

2026 Intermediate Royal Ambassador Packet



 ISABELLA COUNTY 4-H 
ROYAL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

“Growing the next generation of Leaders”

Intermediate 4-H Royal Ambassador Team

Criteria

Age Requirement:

Applicants must be between the ages of 12-14 as of January 1st of the current year.

4-H Club Participation:

Applicants must have been enrolled in an Isabella County 4-H club for two (2) or more years, which may include Cloverbud years.

Application Packet:

Complete the Intermediate 4-H Royal Ambassador Packet.

Letters of Recommendation:

Two (2) letters of recommendation are required: one from a current Isabella County 4-H leader and another from an adult outside the 4-H community (e.g., a teacher, pastor, or coach). Note that neither letter may be written by a relative.

Essay Requirement:

Submit a **typed, double-spaced, full two-page essay (using Times New Roman, 12-point font) covering the following topics:**

- Your experiences as a 4-H member in Isabella County
- Ideas on how to recruit young children to join the 4-H community
- Suggestions for how you could positively impact the Isabella County Fair
- Community service activities you recommend for the court's involvement
- Your motivation for wanting to become the Isabella County Junior Royal Ambassador

Submission Instructions:

Hand in a completed handwritten Application Form, the two (2) letters of recommendation, a Personal Information Sheet, and your essay to the 4-H Extension Office. When you submit your application, Liz or Nonie will receive it from you. Your application will be placed in a secure envelope to ensure confidentiality during the scoring process. The submission deadline is

Friday, May 1st, 2026.

Visual Aid Requirement:

Prepare a visual aid showcasing your 4-H involvement, which you will present during the evaluating panel interview scheduled for **Sunday, June 28th, from 1-5 PM** at Maranatha Baptist Church. This visual aid can take various forms, such as a tri-fold display, PowerPoint presentation, quilt, birdhouse, woodworking project, game board, or anything creative that will impress the judges.

Point System

Scoring for Intermediate 4-H Royal Ambassador Program

Essay:

Grammar/Meeting the Requirements.....	15 points
Your Experience.....	25 points
How you would get kids to join the 4-H Program.....	25 points
Differences that you could make for the Isabella County Fair.....	25 points
Why you would like to be Isabella County Intermediate Ambassador.....	50 points

Application Packet20 points

Interview:

Attire.....	5 points
Poise/Enthusiasm.....	20 points
Involvement in 4-H.....	20 points
Personality/Attitude.....	20 points
Visual Aid:.....	30 points

Total: 255 points

Scholarships to be awarded:

Intermediate 4-H Prince/Princess Royal Ambassador: \$300
1st Runner-Up Prince/Princess 4-H Royal Ambassador:\$250

Helpful Hints and Information

1. **Application Packet:** Complete the entire 4-H Ambassador Application packet in your handwriting. Be sure to thoroughly answer all questions listed and read each item carefully.
2. **Recommendation Forms:** A 4-H leader in Isabella County should complete the Leader Recommendation Form. The second recommendation form must be completed by an adult who is not involved in 4-H, such as a teacher, pastor, or coach. Please note that a relative cannot fill out both recommendation forms. All forms and essays must be submitted to the 4-H Extension office by **4:00 PM on Friday, May 1st, 2026**. Make sure to ask a leader and a non-4-H adult for recommendations as soon as possible; waiting until a few days before the deadline may not provide enough time for them to complete it.
3. **Essay Requirements:** When writing your essay, ensure you meet all the requirements. The essay should be 1-2 pages, double-spaced, in Times New Roman, 12-point font, answering the following questions:
 - What has been your experience as a 4-H member?
 - How would you encourage kids to join the 4-H program?
 - What differences can you make at the Isabella County Fair?
 - Why would you like to be the Isabella County Junior Royal Ambassador?

Be sure to proofread your work and submit your essay with the application packet when you turn it in to the 4-H Extension office.

4. **Visual Aid:** Develop a visual aid that illustrates what 4-H means to you. Bring this visual aid to your interview on **Sunday, June 28th, between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM**. It may include pictures or brochures from 4-H events you have attended, your accomplishments at the fair, or your future 4-H plans. The display should be organized, clean, creative, and positive. You can create a PowerPoint presentation, a tri-fold display, a scrapbook, a quilt, or any other format that showcases your 4-H experience. Let your style shine through and take pride in your presentation.

5. **Personal Interview:** Dress nicely and neatly for your interview; it is recommended that you avoid wearing jeans, shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, or flip-flops. When entering the room to meet with the judges, aim to make a very positive first impression—dress for success! You will have approximately ten minutes to describe and discuss your visual aid. The judges will ask you some questions as well. Practice with someone beforehand and be yourself. Allow the judges to get to know you and show them why you would be a great 4-H Ambassador!

Most importantly, have fun!

Important Dates

Thursday, January 29th, 2026, 6 pm:

Royal Ambassador Information Meeting

Join us at Maranatha Baptist Church to learn more about our Royal Ambassador program and discover why you should participate this year. We will review the program, discuss its benefits and opportunities, explain how to get involved, and share the experiences gained by the 2024 Royal Ambassadors.

Location: Maranatha Baptist Church, 5282 E Airport Rd, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858.

Friday, May 1st, 2026, by 4:00 pm:

Application Packets Due to the 4-H Extension Office

Please return your completed Application Packet to the 4-H Extension Office by 4:00 PM. Drop off the packet at the former McGuirk office, located at 510 Pickard Rd, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858. If you encounter any issues submitting your application, please contact our coordinator, Lillian Albaugh.

Sunday, June 28th, 2026, 1-5 PM:

Applicant Interviews

Applicants should bring their visual aids to their designated interview time slot and meet with our judges. Interviews will be held at Maranatha Baptist Church, 5282 E Airport Rd, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858. Refreshments will be provided. We encourage you to arrive 20 minutes before your assigned time slot and attend as much of the afternoon session as possible. Last-minute assistance will be available prior to your interview.

Sunday, July 12th, 2026, 2:00 pm:

Announcement of the New 2025 Royal Ambassador Court

Join us at Maranatha Baptist Church, 5282 E Airport Rd, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858, for the announcement of the new Isabella County Royal Ambassador Team. Snacks and beverages will be available before the announcement, and all participants and their family members are invited to celebrate with us.

Royal Ambassador Coordinators' Contact Information:

Lillian Albaugh:
Phone: (989) 513-8202
Email: lillianalbaugh@gmail.com

Olivia Block
Cell: (989) 898-8328
Email: Oliviablock_19@icloud.com

Kourtney Collin
Phone: (989) 444-2097
Email: kcollin10@gmail.com

Lizzie Antvelink (4-H Coordinator)
Cell: (989) 615-6574
Email: antveli3@msu.edu

Intermediate 4-H Royal Ambassador Program

Application Form

****Handwritten, use additional sheets as needed. NO SCRIBBLES OR 1 POINT WILL BE TAKEN OFF FOR EVERY SCRIBBLE****

This needs to be turned in by Friday, May 1st, 2026

Name _____ 4-H Age _____ Years in 4-H _____

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself. (school, hobbies, what you enjoy)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

3. What goals do you have for your future in the 4-H program?

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal blue or grey lines spaced evenly apart, typical of notebook paper. The lines extend across the entire width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical lines, text, or other markings on the page.

4. How has community service made a difference in your life and the lives of others?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

5. What does 4-H mean to you, and why is it important?

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, text, or other markings on the page.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Participants Signature_____ Date:_____

Personal Information

This personal information sheet is for the use and records of the Isabella County 4-H Ambassador Program coordinators only. Judges or any other outside party will not have access to this information.

***Needs to be turned in by Friday, May 1st, 2026**

Print Legibly

Name_____ Phone_____

Full Mailing Address_____

School_____ Grade_____

4-H Age_____ Years in 4-H_____ Birth Date_____

E-Mail Address_____

4-H Club_____ 4-H Leader_____

Competing in which division (circle one) Junior Intermediate Senior

Shirt Size_____ Youth/Adult (Two are Provided) *These will run in adult sizes Men & Women*

Jacket Size_____ Youth/Adult (One Provided) *Please put your exact size, we will be ordering you a size up. That way you can wear a sweatshirt underneath, this will run in adult size*

Parent/Guardian name(s) and contact number(s):

Parent Number 1:

Name_____ Primary Phone Number_____

Parent Number 2:

Name_____ Primary Phone Number_____

Intermediate Royal 4-H Ambassador Program

4-H Leader Recommendation Form

Handwritten; use additional sheets as needed. If you have a relative or a parent as your 4-H leader, you can ask any other 4-H Leaders who affiliate with Isabella County and someone who is not a relative.

This needs to be turned in by Friday, May 1st, 2026

Applicant's Printed Name: _____

What is your association with the applicant?

Explain why you feel this applicant would be a good representative of the Isabella County 4-H Program?

Other Comments you would like to share about the applicant:

Leader's Printed Name _____ Date _____

Leader's Signature _____ Contact#: _____

Intermediate Royal 4-H Ambassador Program

Non 4-H Recommendation Form

Handwritten; use additional sheets as needed. If you have a relative or a parent as your 4-H leader, you can ask any other 4-H Leaders who affiliate with Isabella County and someone who is not a relative.

This needs to be turned in by Friday May 1st, 2026**

Applicant's Printed Name: _____

What is your association with the applicant?

Explain why you feel this applicant would be a good representative of the Isabella County 4-H Program?

Other Comments you would like to share about the applicant:

Leader's Printed Name _____ Date _____

Leader's Signature _____ Contact#: _____

4-H Royal Ambassador Program

Participant Agreement

*** PLEASE! Read carefully and ask questions for clarification-signature indicates agreement with these terms.****

This needs to be turned in by Friday, May 1st, 2026

1. Complete all required forms in your handwriting (please type resume/cover letters and essay), following directions carefully.
2. Here is a list of fair week Responsibilities:
 - a. Pre Fair Week Planning
 - b. Assist at the Still Exhibit Auction, Small Animal Auction, Large Animal Auction – these events are required during fair week.
 - c. The team *may* attend one of the grandstand events, to be determined by the program coordinators.
 - d. Participate in Goat Milking, Dairy Hand Milking, Baby Calf Parade, and Pedal Pullers Competition.
 - e. Be present at small and large animal showmanship events to lead pledges and pass out awards.
3. Post-Fair Responsibilities:
 - a. Attending 4-H Banquets.
 - b. Job Shadowing.
 - c. Attend a professional photo session.
 - d. Mount Pleasant, Coleman, Beal City, and Shepherd Christmas Parade and Shepherd Maple Syrup Parade.
 - e. Support the TSC Paper Clover Campaign(s)- one in the fall, one in the spring.
 - f. Ceremony for the following team.
4. When possible throughout the year, assist other 4-H members/leaders at various clinics, workshops, and educational opportunities at the discretion of the 4-H Program Coordinator, as well as complete community service projects.
5. 4-H Ambassadors should always present themselves in a polite, respectable, and appropriate manner.
6. Certain events will require parent/guardian participation/ involvement.
7. 4-H Ambassador Program participants will be held to the 4-H Code of Conduct. The 4-H Program Coordinator and Fair Board representatives will handle disciplinary issues or conflicts.

Applicant and parent/Guardian Acceptance: If chosen as a 4-H Ambassador, we understand and agree to the rules, expectations, and statements made throughout this application packet. Any breach of these rules, responsibilities, and expectations may result in removal from the program and forfeiture of any monetary award and other benefits.

4-H Ambassador Program Applicant Signature Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: _____