



2026 Legislative Academy Application Information

The purpose of Missouri 4-H Legislative Academy is to provide 4-H'ers with high impact experiences in civic engagement within the Missouri State Government. Through their participation in Legislative Academy, 4-H'ers will learn about the three branches of the Missouri State Government, careers in public service, and the relationship between the Missouri 4-H program and the state legislature. Attendees will have opportunities to liaise with state government officials, educate policymakers on the impact that 4-H has on youth, families, and communities, and develop leadership capacity through civic engagement.

The 2026 Legislative Academy will be held March 4-6 in Jefferson City, Missouri. Up to 20 youth delegates will be selected for this experience. Youth must attend the event in its entirety and a prep meeting via zoom on January 28th at 7pm.

Applicants must be currently enrolled in 4-H Online and must enroll for the 2025-2026 program year by November 1st, 2025. Applicants that are not enrolled in 4-H Online by November 1st, 2025 will be removed from the application process.

Eligibility

- Currently enrolled as a 4-H member
- Enrolled in grades 9-12 for the 2025-2026 school year
- Recommendation from their local 4-H staff
- Participation in state level leadership program or award trip (preferred, not required)
 - State 4-H Council, Civic Engagement Ambassadors, Ag Innovators Teen Leaders, Shooting Sports Ambassadors
 - National 4-H Congress and/or National 4-H Conference Delegate

Application Checklist

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

Applications will open on September 15th, 2025, and close on November 1st, 2025. Zoom interviews will take place on November 12th and 13th. Applicants will receive email instructions on how to sign up after applications have closed.

Application link: https://missouri.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9NdR1RFAIOGSp4W

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

FOR REFERENCE ONLY: ALL INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH QUALTRICS

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 (2025-2026 school year): _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Name:

Relationship to Applicant:

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

I acknowledge that my youth has completed the 2026 Legislative Academy application.

Parent Signature

Legislator Information

Senator: _____ Representative: _____

Shadowing Preference:

_____ Senator _____ Representative _____ Either

Legislator Lookup: <https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default>

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Short Essay Questions

Applicants will submit answers for three short essay questions. Answers for each question should be 250-300 words.

1. Please share your 4-H experience, emphasizing your how 4-H has impacted your personal growth and development.
2. As a 4-H'er, why is it important to you to learn about state level government?
3. Through Legislative Academy, you will meet with state level legislators. What skills or knowledge do you hope to gain from this experience?

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

- 4-H Experience (30 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
- Importance of State Government (30 points)
 - Demonstrates understanding of the role state level government plays in the day-to-day life of citizens
- Opportunity for Growth (30 points)
 - Identifies opportunities for their personal growth through Legislative Academy
- Organization (10 points)
 - 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 reference. Reference forms are available on the website. References may not be completed a family member of the applicant.