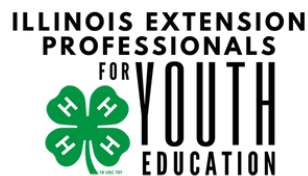


JANUARY 2025

THE VOICE

Association Newsletter



PYD Academy: From Cloverbuds to Beyond Ready - Meeting Developmental Needs for Youth Retention

The 2025 PYD Academy learning opportunities are your gateway to engaging with 4-H's transformative new national initiative, Beyond Ready! While Beyond Ready introduces fresh approaches, it is deeply rooted in the principles of high-quality Positive Youth Development (PYD). By participating in these opportunities, you'll enhance your PYD practices and discover actionable ways to contribute to Beyond Ready.

Join us for the conference and immersions—an immersive blend of virtual events designed to elevate your skills, connect you with peers, and empower you to prepare youth for success in work and life. Can't make it to one of the sessions? No problem! By registering, you will have access to all event recordings and resources. Check out the Agenda to learn more about these valuable opportunities to deepen your expertise and enhance your impact in 4-H programming.

February 4 - May 7, 2025

11:00 am - 2:30 pm

Virtual Conference & Immersions

Early bird general admission discounted price extended until January 31st (\$50).

Register at: <https://events.4-h.org/beyondready25>

SEND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS TO
DANIELLE GAPINSKI AT DES85@ILLINOIS.EDU

2024-2025 Board Members

OFFICERS

Martha Ebbesmeyer, President

Katie Duitsman, Vice President

Kasey Kemme, Secretary

Jennifer Peterson, Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Michele Aavang,
Professional Development

Andrea Farrier
Member Recognition

Katie Duitsman
Membership

Danielle Gapinski
*Public Relations & Information/
Newsletter*

Sara Marten
Advisory

Madonna Weese
Life Member

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Kelly Lafferty
Latosha Reggans
Northern

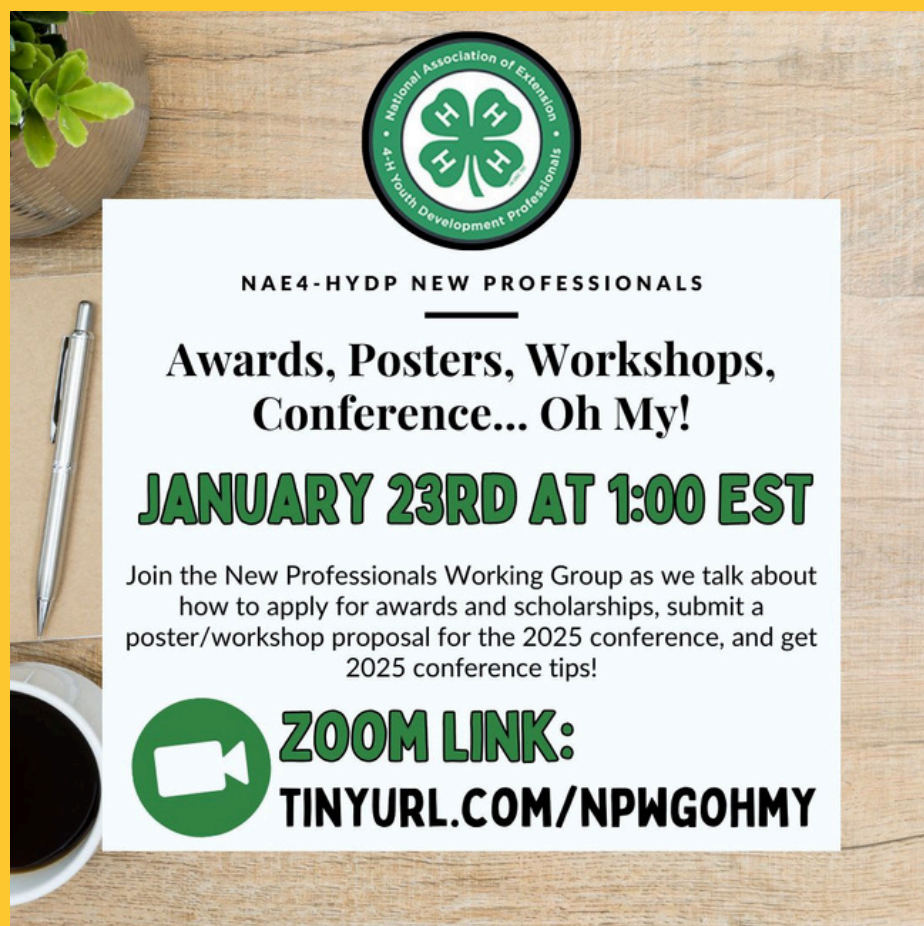
Carissa Nelson
East Central

Jessica Jaffry
West Central

Kristi Stout
Southern

Awards, Posters, Workshops, Conference...Oh My!

A great opportunity for those who are wondering about award applications and submitting workshop proposals:

A flyer for the NAE4-HYDP New Professionals event. At the top is the logo of the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals, which is a green circular emblem with a four-leaf clover in the center. Below the logo, the text reads: "NAE4-HYDP NEW PROFESSIONALS", "Awards, Posters, Workshops, Conference... Oh My!", and "JANUARY 23RD AT 1:00 EST". Further down, it says: "Join the New Professionals Working Group as we talk about how to apply for awards and scholarships, submit a poster/workshop proposal for the 2025 conference, and get 2025 conference tips!". At the bottom, there is a green circular icon with a white video camera symbol, followed by the text "ZOOM LINK: TINYURL.COM/NPWGOHMY". The flyer is set against a background of a wooden desk with a pen, a small potted plant, and a cup of coffee.

Professional Development Opportunities

How to Incorporate Mindfulness Practices into 4-H Settings

By Suzanna Windon, Ph.D., Mariah Stollar *This article discusses youth mindfulness practices and how to apply them in 4-H programming.*

Mental Wellness Series: Building Resilience

Length 1 hour: *Discover strategies for cultivating resilience in the face of difficult challenges.*

Youth Leadership Toward Community Development

By Daniel Robotham, Suzanna Windon, Ph.D., Carolyn Henzi Plaza *Youth represent a significant proportion of the US population, yet are often left out of leadership discussions at the community level. This article will discuss ways in which we can empower and develop youth leaders in our communities.*

The Key to Effective Leadership

Simon Sinek

Increasing Parental Involvement in 4-H Programming: Strategies and Tips

By Suzanna Windon, Ph.D., Mariah Stollar

A synthesis of literature allowed us to group existing resources and tips into strategies that can help community leaders increase parental involvement in 4-H youth programs.



Illinois JCEP

Date: April 15, 2025

Location: Decatur, IL

More details coming soon

[IEPYE WEBSITE](#) | [JOIN THE IEPYE FACEBOOK GROUP](#)



Brainstorming tips for award applications

Being a member of NAE4-HYDP provides an opportunity to apply for and be recognized for the hard work you have put in throughout the last year. This process can feel overwhelming. Below are some steps to brainstorm and plan for the upcoming application process.

Understand the Award Criteria

1. **Research Thoroughly:** Read the award's guidelines, eligibility requirements, and judging criteria. Understand the purpose of the award and the qualities it seeks to recognize.
2. **Note Key Themes:** Highlight the themes or keywords emphasized, such as innovation, leadership, collaboration, or impact.
3. **Review Past Winners:** Analyze the profiles of previous award recipients to understand what made them successful.

Self-Assessment and Reflection

1. **Identify Your Strengths:** List achievements, skills, and projects that align with the award's focus.
2. **Gather Feedback:** Ask colleagues, mentors, or peers for insights on your accomplishments and unique qualities.
3. **Collect Data:** Compile metrics, testimonials, and other evidence to demonstrate your impact.

Brainstorm Ideas

1. **Use Mind Maps:** Create a mind map to visually connect your achievements with the award criteria.
2. **Storyboarding:** Outline potential narratives that showcase your journey, challenges overcome, and outcomes achieved.
3. **Ask Questions:**
 - What are my proudest professional moments?
 - What challenges have I tackled, and what were the results?
 - How have I demonstrated leadership, innovation, or collaboration?

Plan Your Application

1. **Create a Timeline:** Mark key deadlines for submission. Set internal deadlines for drafts, reviews, and gathering supporting materials.
2. **Organize Supporting Documents:** Collect awards, certifications, project reports, testimonials, and media coverage. Ensure materials are formatted and labeled for easy reference.
3. **Draft an Outline:** Start with the main narrative. Break down sections for specific criteria, supporting evidence, and personal impact.

Write a Compelling Narrative

1. **Be Authentic:** Use your voice to convey genuine passion and commitment.
2. **Focus on Impact:** Highlight measurable outcomes and specific examples.
3. **Align with Criteria:** Explicitly tie your accomplishments to the award's goals.
4. **Keep It Clear:** Avoid jargon and keep sentences concise and to the point.

Edit and Refine

1. **Seek Feedback:** Share your draft with trusted colleagues or mentors for constructive criticism.
2. **Proofread Carefully:** Check for grammar, spelling, and formatting errors.
3. **Polish Your Presentation:** Ensure your application is professional, visually appealing, and easy to read.

Submit with Confidence

1. **Double-Check Requirements:** Verify that all sections are complete and all materials are included.
2. **Follow Instructions:** Submit the application according to the specified format and platform.
3. **Keep Records:** Save a copy of your application for future reference.