

2020 Dr. Ron and Linda Sholar 4-H Essay Contest

Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program

The Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program is pleased to announce the 2020 Dr. Ron and Linda Sholar 4-H Essay Contest. Ron and Linda Sholar are sponsoring this annual writing contest for Oklahoma 4-H members age 13 and older as of September 1, 2019.

Background - Dr. Ron Sholar spent three decades as a Cooperative Extension Specialist and Professor of Plant Science at Oklahoma State University. In addition to a career in Extension, he served in the US Army and Army Reserve for 39 years before retiring in 2010 as a Major General. Mrs. Linda Sholar spent her professional career as a kindergarten teacher in the Stillwater, OK public-school system where she was dedicated to instilling a life-long love of learning in her students

The Sholars strongly support youth development programs that encourage the recognition of excellent communication skills critical for success.

Purpose - The purpose of the essay contest is to:

1. Provide participants an opportunity to express themselves in regard to the impact of 4-H on their home state of Oklahoma and the influence of 4-H on them personally.
2. Encourage the development of excellent skills of written expression.

Theme - The theme for the essay is: **"How can Oklahoma 4-H Change a Community?"**

All entries should be submitted to:

Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program
Attn: Cathleen Taylor
State Specialist – Leadership and Civic Engagement
205 4-H Youth Development Building
Stillwater, OK 74078-6063

Entries must be postmarked on or before the entry deadline of April 30, 2020. All entries become the property of the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program.

Description, Prizes & Deadline: The Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program will administer the Dr. Ron and Linda Sholar 4-H Essay Contest.

Essays will be judged by a selection committee with separate cash prizes awarded to the winners. Cash prizes will be given by the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation. First place cash prize of \$500, \$300 for second place and \$200 for third place.

The entry deadline for this contest is April 30, 2020. Entries postmarked by April 30th will be accepted. Essay contest winners will be selected and notified by May

20 and the award winners will be recognized at Oklahoma 4-H Roundup Honor Night Assembly.

Eligibility: The contest is open to all Oklahoma 4-H Members age 13 and older as of September 1, 2019.

Format and Contents: All essays should be no less than 850 words and no more than 1,000 words, typed, and double-spaced, 12 pt. font. Make certain to attach the essay entry form to the front of your essay, including signatures from a parent or guardian and your Extension Educator. ***The main selection criteria will be creativity and presentation of thought.***

Date listed is when information is due to the State 4-H Office. Please check with your local Extension office as each county may establish a due date prior to the date posted. Forms that require an Extension Educator's signature will not be processed if signature is not present.



OSU EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Ron and Linda Sholar Essay Contest

Entry Form

Name: _____

County: _____ Club: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Age (as of Sept. 1, 2019): _____ Grade (as of Sept. 1, 2019): _____

I _____ (print name) have personally prepared this essay and certify that it is my own work.

Signature of 4-H member: _____

I _____ (print name) the parent/guardian of the 4-H member listed above hereby certify that the essay submitted is the work of said 4-H member.

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

I _____ (print name) hereby certify the above 4-H member is an enrolled member in good standing in _____ county.

Signature of Extension Educator: _____