



## 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 4-H 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 are elected by their peers from their Extension region and will give voice to regional perspectives in the context of the State 4-H 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 from across the state to serve as the executive officers of the Missouri State 4-H Council. 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 entire State 4-H Council will preside over the annual Missouri State 4-H 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 maximize their communicative style, and
4. 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 4-H 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.

## REQUIREMENTS DURING TIME IN OFFICE:

As outlined in the purpose of State 4-H 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 State 4-H Council:

- State 4-H Council Candidates' meeting (via Zoom): April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:30pm CDT
  - Rules and procedures of campaigning will be discussed here.
- Attendance at State 4-H 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 4-H Council.
- Participating in the 2025 Missouri State 4-H Congress (in-person, Columbia, Missouri): May 29-31, 2025
- State 4-H Council Training (in-person, Columbia, Missouri): May 31- June 1, 2025
- Planning/participating in the 2025 Missouri State 4-H Congress (in-person, Columbia, Missouri): Dates TBD

## COST:

The State 4-H Council meets monthly from July 2025 to May 2026. Four or five of these meetings will be in person, while the rest will be on Zoom. Lodging and any meals that occur between the beginning and end of a required event are covered. Travel costs are not subject reimbursement. There is no travel stipend for serving on the Missouri State 4-H Council. All members of State 4-H 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 4-H Council will receive funding for their tie, polo, and name tag.

## 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 April 1, 2025: Ms. Kershner ([mkershner@missouri.edu](mailto:mkershner@missouri.edu)) and Dr. Hurdle ([jhurdle@missouri.edu](mailto: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 take 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. Two reference forms
  - 4-H staff or faculty reference form (4-H Field Specialist, YPA, State 4-H Educator, etc.) \*
  - Professional reference form (Teacher, Coach, Employer, etc.). \*

\*Family members are not eligible to serve as references
3. Campaign Video
4. Campaign Poster
5. Photo

## INTERVIEWS:

Applicants for the Missouri State 4-H Council will be required to interview. Interviews will last approximately 15 minutes each and be held via Zoom. Applicants will receive information to select their interview time once the application period has closed.

**CAMPAIGN VIDEO**

Applicants should film a campaign video no longer than 90 seconds in length. Videos do not need to be professional quality. All videos should be filmed vertically. Videos can contain information about the applicant, why 4-H'ers should vote for them, things they would like to accomplish through the State 4-H Council, etc. Campaign videos for applicants selected for candidacy will be shared on the Missouri 4-H social media pages.

**CAMPAIGN FLYER**

All flyers should be no larger than 8.5"x11" and contain the applicant's name and position(s) running for. Applicants may use any platform to create their flyer (Ex. Microsoft Word, Canva, Adobe). All flyers must be submitted as a PDF. Campaign flyers for applicants selected for candidacy will be shared through Missouri 4-H social media and displayed at State 4-H Congress.

**APPLICANT PHOTO**

All applicants must submit a photo with their application. Photos are not required to be professional quality. Photos should clearly identify the candidate. Applicants may submit a school photo, headshot, or more candid photo.

**NOTIFICATION DATE:**

Applicants will be notified of the acceptance or rejection of their candidacy for either State Officer or Regional Representative no later than April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5 p.m. CDT. 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.

**[mkershner@missouri.edu](mailto:mkershner@missouri.edu) & [jhurdle@missouri.edu](mailto:jhurdle@missouri.edu)**

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):

- 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 State 4-H Council.

**4-H'er (Print name):**

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(Signature)

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

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(Signature)

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

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(Signature)