



2027 Ignite by 4-H Application information

Ignite by 4-H continues to be the premier experience where teens find their spark and build career and life readiness skills that prepare them to become Beyond Ready for the future.

Through peer and educator led hands-on workshops, offsite experiences, and immersive activations, teens will explore what fuels their interests and what it takes to succeed in life and work. Explore Workshops provide opportunities to attend sessions outside of their selected track and discover new areas of interest.

The 2027 Ignite by 4-H trip will be held March 17 – 21, 2027 in Washington, D.C. Up to 30 youth delegates will be selected for this experience. Youth must attend the event in its entirety and a prep meeting via zoom.

Applicants must be currently enrolled in 4-H Online and must enroll for the 2026-2027 program year by November 1st, 2026.

Eligibility

- Currently enrolled as a 4-H member
- Enrolled in grades 9-12 for the 2026-2027 school year
- Recommendation from their local 4-H staff

Application Checklist

- Applicant Information
- Track Preference
- Short Essay Answers
- Video Essay Link
- Reference form
 - Reference should be submitted directly to Megan Kershner at mkershner@missouri.edu, not attached in Qualtrics

Applications will open on July 15th, 2026, and close on September 1st, 2026.

Application link: https://missouri.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7QeUzjvf3wZBQkm

Cost

Cost for the trip will be \$2,350. Cost includes event ticket, airline tickets, a MO 4-H delegate shirt, and trading pins. Event tickets include hotel, sessions, and food and beverage during the conference.

Please contact Megan Kershner at mkershner@missouri.edu with any questions.

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Preferred Name or Nickname: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Youth Email Address: _____

4-H Enrollment County: _____

4-H Club/Group: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade in school (2026-2027 school year): _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Name: _____

Relationship to Applicant:

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

I acknowledge that my youth has completed the 2027 Ignite by 4-H application.

Parent Signature

Track Preference

Please rank the track topics in order of preference with 1 being most preferred and 5 being least preferred. More information regarding track topics can be found on the Ignite by 4-H website.

_____ Agriscience

_____ Animal Science

_____ Community Accelerators

_____ Healthy Living

_____ STEM

Short Essay Questions

Applicants will submit answers for three short essay questions. Answers for each question should be 250-300 words. It is recommended to type answers into a word or google doc and then copy them into the online application.

1. Please share your 4-H experience, emphasizing your how 4-H has impacted your personal growth and development.
2. What do you hope to gain from participating in Ignite by 4-H?

Answers to the short essay questions will be judged on the following criteria:

- 4-H Experience (50 points)
 - Personally reflected on their educational/learning experiences in 4-H
 - Described the benefit of 4-H in their life and the ways they have grown and developed in the 4-H program
 - Conveys a clear message, thoughts are concise and well organized
 - Question is answered fully
- Opportunity for Growth (50 points)
 - Identifies opportunities for their personal growth through Ignite by 4-H
 - Conveys a clear message, thoughts are concise and well organized
 - Question is answered fully

Video Question

Applicants will submit a link to their video through the Qualtrics application. Videos may be uploaded to the sharable platform of their choice that provides a shareable link. (YouTube, Google Drive, Etc.) Video responses should be 1-3 minutes in length and include a short introduction of the applicant.

1. Using the track topic you ranked the highest: As a 4-H'er, why is it important to you to learn about this topic?

Answers to video question will be judged on the following criteria:

- Track Topic (100 points)
 - Demonstrates understanding of the topic and its relation to their life
 - Displays interest in learning experiences related to the topic
 - Conveys a clear message, thoughts are concise and well organized

Reference Form

Applicants are required to have one reference from a 4-H Faculty or Staff member. All references must be submitted directly to Megan Kershner at mkershner@missouri.edu from the person providing the reference. Reference forms are available on the website. References may not be completed by a family member of the applicant.