

2024 National 4-H Conference Selection – Sample Application

Open to Enrolled 4-H Teens Across Ohio

Background:

The National 4-H Conference is the premier civic engagement opportunity for 4-H members (15-19 years old) who are actively engaged in 4-H programs across the U.S. and its territories. The conference is administered by 4-H National Headquarters of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This experience upholds a tradition dating back to 1927. Known then as the “National 4-H Club Camp,” delegates slept in tents on the grounds of the National Mall in front of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Washington, D.C. Held annually, except for several years during World War II, the camp served to develop the next generation of leaders. Delegates attended training workshops, became acquainted with government, and had the opportunity to meet with state leaders. In 1958, the event name was changed to National 4-H Conference and, in 1959, the meeting moved from the National Mall to the newly founded National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, MD (right outside of Washington, D.C.). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, National 4-H Conference was cancelled in 2020 and held virtually in 2021. In 2022, National 4-H Conference resumed in-person programming as a hybrid format, also offering a virtual attendance option to delegates.

Today:

National 4-H Conference is specifically focused on civic engagement, civic education, and personal development. Delegates arrive ready to connect, learn, engage, lead, and impact their communities, their nation, and their world. In 2024, National 4-H Conference returns for youth delegates to attend in-person in Washington, D.C. during April 18-24, 2024 (Ohio delegates arrive a day early on April 18. Conference begins April 19).

National 4-H Conference Structure:

- Delegates self-select into roundtable topics during registration.
- Roundtable sessions are conducted during the conference where, in a group, delegates:
 - Identify and develop their perspective on the topic through research and deliberation.
 - Find and share their own voice by listening and contributing.
 - Develop a briefing on the topic that includes background information, facts, and recommendations.
- Workshops are conducted to enhance delegates’ knowledge, and skills related to civic engagement.
- Every delegate, as part of their roundtable team, presents to a federal agency that has interest in their topic. The roundtable shares their briefing to agency representatives and engages in meaningful dialogue.
- State delegations will arrange visits to their Congressional delegations on Capitol Hill (and hold these virtually if necessary). This continues delegates’ experience in developing and sharing their voice with decision makers.
- Delegates connect with each other throughout the conference through fun and educational opportunities.
- Delegates enjoy a true partnership with roundtable facilitators, the conference leadership team, adult advisors, and federal staff from 4-H National Headquarters and many other agencies.

Ohio 4-H Delegation

Each year, Ohio 4-H members have been given the opportunity to represent Ohio at the National 4-H Conference. This year, we will select a minimum of 3 teens to attend (potentially able to send more individuals, depending on funding). **The individuals selected must be available for the travel and conference dates of April 18-24, 2024, and commit to pre-conference expectations.**

SELECTION PROCESS:

1. Interested Ohio 4-H members must complete an application via Qualtrics (linked at bottom) by December 1 at 11:59 p.m. Applicants must be 15-19 as of January 1, 2024, and currently enrolled as an Ohio 4-H member.
2. After an application is received, the State 4-H Office will request a referral from county 4-H professional for the respective candidate.
3. A selection board of advisors, 4-H educators, and past Ohio Teen Leadership Council members will review applications and conduct interviews, as needed.
4. Those selected will be expected to fully engage in all pre-conference and conference activities and adhere to all National 4-H guidelines, complete all required work as a result of conference participation, and share knowledge gained with Ohio 4-H upon their return.

HOW TO APPLY:

Complete the **application** below:

Attach as a separate document (in doc, docx, or rtf file format) your response to the following essay questions. Essay should be no more than two pages total in length, with at least 1" margins on all sides, and no less than 12-point type.

- Identify and explain one issue or challenge that youth face in your community. Explain how the National 4-H Conference experience will help you address this issue.
- What experiences have you had in relating with people whose backgrounds are different than your own? Describe a specific situation in which you worked with a diverse person or group of people over a period of time. Based on this experience, what did you learn?
- Upon returning from the conference, how do you plan to use what you learned at National 4-H Conference?

National 4-H Conference Application 2024

First Name _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____

County of 4-H Membership _____ Birth Date _____ Current Age _____

Preferred Name for Nametag _____ Gender _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mobile Phone _____ Home Phone _____ E-Mail _____

School _____ Grade _____ Years in 4-H _____

Ethnicity (circle one) Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (mark all that apply)

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Asian
- Prefer not to state

SIGNATURES:

I certify that all the information being submitted is accurate and I would like to be considered as a candidate for the National 4-H Conference.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

I attest that my child is a qualified candidate to attend the National 4-H Conference and support their involvement within this opportunity.

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

HOW TO SUBMIT:

Complete the Qualtrics survey at the link below. Any questions or concerns may be emailed to Frances Foos at foos.61@osu.edu.

Remember, all materials must be submitted by December 1, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.