportunity to apply for this particular scholarship.
- b. Include your contact information and offer it to members of the reviewing committee if they want to follow up about the status of your application or have questions about your information and credentials.

Tips to write a Cover Letter for a scholarship:

- Review the scholarship qualifications
- Proofread and revise
- Include quantifiable accomplishments
- Discuss information that differs from your other application documents
- Tailor it to the scholarship to which you're applying
- Align your writing style with the designating organization
- Distinguish yourself by sharing personal details
- Use proper formatting
- Avoid balancing emotional appeals with objective facts
- Avoid writing with an impersonal tone
- Avoid being too vague

COVER LETTER OUTLINE

Date (that you are mailing it in)

Door County 4-H Leaders Association
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Dear Door County 4-H Leaders Association/To Whom It May Concern,

Paragraph 1: What are you sending and why are you sending it? List the opportunities for which you want to be considered.

Paragraphs 2 & 3: Describe here what makes you deserving of this scholarship, trip, award, or job. Explain in no more than two paragraphs why you are uniquely qualified to represent Door County 4-H. Ask yourself what distinguishes you from other applicants. Be sure to give examples to help explain your statements.

Closing Paragraph: Thank your audience for considering your application/resume. Restate, in one final sentence (make this something they will remember), why you are the best fit for what it is that you are applying for.

Sincerely,

(Your actual signature HERE)

Your typed name HERE

COVER LETTER EXAMPLE

January 1, 2026

Door County 4-H Leaders Association
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Dear Door County 4-H Leaders Association,

It is my pleasure to submit this cover letter, my application, and recommendation letters for the Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference. This is my seventh year as a 4-H member. I have been very active with my projects and as a member in my club, Lucky Clovers. My enclosed resume and portfolio highlight my 4-H involvement. Participation in other 4-H events has made me interested in attending Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference.

4-H has provided me with some great experiences. I have increased my communication skills by participating in the county speaking contest, as well as serving as secretary for my club. I have learned to give back to my community by helping with my club's senior citizens holiday party and helping at many Horse and Pony events.

Last year I attended the Winter Leadership Camp. I enjoyed meeting other 4-H members from other counties. I learned a lot about being a leader and heard a lot about other trips. Other 4-H members who attended Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference told me about the great opportunity to meet 4-Hers from across Wisconsin, while taking part in fun classes. If I got to attend I would do a good job representing Door County and would tell other 4-H members in my club and in the county what Conference was all about and why they should attend.

I hope to attend Wisconsin 4-H and Youth Conference to learn more about 4-H and to meet other people. My past experiences representing Door County, enthusiasm to be involved, and my willingness to share what I learn with others make me a great candidate.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Chris Clover

Chris Clover

PART III -- 4-H RESUME (See Sample Below)

RESUME OUTLINE

NAME

ADDRESS LINE 1

ADDRESS LINE 2

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL (if applicable)

EDUCATION

School or college name, then Freshman, Sophomore, etc.

4-H SUMMARY

4-H club name, years in 4-H (**do not count years as a Cloverbud**)

List all projects in which you are or have been enrolled. Include the number of years you have been or were a member of that project.

4-H ACTIVITY INVOLVEMENT

Summarize all 4-H activities in which you have participated and the number of years you participated. Include both club and county involvement.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Translate what you have learned as a result of participation in 4-H projects and activities into skills you have developed.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Translate what you have personally gained as a result of participation in 4-H projects and activities into personal attributes.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Describe your leadership experience, what you have learned personally, and how you have gained additional responsibility. Use action words.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In this section, include school activities, work experience, special activities, etc. and the number of years you participated.

SAMPLE RESUME

Chris Clover
425 Green Lane
Forestville WI 54213
920/999-9999
4hrocks@tnt.com

EDUCATION Green Meadow Middle School, 8th grade

4-H SUMMARY Lucky Clovers, 6 years
Horse and Pony, Foods and Nutrition, 6 years
Arts and Crafts, 5 years
Poultry, 3 years
Flowers, 2 years

4-H ACTIVITY INVOLVEMENT	<u>Club</u>	<u>County</u>
	Booster Button Sales, 5 years Dairy Bar Worker, 5 years Club Fundraiser, 5 years Sr. Citizens Holiday Party, 5 years Club Float, 3 years	County Fair Exhibitor, 5 years Speaking Contest, 5 years Horse Committee Volunteer, 4 years Quality Market Animal Sale, 2 years County Fair Helper, 2 years In-state Exchange, 2 years Horse Drill Team, 2 years

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- * Knowledge of healthy food choices.
- * Knowledge of various food preparation options including microwaving, cooking, baking, and slow cooking.
- * Knowledge of horse nutrition, fitting, training, and showing in both Pleasure and Gymkhana.
- * Knowledge of poultry nutrition, grooming, background, and showing.
- * Basic knowledge of various flowers and care needed.
- * Cultural arts skills: drawing, painting, macramé, leathercraft, and stenciling.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- * Effective communication skills including spoken and written.
- * Ability to work well with others including youth and adults.
- * Ability to work toward personal goals from start to finish.
- * Effectively works well in team situations, including showing sportsmanship.

ACTIVITIES

- * Religious Education, 3 years
- * Church volunteer, 3 years
- * Honor Roll, 2 years
- * Chorus, 2 years

PART IV -- ESSAY please answer ALL of the questions below (Limit of 500 words per question; answer each on a separate page)

Essay 1: What 4-H experience had the biggest impact on you & why?

Essay 2: What life skills has 4-H taught you, and how do you currently use, or plan to use those skills?

Essay 3: In the 4-H pledge, we pledge our hands to larger service. What have you done in 4-H to help another person, your community, county, state, country, or world? How did that impact your perspective?

PART V -- SIGNED LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Two signed letters of recommendation are needed.

- One must be from a 4-H Volunteer (Club General Leader or Project Leader) or someone that is familiar with your 4-H work and
- One from another individual -- school (principal, advisor, teacher, guidance counselor), church, employer, community organization, etc.

List each person's contact information below:

4-H Recommendation:

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Other Recommendation:

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

Phone _____

DOOR COUNTY 4-H SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT

Give a copy of this page to the person who writes a letter of recommendation for the Hugh Birdsall, John Wood and/or Marion Birdsall 4-H Scholarships.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

_____ (applicant's name)
is applying for the Hugh Birdsall, John Wood &/or Marion Birdsall 4-H Scholarships.

This year, the scholarships will be awarded to 4-H members who plan to further their education in a post-secondary education program.

The recipient is chosen on the basis of qualities of leadership, involvement in 4-H and other community organizations, ambition, character and scholastic ability.

Please send your **signed** recommendation letter directly to:

**4-H Scholarships
c/o Extension Door County
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235**

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