

National 4-H Conference April 19-24, 2024
Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA

Event Information

National 4-H Conference is a future-focused program that aims to build strong leaders through roundtable discussions, town hall meetings, group assemblies, and visits with national legislators. Being selected to represent our state at this conference is one of Oklahoma 4-H's highest honors.

The unique environment of the program allows delegates to engage with national 4-H leadership (including USDA and CSREES) and to learn how to build better youth-adult partnerships. The program reinforces the ties 4-H has to the Cooperative Extension Service and the land-grant university systems that make 4-H possible. Roundtable discussions generate ideas for club and community improvement and students are encouraged to implement these ideas in their home states. Through the roundtable process, students also build valuable leadership skills including team-building, flexibility, and communications.

Through an application process, Three Oklahoma 4-H delegates will be selected to attend National 4-H Conference.

- Applicants must be 16 years old
- This trip is an award based upon your application and support letter
- Application Materials:
 - Contact Information Page
 - 1 to 2 Page Essay
 - One reference letter; from your county educator or your local 4-H club volunteer-leader
- Oklahoma 4-H will cover most of the expenses for the trip.
- Delegates are responsible for:
 - \$500 Registration fee (Oklahoma 4-H and the OK 4-H Foundation will cover the remaining costs)
 - Transportation to and from the airport
 - Meals on travel days to and from D.C.
 - Other snacks, incidentals, souvenirs as desired

Upon returning from National Conference, each member of the 2024 National Conference Team will complete a service project by June 2025. Service Projects will be a part of Oklahoma's back home plan and may be either a group or individual program depending upon the strengths and ideas of the youth-adult team that participates. The service project is the delegate's opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills and develop a program that initiates community change.

COVID Protocols (from National 4-H Council)

National 4-H Council continues to monitor and follow the latest CDC guidelines as well as any new directives or guidance from the District of Columbia. At this time, there are no proof of vaccination, testing or masking requirements in order to participate.

These protocols may be updated prior to or during the event(s), based on any new directives or guidance mandated or given by federal, state and/or local government.

Schedule-at-a-glance

Friday, April 19	Registration & Hotel Check In Opening Assembly & Welcome
Saturday, April 20	Roundtable Sessions Evening Entertainment
Sunday, April 21	Roundtable Sessions Youth Perspective Briefing Rehearsals Evening Monument Tours
Monday, April 22	4-H Flag Raising at USDA Headquarters Community Service
Tuesday, April 23	Youth Perspective Briefings at Federal Agencies Youth Career Fair Closing Celebration & Dance
Wednesday, April 24	Hotel Check-Out

Application is due no later than Midnight, Sunday, February 4, 2024

Applications should be emailed to k.wardlaw@okstate.edu, cc your Extension Educator. You will receive confirmation of receipt the following business day (M-F). It is your responsibility to make sure that you receive confirmation.

Remember to include:

- Contact Information Page
- 1 to 2 Page Essay
- One reference letter; from your county educator or your local 4-H club volunteer/leader

Contact Information Page

Name on Photo I.D./Birth Certificate: _____

Male _____ Female _____

County: _____ 4-H District: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone1: _____ Phone2: _____

Email Address: _____ Parent's Email: _____

Number of Years in 4-H: _____

Age and Grade (as of January 1, 2023): _____

Birthday: _____ Grade: _____

Name of School or Educational Institution: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature

4-H Member Signature

Extension Educator Signature

National 4-H Conference Essay

Two Page Maximum

Include a 1-2 page, typewritten, 12-pt. font essay on the following subject:

The Positive Impact of 4-H

1. Describe how you think Oklahoma 4-H benefits your community, state, or nation. What are the most beneficial programs, in your opinion, and why? (Describe one or two programs, maximum)
2. Describe specific ways in which you have benefitted from your involvement in 4-H.
3. What are some issues or programs that you'd like to see Oklahoma 4-H get involved in, emphasize, or develop for the future?