

2024 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 2024 Dr. Ron and Linda Sholar 4-H Essay Contest.

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:

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.

Eligibility:

The contest is open to all actively enrolled Oklahoma 4-H Members who are in the 8th-12th grade as of September 1, 2023.

Application:

- Entry Form (available in this document)- must include signatures of youth, parent and Extension Educator (electronic signatures accepted)
- All essays should be no less than 850 words and no more than 1,000 words, typed, and double-spaced, 12 pt. font and use the theme “**How can Oklahoma 4-H Change a Community?**”
- Headshot of youth entering the contest. A headshot is a photograph of the youth from the shoulders up. Please make sure this photo is scanned in color and is good quality.

Judging, Prizes & Deadline:

- The Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program will administer the Dr. Ron and Linda Sholar 4-H Essay Contest. The awards committee will select 3 judges to review and evaluate the essays. The main selection criteria will be creativity and presentation of thoughts.
- Essays will be judged by a selection committee with separate cash prizes awarded to the winners. First place cash prize of \$600, \$350 for second place and \$250 for third place. Essay contest winners will be selected and recognized at Oklahoma 4-H Roundup Honors Night Assembly.
- Entries are due to the State 4-H Award Database on or before **April 22nd, 2024**. All entries become the property the Oklahoma 4-H. **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.*

Submissions:

All entries should be uploaded to the Awards Database program on or before **April 22nd, 2024** by noon.



OSU EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**Dr. Ron and Linda Sholar Essay Contest
Entry Form 2024**

Name: _____

County: _____ Club: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Grade as of September 1, 2023: _____

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 enrollment member in good standing in _____ County.

Signature of Extension Educator: _____