



# Oklahoma 4-H

## State 4-H Ambassador Application Information Packet

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For over 25 years, outstanding 4-H members have been serving as State 4-H Ambassadors. Once again, the Oklahoma State 4-H Ambassador program is looking for self-motivated, enthusiastic youth leaders to promote the 4-H organization using the skills, knowledge and leadership abilities acquired in 4-H. Applications for State Ambassador are due March 15th.

Being chosen as a State 4-H Ambassador entails the acceptance of great responsibility and a total commitment to the Oklahoma State 4-H Ambassador program. We need individuals who are not afraid of people or work.

### **AMBASSADOR PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

- Make 4-H more visible in your county and across the state of Oklahoma
- Maintain relations with 4-H alumni and supporters
- Help 4-H members tell the 4-H story

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Any youth currently involved in Oklahoma 4-H who is 13 years of age or older by March 15th, 2024 and still has at least one year of high school remaining is eligible to apply. Once selected a State 4-H Ambassador, one may remain an Ambassador through the end of their 4-H career in accordance with the Oklahoma 4-H Rules and Guidelines, as long as the Ambassador is in good standing.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

The State 4-H Ambassador program is a time-intensive program and requires full participation to build relationships with team members, be in communication with 4-H donors and be prepared for State 4-H Ambassador events/activities.

Key expectations include:

- To uphold and abide by the Oklahoma 4-H Code of Conduct throughout the duration of their Ambassador career.
- To participate fully in all required State 4-H Ambassador activities.
- To serve as a positive role model and representative of all Oklahoma 4-H members.
- To actively promote inclusion and respect for diversity within 4-H programs.
- To be responsible for providing or arranging personal transportation to all activities/events; Transportation to and from events/activities is not the responsibility of extension educators.
- To be prompt in response to emails and/or phone calls from advisors and fellow Ambassadors.
- If/and once selected, failure to uphold these expectations may jeopardize your opportunity to complete your State 4-H Ambassador term.

## KEY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

State 4-H Ambassadors serve in a variety of key roles throughout the year. The following are the minimum expectations of participation.

- Attend mandatory meetings and/or events. Required meetings are for training, working projects and setting annual objectives. Mandatory meetings and events include full participation in: Ambassador Retreat, Leadership Team Retreat, State 4-H Roundup, Fall Ambassador meeting, Spring Ambassador meeting and Ambassador Selection Day. Missing required meetings will require make-up work and prior absence approval. Fall and Spring meetings are held on Sunday afternoons.
- The Ambassador Retreat and Leadership Team Retreat will be held the first full week of June. If a newly selected Ambassador cannot attend the retreat, they must forfeit their position.
- Travel when called upon to speak or provide support for the Oklahoma 4-H Program.
- Assume financial responsibility.
- Commit the time involved to reach objectives and participate in required activities/events.

## KEY DATES FOR APPLICANTS

March 15, 2024	Hard-copy application must be postmarked
March 15, 2024	Electronic Application due by 11:59 p.m.
May 4, 2024	Selection Day; Oklahoma State University Campus
June 6-8, 2024	Ambassador Retreat and Leadership Team Retreat; Stillwater

## TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Oklahoma State 4-H Ambassadors are required to invest in a small portion of their uniform and Ambassador activities. Selected Ambassadors will be required to pay \$50 and payments will be due by July 1, 2024. Mrs. Mary Sue Sanders generously covers the rest of the uniform cost through an endowment.

Uniform includes:

- Green 4-H blazer
- Official name badge
- Ambassador necktie
- Ambassador crest
- Leadership team polo

Selected Ambassadors are also responsible for the following

- Transportation to/from all required events
- Ambassador Uniform
  - Navy pants with white button up shirt or
  - Navy sheath dress
  - Navy or brown close-toed shoes
- Communicating via email
- Registration for Leadership Team Retreat (approx. \$100) and State 4-H Roundup (approx. \$150.00)

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested applicants will need to complete the following steps no later than **March 15th, 2024** at 11:59 p.m. central time.

1. Review all details in the Applicant Information Packet.
2. Complete the State 4-H Ambassador Program Application, **submitting in both electronic and hardcopy.**
3. Applicants will receive an email notifying them if they will advance on to Selection Day Saturday, May 4, 2024.
4. Those advancing on to Selection Day will be chosen based on their application and reference letters.

Advancing applicants should be prepared to answer questions about the Oklahoma 4-H program and State 4-H Ambassador program.

- Interviewees will present a 2–3 minute extemporaneous speech on 4-H related topics.
- Interviewees should be prepared for a written correspondence assignment (thank you note, letter or invitation to a 4-H alum or donor).
- The number of applicants selected each year depends on the below factors:
  - Number of returning active and semi-active 4-H Ambassadors
  - Diverse representation of applicants and geographic area
  - A team of 24 State 4-H Ambassadors is our goal

## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development program is committed to ensuring that the State 4-H Ambassador Program is representative of the diversity of Oklahoma, is represented by youth who are exceptional in their leadership/service to their communities, members who can reason logically, act on their decisions and professionally represent the entire Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program. Final selection will be based on culmination of the following scores: application, references, interview, extemporaneous speech and writing assignment. A total of 9 judges will serve on the Ambassador Selection Committee.

*Cost should not be a barrier to participation. If you are concerned about any of these items, please contact Cathy at [cathy.allen@okstate.edu](mailto:cathy.allen@okstate.edu) or 405.744.8892 to discuss.*

## QUESTIONS?

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