



# 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](http://NIFA.USDA.GOV/NATIONAL-4-H-CONFERENCE)