



Berrien County 4-H Scholarships FAQ

Includes the following scholarships:

- Joseph Cerny & Evelyn Cerny Memorial Scholarship
- Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship
- Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association Scholarship

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Each scholarship recipient must be or have been an active Berrien County 4-H member for a total of at least five years including his or her senior year in high school or equivalence. Individuals applying for the Horse Leaders Association scholarship must be active and enrolled in a Berrien County 4-H horse and pony project for a minimum of two years.
 2. Applicants must be a current high school senior, high school graduate or a high school diploma equivalent, who have not yet reached their 25th birthday on January 1 of the year of application.
 3. Applicants must be accepted or attending a postsecondary educational program (i.e. college, University, Trade School, Certificate, etc.). An acceptance letter must be included as supporting documentation.
 4. The applicant must supply the Scholarship Committee with a letter of recommendation from three individuals, excluding relatives, with whom he or she is well known. One must be from a Berrien County 4-H leader. All letters of recommendation must be from the current year. Examples of letters of recommendation can come from an employer, supervisor, or manager at your current job, teacher/professor, academic advisor, mentor, etc.
- Applications and all supporting documents must be received at the Berrien County Michigan State University Extension office on or by May 15 of the corresponding year. Submissions can be made via:
 - Events Management System – “Berrien County 4-H Scholarship Application” - <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4HScholarship2026/>
 - Mailed or dropped off at 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022
 - Faxed to the Berrien County MSUE Office at 269-944-4128
 - Interviews on selected applications will be held between the deadline date and August 1 of each year by the Scholarship Committee at the Berrien County MSU Extension office. Applicants will interview for all eligible scholarships at one time. Applicants must attend an interview with the selection committee at a date, time and place selected by the committee. Tentatively scheduled for:

June 11, 2026 starting at 5:30 p.m. EST



- Announcement of all scholarship recipients will be made on or before September 1.
- Scholarships will be paid directly to the higher education institution/organization accepted or attended by the scholarship recipient.
- The scholarship will not apply for graduate school.
- An individual may receive each scholarship only once.
- The Scholarship Committee shall keep all information received on applicants confidential.
- The scholarship must be used by the recipient within one year from the date of the award.

The Scholarship Committee must include at least:

- *President of the Berrien County 4-H Leaders Council*
- *Past Outstanding 4-H Leader that is either an approved gold or silver level volunteer*
- *Director or Advisor of the Berrien County 4-H Foundation that is either an active gold or silver level volunteer*
- *Active Gold or Silver Level 4-H Leader*
- *MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development professional*
- *Representative(s) of the Cerny family for the Cerny Memorial scholarship*
- *A representative 4-H horse and pony project leader for the 4-H Horse Leaders Association scholarship*

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status.



POST SECONDARY EDUCATION DETAILS:

INSTITUTE/ORGANIZATION NAME

CITY, STATE

PROGRAM NAME/MAJOR/MINOR/CERTIFICATION RECEIVING:

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

LIST NAMES OF RECOMMENDATION LETTERS BELOW. ONE LETTER MUST BE FROM A BERRIEN COUNTY 4 - H LEADER. LETTERS MAY BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE EXTENSION OFFICE AT 1737 HILLANDALE ROAD, BENTON HARBOR, MI 49022 OR UPLOADED INTO 4-H ONLINE WHEN APPLYING.

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS:

Answer the below questions to the best of your ability. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Make sure to list out all acronyms when applicable. Such as ARBA – American Rabbit Breeders Association, WCR – We Can Ride 4-H Club, etc.

1. 4-H LEADERSHIP

List all your 4-H leadership activities including current and collegiately. Example: State Youth Leadership Team, Leaders Council Teen Leader, leadership awards, teen leader project areas, horse judging team, leadership camps, officer roles, leadership roles, etc. Only include 4-H, do not include Berrien County Youth Fair achievements or engagement unless affiliated with your 4-H membership. Use additional sheets if necessary.



2. 4-H PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

List all your 4-H participation and engagement including current and collegiately along with years. Examples: awards, project areas, camps, national trips, state & county 4-H shows/expos/contests, hippology contests, public speaking, demonstrations, etc. Only include 4-H, do not include Berrien County Youth Fair achievements or engagement unless affiliated with your 4-H membership. Use additional sheets if necessary.

3. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF 4-H

List all your extracurricular activities including both high school and current higher education along with years. Examples include Berrien County Youth Fair, Music, Scouts, Clubs, Junior Achievement, Sports, awards received, offices held, Workforce, etc. Use additional sheets if necessary.

4. SELECT TWO LIFE SKILLS THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE 4-H PROGRAM AND HOW THEY HAVE ASSISTED YOU TO BECOME "BEYOND READY." If you want to be eligible for the horse leaders scholarship, please make sure to include the horse and pony project as one of your life skills examples. NO MAX OR MIN WORDS COUNT.