



National 4-H Conference Application

April 19 - 24, 2024
Arlington, VA and Washington D.C.

At National 4-H Conference, youth from all over the country gather to share their unique perspectives with government agencies. Youth learn about the federal government, work directly with a federal agency on a challenging problem that sparks their interest, meet other 4-H youth, and explore Washington D.C.

This program is open to high school youth ages 15-19 active in the 4-H program through clubs or other 4-H activities. We are looking for 4 youth who are involved in their communities and want to learn how to make a greater impact.

The cost of the conference will be covered. Participants selected will be responsible for their own airfare and spending money, approximately \$250. Additional financial support from county 4-H foundations or other civic organizations may be available.

Legal Name (first, middle, last): _____

Preferred Name: _____ Pronouns: _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____

Zip code: _____ County: _____ Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Your Email: _____

Years in 4-H: _____ Club or Project: _____

Parent/Guardians: _____ Parent's Email: _____

Gender: male female non-binary please specify: _____

Shirt size: adult small adult medium adult large adult x-large other: _____

Separately, please answer the following questions:

- (1) Why would you like to attend National 4-H Conference?
- (2) Describe your most important leadership experience in 4-H or your community.
- (3) Describe your most significant contribution to your community either as a 4-H Member or through other activities.
- (4) What are some of your future goals in 4-H or in your community?

To request language interpretation/translation assistance and/or a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Sarah Kleinman, Director, 4-H, Family and Migrant Programs, at 802-656-7637 or Sarah.Kleinman@uvm.edu so that we may assist you.

Member Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please return no later than January 26, 2024 to:

Sarah Kleinman
140 Kennedy Dr, Ste 201
S Burlington, VT 05403
Sarah.Kleinman@uvm.edu



YOUTH VOICE AT NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE

WHAT IS NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE?

National 4-H Conference provides opportunities for young people between the ages of 15 and 19 to share their voice with federal government officials in the nation’s capital.

The event is a chance for young people to work with other 4-H’ers to present ideas to federal agencies and congressional committees with the goal of impacting change in America.



DID YOU KNOW?



The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture has hosted an annual National 4-H Conference, also known as “The Secretary’s Conference,” since 1927.



More than 200 young people from across the U.S. and its territories travel to Washington, D.C., each spring to share their voice with federal agencies and congressional committees on a wide range of topics that are important to them and our partners.



National 4-H Conference was originally called the “National 4-H Club Camp,” where delegates slept in tents on the grounds of the National Mall in front of USDA headquarters.



HOW IT WORKS

There are many ways young people, as well as federal partners and Land-grant Universities, can benefit from participating in National 4-H Conference.



FEDERAL PARTNERS

Federal partners play a key role by presenting an issue of importance on which they would like to receive youth perspective. Federal partners provide young people an opportunity to see firsthand how they can influence government decision making and be introduced to the various careers found in federal service.



LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES

All **Land-grant Colleges and Universities** are invited to select and send high school-aged 4-H participants, along with chaperones, to National 4-H Conference. Each is encouraged to partner within their state to select a diverse delegation based on age, background, geographic distribution and/or experience with 4-H.



YOUTH EXPERIENCE

Participants choose the topic, research the issue, work with their peers to develop a 45-minute briefing and formally present their recommendations to the federal partner. They can also apply to serve in various leadership roles at National 4-H Conference.



IMPACT

In preparation for, during and after National 4-H Conference, youth participants **LEARN**, **PRACTICE** and **APPLY** new skills and use their voices, talent and ideas to make a difference. They are empowered to **GENERALIZE** what is learned to affect change in their own community. Those who participate in National 4-H Conference report increased leadership, civic engagement, agency, and social and cultural competence.



PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT

Youth participants gain valuable skills, experience and networking opportunities with federal agencies that can result in future internship, fellowship and career opportunities.

LEARN MORE AT NIFA.USDA.GOV/NATIONAL-4-H-CONFERENCE