



MISSOURI STATE 4-H COUNCIL APPLICATION

The Missouri State 4-H Council comprises Missouri 4-H'ers that have been elected by their peers to serve as the youth governing board for the Missouri 4-H Program. In coordination with the Missouri 4-H Center for Youth Development, the Council's charge is to represent youth interests throughout the state of Missouri in matters of policy and programming so that the educational and developmental needs of Missouri 4-H'ers may best be addressed by state, regional, and county 4-H faculty and staff. Specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the planning and implementation of the state flagship event for the Missouri 4-H Program: State Congress. In addition, State Council delegates represent Missouri 4-H at the annual Missouri State Fair and the various state 4-H events across numerous programmatic areas such as public speaking, fashion revue, shooting sports, judging competitions, and leadership development events/trainings.

The Missouri 4-H Delegation of **Regional Representatives** consists of eight individuals, with one delegate representing each of the eight Missouri Extension regions. The representatives will give voice to regional perspectives in the context of the State Council. In addition, they represent Missouri 4-H in public contexts both within their counties and at regional and state-level events.

The Missouri 4-H **State Board of Directors** consists of five individuals that have been elected by their peers to serve as the executive officers of the Missouri 4-H State Council and the highest-ranking youth officials within the Missouri 4-H Program. The positions are president, vice-president, and three state representatives. The board constitutes the most public facing delegation of Missouri 4-H membership because they formally represent the program to the University of Missouri, state and local government, friends and donors of 4-H, industry partners, and other key stakeholder groups. The board will preside over State Council meetings in addition to the annual Missouri 4-H State Congress.

The **learning objectives** for the Missouri State 4-H Council are

1. To develop the four characteristics of authentic leadership: self-awareness, internalized moral perspective, balanced processing, and relational transparency,
2. To characterize the Five Stages of Group Development,
3. To practice civic engagement skills through service-based learning,
4. To maximize their communicative style, and
5. To generate social capital among their youth peers, 4-H faculty and staff, University of Missouri officials, policymakers, and other key stakeholder groups.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY:

Any Missouri 4-H'er that is entering grades 9-12 at time of election is eligible to apply for state council candidacy. The Missouri 4-H Center for Youth Development is a welcoming space, and we invite all persons regardless of background, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, religious or philosophical beliefs to apply for this position. Furthermore, we are thrilled to see applicants from both rural and urban backgrounds in addition to 4-H'ers from all school settings, be they public, private, charter, magnet, or homeschooled. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a Missouri 4-H program area at the time of application and must remain enrolled in at least one Missouri 4-H program area during their time in office if elected. Additionally, an academic reference form as proof of good standing in schoolwork will be submitted as a part of this application packet. For State Officers candidates specifically, it is required to have served in at least a 4-H county leadership role (e.g., County Council Vice-President), prior to running for the State Board of Directors. Having previously served on State Council will also satisfy this requirement. Regional Representative candidates do not need to have served in a previous leadership role at the county or state level, though it is encouraged.

All Missouri 4-H State Council applications, be they for regional representative or state officer, will be reviewed by a professional panel to ensure that the qualifications for candidacy are met and that all requested forms have been submitted as required by this application process.

REQUIREMENTS DURING TIME IN OFFICE:

As outlined in the purpose of State Council, if elected, 4-H'ers that serve in this role will be expected to take on a variety of leadership opportunities during their time in office. There are five requirements that must be met as a part of these expectations. These requirements are mandatory and NON-NEGOTIABLE. Failure to fulfill the requirements below will result in immediate dismissal from Missouri 4-H State Council:

- State Council Candidates' meeting (via Zoom): March 6, 7 p.m. CDT
 - Rules and procedures of campaigning will be discussed here.
- Attendance at State Council Monthly Meetings (in-person and via Zoom): Dates TBD
 - Two meetings may be missed with no penalty. Any further absences will result in dismissal from State Council.
- Participating in the 2024 Missouri 4-H State Congress (in-person, Columbia, Missouri): May 29-31, 2024
- State Council Training (in-person, Columbia, Missouri): May 31- June 2, 2024
- Planning/participating in the 2025 Missouri 4-H State Congress (in-person, Columbia, Missouri): Dates TBD

COST:

The State Council meets monthly from August 2024 to April 2025. Four or Five of these meetings will be in person, while the rest will be on Zoom. Lodging and some meals are provided at in-person meetings. Travel costs are not subject reimbursement. There is no travel stipend for serving on the Missouri 4-H State Council. All members of State Council will be eligible to wear the distinguished dress of office: The Green Jacket. The five members of the State Board of Directors will receive their jackets to keep at the conclusion of their terms, while regional representatives will be able to wear their jackets only during their term of office. All members of the State Council will receive funding for their gold tie, polo, and nametag. If elected to State Council, each member will be required to pay a \$50 deposit for their jacket, gold tie, polo, and nametag.

HOW TO APPLY:

Submit this completed application and any supporting documents to both Ms. Megan Kershner, Missouri 4-H Leadership and Civic Engagement Educator and Dr. J. "Clay" Hurdle, Assistant Professor and 4-H State Specialist in Leadership and Civic Engagement, **via e-mail** on or before February 1, 2024 at 5 p.m. CST: Ms. Kershner (mkershner@missouri.edu) and Dr. Hurdle (jhurdle@missouri.edu). E-mail is the preferred medium for submission, but paper applications may be mailed to the State 4-H office c/o Ms. Megan Kershner. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

*When submitting electronically, please note that for the signature page of this application, you will need to scan or screenshot a photo of the three signatures required and submit that in the same e-mail with the rest of this completed document.

Please include your

1. Completed application form,
2. Academic reference form,
3. Minimum of two reference forms (one 4-H Staff or faculty and one from a professional reference).

NOTIFICATION DATE:

Applicants will be notified of the acceptance or rejection of their candidacy for either State Officer or Regional Representative no later than March 1st, 2024, at 5 p.m. CST. Notifications will be distributed via e-mail. Please be sure to check your junk/spam folder if you have not received anything in your standard inbox by that time.



STATE 4-H COUNCIL APPLICATION FORM
Due to State 4-H Office (electronically) on or before January 15, 2024
mkershner@missouri.edu & jhurdle@missouri.edu

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Phone Number: _____

Your School Grade at Time of Application: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(city) (zip)

County: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Parent's E-mail Address: _____

Which position do you intend to apply for? Please select one: **Regional Representative** **State Officer:**

Select polo size & style: S M L XL XXL XXXL men's sizing women's sizing

Select T-shirt size & style: S M L XL XXL XXXL men's sizing women's sizing

Please indicate size & style _____ (e.g., 42L, 36R, etc.) men's sizing women's sizing

INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete the following questions to help the State 4-H Office learn about your 4-H involvement and why you would be a great candidate for Missouri 4-H State Council. For **Essay Questions only**, please limit your responses to 300 words per question.

Basic Information Questions:

1. Please indicate the number of years you have participated in 4-H:
2. Please list the 4-H clubs, project areas, events, and/or other 4-H activities you have participated in:
3. Please list your extracurriculars outside of 4-H:
4. Please outline your volunteer work you participate in (include approximate number of hours if possible):

Essay Questions:

5. Why would you like to serve on the Missouri 4-H State Board of Directors?
6. What 4-H leadership experiences have prepared you to serve as a Missouri 4-H State Officer?

7. What leadership experiences outside of 4-H will prepare you to serve as a Missouri 4-H State Officer?

8. What is your personal leadership style?

9. If elected, you will be working with a team of youth and adults. What should they know about you as a teammate?

10. What are some fun facts that you would like other 4-H'ers and the state faculty and staff to know about you?

By checking the following boxes, I solemnly affirm that I will attend and actively participate in the following mandatory, non-negotiable events:

State Council Candidates meeting (via Zoom): (DATE)
Attendance at Monthly Meetings (in-person and via Zoom): Dates
Participating in the 2024 Missouri 4-H State Congress (in-person): May 29-May 31
State Council Training (in-person): May 31-June 2, 2024
Participating in the 2025 Missouri 4-H State Congress (in-person)

By checking the following boxes, I solemnly affirm that to the best of my ability that I will represent the Missouri 4-H Center for Youth Development, The University of Missouri, MU Extension, and the greater Mizzou Tiger and Friends network with integrity and professionalism at:

The Missouri State Fair
County, Regional, and State 4-H Events
Other duties as assigned

By signing this document, I verify that all of the information presented here is accurate and a true representation of my intentions to run for a position on the Missouri 4-H State Council.

4-H'er (Print name):

(Signature)

4-H'er Parent and/or Guardian (Print name):

(Signature)

County 4-H Faculty/Staff (Print name):

(Signature)