

National 4-H Conference April 10-15, 2026
Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, 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 Oklahoma 4-H delegates will be selected to attend National 4-H Conference.

- Applicants must be 16 years old
- 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
 - National Conference Registration Form
- Oklahoma 4-H will cover most of the expenses for the trip.
- Delegates are responsible for:
 - \$500-600 Registration fee (Oklahoma 4-H and the OK 4-H Foundation will cover the remaining costs, exact registration amount will be determined once more details are received from National 4-H)
 - Transportation to and from the airport
 - Meals on travel days to and from D.C.
 - Lunch in DC one day, other snacks, incidentals, souvenirs as desired

Upon returning from National Conference, each member of the 2026 National Conference Team will complete a service project and submit a report by December 31, 2026. Service Projects should be related to the delegate's roundtable experience. This project is the delegate's opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills and develop a program that initiates community change.

Tentative schedule-at-a-glance (based on last year's schedule, subject to change)

Friday, April 10	Registration & Hotel Check In Opening Assembly & Welcome
Saturday, April 11	Roundtable Sessions Evening Entertainment
Sunday, April 12	Roundtable Sessions Youth Perspective Briefing Rehearsals Evening Monument Tours
Monday, April 13	4-H Flag Raising at USDA Headquarters Sight-seeing in DC
Tuesday, April 14	Youth Perspective Briefings at Federal Agencies Youth Career Fair Closing Celebration & Dance
Wednesday, April 15	Hotel Check-Out

Applicants are encouraged to review the National Conference Delegate Handbook, available at:
<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/national-4-h-conference-resources>

Application is due no later than Midnight, Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Applications should be emailed to 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 the following items in your email:

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

Contact Information Page

Name on Photo I.D/Birth Certificate:

Male

Female

County:

4-H District:

Name of Parent or Guardian:

Mailing Address:

Phone 1:

Phone 2:

Email Address:

Parent's Email:

Number of Years in 4-H:

Age (as of January 1, 2025):

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?



NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM <i>This form includes the information collected on the National 4-H Conference online registration system.</i>		
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION (Required) <i>List the following information found on your photo identification.</i>		
1. FULL NAME (First, Last)	2. DATE OF BIRTH (Month Day Year)	
3. MAILING ADDRESS	4. Apt, Unit, etc.	
5. CITY	6. STATE	7. ZIP CODE
8. EMAIL ADDRESS	9. CELL PHONE NUMBER	
10. REGISTRATION TYPE (Select one) Adult Chaperon Collegiate Facilitator Collegiate Facilitator Adult Advisor Military Connected Adult Chaperone Military Connected Youth Participant (Delegate) USDA-NIFA Staff Youth Leadership Team Youth Leadership Team Adult Advisor Youth Participant (Delegate)		
11. T-SHIRT SIZE XS S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL		
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (Optional) <i>This information will inform our understanding of diversity and inclusion among the participants of National 4-H Conference.</i>		
12. AGE (on 1 st day of National 4-H Conference) Youth delegates must be 15 to 19 years-old.	13. GRADE LEVEL	
14. ETHNICITY (Select one) Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino I prefer not to share	15. RACE (Select one or more) American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White I prefer not to share	16. GENDER Female Male Non-binary I prefer not to share



LODGING INFORMATION (Required) <i>This information must be assigned by the Land-grant College or University or travel group.</i>			
17. CHECK-IN DATE		18. CHECK-OUT DATE	
19. NAME OF ROOMMATE			
REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS			
20. ACCOMMODATION REQUESTED (be as specific as possible, if accommodation is time sensitive, please explain)			
21. REASON FOR REQUEST			
LANGUAGE ACCESS			
22. Will you need interpretation or translation services in a language other than English to access program materials or information at or before the National 4-H Conference?			
Yes		No	
DIETARY INFORMATION			
23. DIETARY RESTRICTIONS (check all boxes that apply)			
None		Dairy Free	Vegan
Gluten Free		Vegetarian	Nut Free
NAME BADGE INFORMATION			
24. List your first name as you would like it to appear on your name badge.			
25. List the Land-grant College or University or travel group you are representing. <i>Examples: Purdue University, Indiana; Virginia State University, Virginia; Hill Air Force Base, Utah; USAG Brussels Army Base, Belgium</i>			
CHALLENGE QUESTION PREFERENCE			
26. List your top three choices for challenge question topics. Challenge question topics can be found in the Delegate Handbook . (For Youth Delegates Only)			
1st choice		2nd choice	3rd choice
QUESTION FOR THE U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE (Optional)			
27. If you had the chance to ask the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture a question, what would it be?			



PARTICIPANT AFFIRMATION

By checking the box to the left, I understand my behavior affects the entire National 4-H Conference community and that I represent myself, my local and state/territory 4-H Program and the 4-H Youth Development Program. Therefore, I have read, understand, and will abide by the [National 4-H Conference Handbook](#) and Code of Conduct.

By checking the box to the left, I consent to the reproduction, and use, royalty-free, of motion picture films, videotapes, recorded sounds, and still photographs of me by the Communications Staff, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture for all purposes including, but not limited to, education, training, trade, display, editorial, advertising, promotion, art, and exhibits. In giving this consent, I release the United States, its officers, employees, nominees, and designees from liability for any violation of any personal or proprietary right I may have in connection with such reproduction, and use.

By checking the box to the left, I understand that all publications, films, slides, videos, artistic or similar endeavors, resulting from my National 4-H Conference experience will become the property of the United States, and as such, will be in the public domain and not subject to copyright laws.

By checking the box to the left, I consent to receive email, mail, texts, or phone call communications relating to announcements, assignments, logistics, mentoring, or similar matters regarding the National 4-H Conference.

By checking the box to the left, I consent to participate in National 4-H Conference evaluation by a third-party evaluator. Evaluation may include participating in observations, evaluations, and feedback relating to a participation in National 4-H Conference activities (such as survey assessments or formal observations). I consent to share my demographic information (such as age, ethnicity, race, gender identity, Land-grant University, etc.) with the third party National 4-H Conference evaluator.

By checking the box to the left, I consent to be transported while participating in and traveling to and from this event by hired drivers authorized by the organizers of National 4-H Conference.

29. PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE

30. DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

By checking the box to the left, I affirm that I am the parent/guardian of the above-named participant and consent to their participation in National 4-H Conference. I have read, understand, and agree to follow the [National 4-H Conference Handbook](#) and provide consent for the participant affirmation(s) checked above. I understand that providing consent is voluntary and not required. I understand that not providing consent may limit this young person's ability to participate in National 4-H Conference.

31. PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME

32. EMAIL

33. TELEPHONE NUMBER

34. PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

35. DATE

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or



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contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Public reporting for collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGFM, 2312 East Bannister Road, Mail Stop 10,000, Kansas City, MO 64131, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address. National Institute of Food and Agriculture US Department of Agriculture OMB No. 0524-0054 Form Approved For Use Through 01/31/2027