



Oklahoma 4-H

State 4-H Leadership Council

Purpose of the State 4-H Leadership Council:

- Serve as a role model, representative, and spokesperson for the 4-H youth development program at all three land-grant universities in Oklahoma
- Uphold the high ideals, values, and moral standards of the Oklahoma 4-H program
- Serve as youth voice to the State 4-H program
- Serve as an active and contributing member of state 4-H committees
- Plan, conduct and evaluate council led events and activities
- Seek opportunities to expand and diversify audiences and programs of the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development program

Qualifications for State Council Members:

1. Individuals have demonstrated the life skills of self-responsibility, organization, time management and communication.
2. Candidate is showing ACTIVE status in online 4-H enrollment system, has held or is holding a local and/or county 4-H office, has served as an active and contributing member of committees at the local/county/district level, and has completed a county report form/medal form or record book.
3. Candidates for President must be 17 years of age. Candidates for other executive team positions (Vice-President, Secretary, Reporter and Recreation Leader) must be 16 years of age. Candidates for the office of District Representatives must be 15 years of age. Age will be determined by the **candidate's** age as of the first general assembly during Roundup.
4. Candidates for executive positions may run for office up through the Roundup immediately following high school graduation or its equivalent. Candidates for the office of District Representatives may not run for office after they have graduated high school or completed graduation equivalency prior to Roundup.
5. Candidate must complete the State 4-H Leadership Council application.
6. Candidates must participate in an orientation online prior to Roundup.
7. Candidates must have Oklahoma residency and live within the geographic boundaries of the state during the term elected to carry out duties of the position. Candidate must be a county delegate and attend State 4-H Roundup the year seeking office. District Representatives must be a 4-H member within the district they are running to represent. Each District will elect 3 representatives. The Northeast and Southeast Districts will elect 3 at large positions. The West District will elect one representative member from the Northern Region, one representative member from the Southern Region and one at-large representative.
8. If a current Council member wishes to run for another term, expectations of his/her current position must be documented and met.

Candidates for President and Vice-President

- A. Only current or past State 4-H Council members, State Ambassadors, or District Officers are eligible to run for these positions. A Council member may only serve one term as president and council members may only serve two terms as a district representative.
- B. Candidates for Secretary, Reporter, and Recreation Leader: 4-H members who meet the qualifications to be a State 4-H Council member as described in Article III, Section 2 are eligible to run for these positions.

Duties and Responsibilities of District Representatives:

1. Willingly accepts all duties of a District Representative for the time elected (a one-year term).
2. Serve as liaison within a district. Representatives will visit counties as requested to help with **county programming, "visits" and/or "appearances."**
3. Communicate on a regular basis with county youth and adult leadership teams to encourage participation in 4-H programming.
4. District Representatives will be responsible for submitting district reports and materials to the Reporter for 4-H publications, social media and the State 4-H website.
5. Serve as an active participant on state and district (as requested by District 4-H Program Specialists) committees. This includes planning, conducting and evaluating events and activities.
6. Attend Council meetings, through a conference call, online conference or on-site meetings.
7. Represent Oklahoma 4-H by participating in county, district and state activities and events.
8. Perform duties delegated by the President or advisor.
9. Complete all reporting procedures required of team members in a timely manner.
10. On those occasions when the State and District 4-H Program Specialists seek youth representation on programmatic committees, Council members will be appointed to represent the State 4-H Leadership Council.
11. Council members will be asked to serve as ex-officio members of the state 4-H boards and associations. As an ex-officio member, the individual will participate in meetings as a liaison for the State 4-H Leadership Council.

Duties and Responsibilities of Langston University Representatives:

1. Assist in coordination of county and state activities.
2. Encourage 1890 program participants to attend and become involved with county and state 4-H events and activities
3. Attend to duties as necessary to carry out the Langston 4-H program.
4. Serve as a liaison between the 1860 and 1890 Land Grant University 4-H Youth Development Programs.
5. Serve as an active participant on state and district committees by planning, conducting and evaluating events and activities.
6. Attend State 4-H Leadership Council meetings.

Filing for Office

Candidates for State 4-H Leadership Team will file for office no later than **June 15th, 2026 by 5:00pm** central standard time.

Required steps:

1. Review all details in the State 4-H Leadership Council Information Sheet.
2. Complete the electronic State 4-H Leadership Council Application.
3. Complete the Oklahoma 4-H Leadership Council Certification and Commitment Form including signatures from 4-H member, parent, and Extension Educator. Email to Gail Taylor
4. ALL candidates must participate in web-based training with their parent/guardian (educators are encouraged to view the orientation). Training video and quiz is part of Clover Academy through the ZSuite enrollment system.

Speeches, Campaigning and Election

Candidates are expected to serve as positive role models for their peers. As such, they are expected to strictly adhere to all items listed and inferred by the Oklahoma 4-H Code of Conduct and any other published policies or rules governing 4-H affiliated events and activities. Candidates who allegedly violate the Oklahoma 4-H Code of Conduct and any other published policies or rules governing 4-H affiliated events and activities will appear before a review board and if found in violation will be withdrawn from consideration for office.

Candidates must follow the State 4-H Leadership Council By-laws regarding campaign procedures which are highlighted below and outlined in their entirety in the By-Laws in Article 5.

Speeches:

- Candidates will give a speech, no longer than 3 minutes. Candidates for President are allowed 4 minutes for their speech.
- Candidates may bring their speech to the stage on 8 ½ X 11-inch paper or smaller note cards. Candidates may use up to 5 PowerPoint slides with their speech.
- Administrative Team candidates will present their speech during a Roundup assembly. District Representative candidates will present their speech during their respective District Rally at Roundup.
- Props may be used during a speech if the candidate can carry the prop and requires no additional time for setting up.
- Costumes may be worn when presenting a speech if it relates to the content of the speech.
- Candidates for Recreation Leader may use a musical instrument or accompaniment CD that does not require additional set up.
- Candidates are also encouraged to work with their educators to develop campaign speeches and prior to submitting them to the State 4-H Office.

Campaigning:

- The candidate is permitted to use any electronic form of social media campaigning as long as there is no negative campaigning or defamation of character reported. Any inappropriate messages are grounds for removing the candidate from the ballot. The candidate is also responsible for the actions or messages of others campaigning on their behalf. When using social media you must use the hashtag #ok4helections2026
- Campaign materials and literature are not permitted at any District or State 4-H events prior to State 4-H Roundup – including buttons, stickers, clothing, business cards, candy, trinkets, etc.

Elections:

- District Representative Elections - The balloting for district representatives will be conducted under the supervision of the District Program Coordinator(s) at district rallies. Each Roundup participant will cast one ballot voting for three candidates for district representatives. The three candidates with the most votes will be elected. In the event of a tie between candidates, run off voting will be conducted at the district rally. Each district will elect 3 representatives. The Northeast and Southeast Districts will elect 3 at large positions. The West District will elect one Northern Region representative, one Southern region representative and one at-large representative.
- State 4-H Leadership Council Executive Positions - The balloting for executive positions will be conducted under the supervision of a State Election Committee. All Roundup delegates will complete a ballot during County Caucus and turn into county voting delegates and educators. The county votes will be tallied to determine who the county voting delegates will cast votes for on an official ballot.
- Majority Vote - When there are more than two candidates for an executive office, if one candidate does not receive a majority (50% plus 1) of the votes cast, a runoff election shall be conducted between the two candidates that receive the most votes.
- Tie Vote - In the event of a tie vote, the following procedures will be followed:
 - a) A re-count will be conducted to confirm the tie.
 - b) If a tie is confirmed the tie will be broken by following **Robert's** Rules of Order.
- Write-in Candidates - No write-in candidates will be considered.

Key Dates for Candidates

June 15 th , 2026	Electronic application submitted Certification and Commitment Form due via email to Gail Taylor (gail.taylor@okstate.edu) State 4-H Leadership Council training completed and quiz completed with at least an 80% to pass
July 22-24, 2026	State 4-H Roundup – speeches, campaign posters and town hall meeting
August 22-23, 2026	State 4-H Leadership Council Orientation Retreat – THIS IS MANDATORY