



**2026**  
**LITTLE CHIEF AND HAND TO HEART**  
**AWARD APPLICATION**



*Due no later than 5pm, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2026 at the Flathead County MSU Extension Office*

The Little Chief and Hand to Heart Leadership Awards are presented to one Flathead County 4-H senior member and one Flathead County 4-H junior member each year. These recipients have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills, personal development, and service to others throughout the past year (**May 1, 2025, to April 1, 2026**). The Little Chief and Hand to Heart award recipients represents the goals and values expressed in the 4-H Pledge. Little Chief and Hand to Heart award recipients have excelled in citizenship, leadership and community service through 4-H and other activities.

**Little Chief Award:** Leadership Award for senior 4-H members. Applicants for the Little Chief Award must be 14-19 years of age as of October 1, 2025.

**Hand to Heart Award:** Leadership Award for junior 4-H members. Applicants for the Hand to Heart Award must be 8-13 years of age as of October 1, 2025.

**Application Requirements:** Applications must be completed in essay format and turned into the MSU Extension Office by 5pm on Monday, April 13th. Applications can be typed double spaced or handwritten in pen. Applications are limited to 1-2 pages handwritten or typed double spaced (not including supporting documentation). One additional page may be used for supporting documentation such as pictures, newspaper clippings, etc. Youth should complete their own application with minimal assistance from adults or other youth. The youth's application should focus on their participation in citizenship, leadership, and community service activities during the past year from **May 1, 2025, to April 1, 2026**. Applicants should provide 1-2 examples from their experience in each of the three categories of citizenship, leadership, and community service. Each example should be accompanied by 1-2 specific details of something learned from the experience. Examples can include activities outside of 4-H. Youth applicant and 4-H Org / Club Leader signatures are required at the bottom of this application.

**Interview Requirements:** After submitting a complete Award Application, applicants will be required to interview for this award. **Interviews will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, between 9am and 12pm at the HE Robinson Ag Center during 4-H County Congress.** Applicants will be able to select a time that does not conflict with other County Congress contests they may be competing in. Dress as if you are interviewing for a job. During the interview, applicants must give a 3–5-minute presentation about their involvement and accomplishments in the specific areas of Citizenship, Leadership, and Community Service. Then, interviewers will ask the applicant several follow-up questions. Applicants may use digital or printed materials such as a 4-H poster board or digital materials such as a Power Point or Canva file during their 3-5 minute presentation. Digital presentations must be emailed to [ashli.darrach@montana.edu](mailto:ashli.darrach@montana.edu) and [agardner@flatheadcounty.gov](mailto:agardner@flatheadcounty.gov) or delivered to the MSU Extension Office no later than 5pm April 15, 2026.

**Important Dates:** Monday, April 13, 2026- Little Chief/Hand to Heart Application Due  
Saturday, April 18, 2026- Little Chief/Hand to Heart Interviews



