



# MISSOURI 4-H CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AMBASSADOR

## 2025-2026 APPLICATION

The purpose of the Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassador Program is to educate local policy makers, industry stakeholders, community partners, and 4-H'ers at the county and regional levels on the topics of land-grant history, 4-H program offerings, and service-learning opportunities. Through this program, 4-H'ers selected as ambassadors can expect to develop meaningful professional connections throughout multiple levels of the public as they seek to educate others on ways to engage with Extension and to positively contribute to their communities. Ambassadors are paramount to further connecting 4-H'ers with each other throughout the state and to developing social capital with individuals and entities directly and indirectly invested in the land-grant mission of the University of Missouri and the 4-H motto *To Make the Best Better*.

Ambassadors are expected to engage with local policymakers that include county commission boards and local school boards. In addition, they are asked to liaise with 4-H'ers and 4-H faculty in their region through county meetings and regional energizers. They are also expected to develop and facilitate a service project that addresses a challenge within their community. Ambassadors will plan and preside over Missouri 4-H Teen Conference. In addition, they will be invited to represent Missouri 4-H at statewide events including but not limited to the Missouri State Fair, Legislative Academy, and State Congress. An ambassador's term begins at Missouri 4-H State Congress and lasts a calendar year from that event.

The learning objectives for the Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassadors are

1. To examine the history and philosophical foundations of the United States government,
2. To generate social capital among their youth peers, 4-H faculty and staff, University of Missouri officials, policymakers, and other key stakeholder groups,
3. To employ civic engagement skills in service-based learning activities with peer and adult partnerships,
4. To enhance self-efficacy as a teacher, communicator, and Extension advocate, and
5. To incorporate the seven behaviors of servant leaders into their leadership activities.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Any Missouri 4-H'er that is entering grades 9-12 at time of application is eligible to serve as a Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassador. 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 selected. Applicants do not need to have previously served in a leadership role at the county or state level, though it is encouraged.

### REQUIREMENTS DURING TIME IN OFFICE

As outlined in the purpose of Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassador Program, if selected, 4-H'ers that serve in this role will be expected to take on a variety of leadership opportunities during their term. There are four mandatory events that all ambassadors must attend during their year of service. These events are NON-NEGOTIABLE. Failure to attend and actively participate in these events will result in immediate dismissal from the Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassador Program.

#### Mandatory Events:

- Serving at the 2025 Missouri State Fair
- Attending Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassador Training (In-person, Columbia, MO): Dates TBD
- Attending Ambassador Meetings: Dates TBD
- Planning/participating in 2026 Missouri 4-H Teen Conference (in-person, Columbia, Missouri): Dates TBD

#### Other Events:

- Attending 2025 Missouri State 4-H Congress to be installed as an Ambassador, May 29-31. Attendance is not required but is heavily encouraged.
- Missouri 4-H Foundation Clover Classic Golf Tournament, June 3, 2025
- Missouri 4-H Foundation Clover Clays, Date TBA

Ambassadors will also serve several purposes that are unique to the Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassador Program. This singularity stands out both within the context of Missouri 4-H and other ambassador programs nationally. Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassadors are expected to

- Provide a monthly update presentation at their home county board of commissioners' meeting regarding their local 4-H club(s) and youth initiatives.
  - Provide monthly updates to their county on service-learning opportunities and local policymaker meetings.
- Plan and facilitate one service-learning project per semester (Fall/Spring) for their county.
- Facilitate at least one workshop (planned by the 4-H'er) to their county per semester (fall/spring); topic will be approved by Leadership and Civic Engagement specialist and educator.

**COST:** Lodging and any meals that occur between the beginning and end of a required event are covered. Travel costs are not subject to reimbursement. There is no travel stipend for serving on the Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassadors. All Ambassadors will receive a polo shirt and a nametag.

#### HOW TO APPLY:

There will be 20 total ambassadors selected for the year. Four candidates will be selected at-large. The remaining sixteen ambassadors will be selected with two representatives from each Extension region. In the event that the minimum of two qualified applicants per Extension region is not met, the position in question may be filled by at-large selection from the remaining pool of applicants. Submit this completed application and any supporting documents to both Mr. Sage Eichenburch, Civic Engagement Ambassador Advisor 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 at 5 p.m. CDT: Mr. Sage Eichenburch ([sveichenburch@missouri.edu](mailto:sveichenburch@missouri.edu)) and Dr. Hurdle ([jhurdle@missouri.edu](mailto:jhurdle@missouri.edu)). Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. E-mail is the preferred medium for submission, but paper applications may be mailed to the State 4-H office c/o Mr. Sage Eichenburch. 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 (2) Reference forms:
  - One (1) 4-H staff or faculty reference form (4-H Field Specialist, YPA, State 4-H Educator, etc.)\*
  - One (1) Professional reference form (teacher, coach, employer, mentor, etc.)\*

\*family members are not eligible to serve as a references

Applications will be reviewed by a professional selection panel. Applicants will be notified of their status no later than April 21, 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. New ambassadors will be officially recognized and installed during the 2025 Missouri 4-H State Congress.

#### INTERVIEWS

Applicants for the Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassadors will be required to interview. Interviews will last approximately fifteen (15) minutes and will be held via Zoom, over the evening of April 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Applicants will receive information to select their interview time once the application period has closed. Please note that you will need to prepare a 2-3 minute elevator pitch explaining what 4-H is and why it is important to you.



Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassador Application Form  
**Due to State 4-H Office (electronically) on or before April 1, 2025**  
[sveichenburch@missouri.edu](mailto:sveichenburch@missouri.edu) & [jhurdle@missouri.edu](mailto:jhurdle@missouri.edu)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Your School Grade at Time of Application \_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Parent E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

The youth e-mail address listed above will be used for all Civic Engagement Ambassador communications. The address listed as the parent/guardian's email address will only be used in the case of a conduct issue or an emergency.

Select your polo size: S    M    L    XL    XXL    XXXL    Fit: men's fit    women's fit

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please complete the following questions to help the State 4-H Office learn about your 4-H involvement and why you are a great applicant for the Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassadors Program. For **Essay Questions only**, please limit your responses to 300 words per question.

***Basic Information Questions:***

1. How many years have you been 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 the volunteer work you participate in (include approximate number of hours if possible).

### Essay Questions:

5. Why would you like to be a Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassador?
6. What leadership experiences have prepared you to serve in this role?
7. What is an idea you have for a service project that you could implement as a Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassador? Please describe it in as much detail as possible.

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

Attending the 2025 Missouri State Fair (In-person, Sedalia, MO)

Attending Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassador Training (In-person, Columbia, MO): Dates

TBD Attending Ambassador Meetings: Dates TBD

Participating in the 2026 Missouri 4-H Teen Conference (in-person): Dates

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 2025 Missouri State 4-H Congress

County Board of Commissioner Meetings

Industry Stakeholder Meetings

Service Projects

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 serve as a Missouri 4-H Civic Engagement Ambassador.

**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)