

**National 4-H Conference April 14-19, 2023**  
**Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA**

**Event Information**

National 4-H Conference is a future-focused program that aims to build strong leaders through roundtable discussions, town hall meetings, group assemblies, and visits with national legislators. Being selected to represent our state at this conference is one of Oklahoma 4-H's highest honors.

The unique environment of the program allows delegates to engage with national 4-H leadership (including USDA and CSREES) and to learn how to build better youth-adult partnerships. The program reinforces the ties 4-H has to the Cooperative Extension Service and the land-grant university systems that make 4-H possible. Roundtable discussions generate ideas for club and community improvement and students are encouraged to implement these ideas in their home states. Through the roundtable process, students also build valuable leadership skills including team-building, flexibility, and communications.

Through an application process, three to four Oklahoma 4-H delegates will be selected to attend National 4-H Conference.

- Applicants must be 16 years old, as of Jan 1, 2023
- This trip is an award based upon your application and support letter
- Application Materials:
  - Contact Information Page
  - 1 to 2 Page Essay
  - One reference letter; from your county educator or your local 4-H club volunteer-leader
- Oklahoma 4-H will cover most of the expenses for the trip.
- Delegates are responsible for:
  - \$500 Registration fee (Oklahoma 4-H and the OK 4-H Foundation will cover the remaining cost)
  - Transportation to and from the airport
  - Meals on travel days to and from conference
  - Lunch one day.

Upon returning from National Conference, each member of the 2023 National Conference Team will complete a service project by June 2024. Service Projects will be a part of Oklahoma's back home plan and may be either a group or individual program depending upon the strengths and ideas of the youth-adult team that participates. The service project is the delegate's opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills and develop a program that initiates community change.

**COVID Protocols**

Currently there are not COVID guidelines, should that change, delegates would need to adhere to any guidelines applicable at the time of the conference.

**Schedule-at-a-glance**

Friday, April 14	Registration & Hotel Check In Opening Assembly & Welcome
Saturday, April 15	Roundtable Sessions Evening Monument Tours
Sunday, April 16	Roundtable Sessions Youth Perspective Briefing Rehearsals Evening Entertainment
Monday, April 17	Youth Perspective Briefings at Federal Agencies Youth Career Fair Evening Entertainment
Tuesday, April 18	4-H Flag Raising at USDA Headquarters Community Service Closing Celebration & Dance
Wednesday, April 19	Hotel Check-Out

**Application is due no later than Midnight, Sunday, February 5, 2023**

Applications can be emailed to [k.wardlaw@okstate.edu](mailto:k.wardlaw@okstate.edu). Please cc your Extension Educator. You will receive confirmation of receipt the following business day (M-F). It is your responsibility to make sure that you receive confirmation.

Remember to include:

- Contact Information Page
- 1 to 2 Page Essay
- One reference letter; from your county educator or your local 4-H club volunteer- leader

**Contact Information Page**

Name on Photo I.D./Birth Certificate: \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H District: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years in 4-H: \_\_\_\_\_

Age and Grade (as of January 1, 2023): \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School or Educational Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
4-H Member Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Extension Educator Signature

## **National 4-H Conference Essay**

*Two Page Maximum*

**Include a 1-2 page, typewritten, 12-pt. font essay on the following subject:**

### **The Positive Impact of 4-H**

1. Describe how you think Oklahoma 4-H benefits your community, state, or nation. What are the most beneficial programs, in your opinion, and why? (Describe one or two programs, maximum)
2. Describe specific ways in which you have benefitted from your involvement in 4-H.
3. What are some issues or programs that you'd like to see Oklahoma 4-H get involved in, emphasize, or develop for the future?