



## **National 4-H Conference 2025 Missouri Delegation Application Information**

Being selected to attend the National 4-H Conference is one of the highest honors a Missouri 4-H member can attain. Only 3 youth are selected to attend each year. At the conference, delegates will have the opportunity to participate in round table discussions and present to federal partner agencies along with the opportunity for delegates to engage with their U.S. Senators and Representatives. This event brings together young people, volunteers and state and county extension staff from across the United States, the U.S. territories, and the Canadian provinces.

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This application is for National 4-H Conference 2024, to be held in April 11-16, 2025. This event is traditionally outside of Washington D.C. All travel and registration expenses are covered by support from the Missouri 4-H Foundation in partnership with the Turner Family and the Martz Family.

### **Application Process**

Applications are due to the Missouri 4-H Center for Youth Development by October 1, 2024. All applications must be submitted through the Online application.

Applicants must be ages 14-18 as of December 31, 2023.

Applicants must be currently enrolled in 4-H Online and must enroll for the 2024-2025 program year by November 1, 2024. Applicants that are not enrolled in 4-H Online by November 1, 2024 will be removed from the application process.

Applicants will submit the information on page 2 of this document, 2 letters of recommendation, two short essays, and complete a panel interview. One letter of recommendation should come from a 4-H leader or professional and the other should come from an educational/professional like a teacher, coach, mentor, or supervisor. A rubric for the 4-H experience essay can be found on page 3 and a rubric for the Round table essay can be found on page 4.

Panel interviews are going to take place on Tuesday, October 29 and Wednesday, October 30, 2024, on Zoom. The time slots for the interviews will be sent to the applicants at a later date.

Please contact Jillian at [jgerlach@missouri.edu](mailto:jgerlach@missouri.edu) with any questions.

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**FOR REFERENCE ONLY: ALL INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH ONLINE APPLICATION**

**Applicant Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name or Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club/Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Age (on December 31, 2023): \_\_\_\_\_

Actual age in April 2025: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size:      Small              Medium              Large              XL              2XL              3XL

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**Parent/Guardian Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that my youth has completed the 2025 National 4-H Conference application.

Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Your 4-H Experience Essay Instructions

**(No more than 500 words, including bulleted lists are acceptable)**

Share about your 4-H experiences, emphasizing your personal growth and development. Include how your 4-H activities and leadership experiences have helped you learn, grow, and positively affect others.

Your 4-H Experience Essay will be judged on the following criteria:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>
<b>4-H Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identifies and describes educational/learning experiences you have participated in and what you learned from those experiences</li></ul>	<b>30</b>
<b>4-H Leadership Experience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identifies and describes leadership experiences you have had in 4-H</li><li>• Shares on how these experiences have helped you learn, grow, and impact others</li></ul>	<b>30</b>
<b>Personal Growth and Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personally reflected on their experiences</li><li>• Identifies how 4-H experiences have contributed to who you are at the present time</li></ul>	<b>30</b>
<b>Organization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conveys a clear message</li><li>• Content is appropriate for the audience</li></ul>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>100</b>

## Roundtable Essay Instructions

(Approx. 500 words)

At the conference, youth delegates participate in Roundtables to explore current issues affecting youth and the role 4-H can play in addressing them. At the conference, delegates will have the opportunity to participate in round table discussions and present to federal partner agencies along with the opportunity for delegates to engage with their U.S. Senators and Representatives.

Below is the list of topics from past years to give you an idea of issues discussed in the past:

- Career Paths
- Civil Discourse
- Cyber Bullying
- Healthy Families
- Natural Resource Preservation
- Next Generation Agriculture
- Optimal Health
- Pressure and Stress
- Privacy
- Science Education
- Transportation and Youth
- Value of Extension Programs
- Volunteerism
- Youth Apprenticeships
- Youth and Opioids

Using your knowledge and experience as a youth and 4-H'er, use your Roundtable Essay to answer the following question: **“What is the biggest issue facing today’s youth and communities and how can you use what you have learned in 4-H to help address this issue?”**

Your Roundtable Essay will be judged on the following criteria:

Criteria	Points Possible
<b>Content – Issue Identification</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify and explains issue</li><li>• Gives personal examples of how topic has affected speaker or their community.</li></ul>	<b>30</b>
<b>Content – Possible Solutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Solutions are identified and clearly outlined</li><li>• Solutions are realistic</li><li>• Solutions are specific, measurable and have a timeline/deadline</li><li>• Essay connects 4-H to solutions of the selected issue</li></ul>	<b>50</b>
<b>Organization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conveys a clear message</li><li>• Content is appropriate for the audience</li><li>• Proper identification of reputable sources that support their claim</li></ul>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>100</b>