



# “I Dare You!” Leadership Award

## Nomination Forms Due May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026



### About the “I Dare You!” Leadership Award

The “I Dare You!” Leadership Award was first offered in 1941 by William H. Danforth. Mr. Danforth was a successful businessman who dared young people to achieve their highest potential and to influence others through lives of leadership and service. Mr. Danforth lived his life by a four-fold philosophy - representing one's physical, mental, social and spiritual sides in balance. The “I Dare You!” Leadership Award recognizes those who, with a little encouragement, are ready to see themselves as leaders—young adults who are ready to take the dare.

*"You have a four-fold life to live: a body, a brain, a heart and a soul--these are your living tools. To use and develop them is not a task. It is a golden opportunity."*

*--William H. Danforth*

Allen County 4-H will select one senior 4-H member (4-H ages 14 and up) to be awarded the “I Dare You!” Leadership Award on behalf of the American Youth Foundation (co-founded by Mr. Danforth). Allen County 4-H will provide the award recipient with a hardbound copy of William H. Danforth’s classic motivational book, *I Dare You!* and a personal award certificate. Winners are also eligible to apply for the "I Dare You!" Scholarship to attend the National Leadership Conference, sponsored by the American Youth Foundation (AYF).

The award recognizes youth who strive to be their personal best and make a positive difference in their schools, youth groups, 4-H clubs, and communities. ***The program is intended to focus on emerging leaders – those young adults who have the qualities and abilities to lead, but who may not recognize or act on their leadership potential.***

Nominations may be made by 4-H leaders using the “I Dare You!” Award Nomination Form. 4-H members who demonstrate personal integrity, lead well-rounded lives and possess a willingness to assume responsibility should be considered for this award. Recipients will be announced at Allen County 4-H Awards Night on **June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. The award can only be received once during their 4-H career. Leaders may choose to nominate more than one candidate each year.

*This form can be submitted by e-mail to [gsjones@purdue.edu](mailto:gsjones@purdue.edu) & [emcbain@purdue.edu](mailto:emcbain@purdue.edu)*



Extension - 4-H Youth  
Development





**“I DARE YOU!” LEADERSHIP NOMINATION FORM**  
**THIS FORM IS DUE TO THE ALLEN EXTENSION OFFICE BY May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



Please submit a separate form for each candidate. When completing each section, consider addressing the four phases of development: physical, mental, social, and character.

Name of 4-H member: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (daytime): \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Please state in detail why you chose to nominate this young person:**

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**2. Please describe the leadership qualities of Nominee in general:**

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**3. Describe the leadership potential demonstrated by the Nominee in the club or group:**

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**4. Describe in detail how the Nominee:**

a. has demonstrated personal *integrity*: \_\_\_\_\_

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b. is leading a *well-rounded* life: \_\_\_\_\_

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c. has shown a willingness to *assume responsibility*: \_\_\_\_\_

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*(may continue on additional paper, not to exceed one extra page).*

<b>Club Leader Signature:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____
<b>Phone (daytime):</b> _____	
<b>4-H Club Name:</b> _____	
<b>Extension Agent Signature:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____