

APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE



June 2025

Potential 2026 Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council and National 4-H Conference Applicants:

The Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council (K4-HYLC) and Kansas 4-H'ers are looking for committed, enthusiastic members to serve on the 2026 Council, and we think that you might fit that description!

Through this application, you can apply for **National 4-H Conference Delegate** and/or **Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Representative**. Both groups serve on the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council. We are confident that, if selected (National 4-H Conference Delegate) or elected (Council Representative), you will acquire many valuable, life-building skills through your Youth Council experiences.

There will be 12 Council members (3 from each Extension Region, NE, SE, SW, NW) elected, and up to 6 National Conference Delegates selected at the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, November 22-23, 2025, to serve Kansas 4-H for the 2026 year.

Any Kansas 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 before January 1, 2026, may apply as a Council Representative.

Any Kansas 4-H member between the ages of 15-18 before January 1, 2026, may apply for National Conference Delegate.

The Application Process includes:

*Online Application submitted by 11:59 PM Central Time, Wednesday, October 1, 2025. **College and Career Tip** – There is an application template on the web that shows you the application questions in order. Use that to formulate your application answers so you know what is being asked, you can plan ahead and be ready to cut and paste your edited and spell-checked essay answers from your word processing program into the application.

(<https://bit.ly/2026KS4HYLCApp>)

*One Online Reference - from an Extension Staff member or 4-H Volunteer Leader. You will need to send this link (<https://bit.ly/KS4H2026Ref>) to your references for them to fill out the online form. This should be completed on or before 11:59 PM Central Time, Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

*Signature Page scan and email to Kansas4H@ksu.edu before 11:59 PM Central Time, Wednesday, October 1, 2025. This requires signatures by your Extension Agent and your parent/guardian.

For Youth Council Representatives - After the applications are evaluated, up to 12 candidates from each region will be selected to interview by Zoom prior KYLF. Following the interviews, up to 6 candidates from each region will get the

opportunity to run for a position on Youth Council. Those candidates will give a speech and be elected through a ballot vote by the delegates from their region during KYLF. Membership on Youth Council will involve travel to meetings and various functions. Members should expect to encounter out-of-pocket expenses. This will require commitment from you as well as your parent(s) or guardian(s).

For National Conference Delegates - After Applications are evaluated, those selected will be invited to interview prior to the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLF). There is a cost of approximately \$2000 (after scholarships from the Kansas 4-H Foundation have been applied) to attend the National 4-H Conference. That can be paid by the delegate, local scholarships, raised locally or a combination. If selected a \$1000 payment will be due January 15, 2026, and the remaining \$1000 payment will be due March 30, 2026. Membership on Youth Council will involve travel to meetings and various functions. Members should expect to encounter out-of-pocket expenses. This will require commitment from you as well as your parent(s) or guardian(s). National Conference dates have not been set for 2026 but are typically in April.

National 4-H Conference offers opportunities for youth to learn, practice, and apply civic engagement skills through roundtable discussions, federal agency briefings, and more. There will be necessary pre-work for this event, which includes researching information for roundtables and agency briefings.

Conference Objectives

- **Learn** – Provide youth a broad-based learning experience in which they will acquire practical knowledge and skills to reinforce the attitudes and motivation that will give them a heightened sense of responsibility and capacity to connect as active members of their communities, nation, and world.
- **Practice** – Engage youth in hands-on educational activities in which they explore, practice, and master existing and newly developed skills/knowledge in civic engagement, civic education, and personal development.
- **Apply** – Facilitate direct opportunities for youth to apply what was learned in real-world experiences in which they develop leadership skills using their voices, work, ideas, and/or behavior to make a difference in their community, country,

and world.

In addition, All Youth Council Members (Council Representatives and National 4-H Conference Delegates) will be required to:

Attend meetings and conference calls regularly. Youth Council will have a full year of activities and will meet about 4-6 times throughout the year in person with a monthly Zoom Meeting as well. Additional work outside of meetings is necessary and expected. More than 3 absences may be grounds for dismissal from the Council. Some meetings will be via Zoom and require a device and internet access.

Plans for the year ahead: Attend the Youth Council Orientation Retreat January 10-11, 2026 most likely at Rock Springs 4-H Center. Youth Council will get acquainted, elect officers, and make goals and plans for the coming year. Attend Citizenship In Action February 15-16, 2026 in Topeka, Kansas, Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, November 21-22, 2026 at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch and other events to be determined including possible Regional Leadership Forums and other events sponsored or hosted by the Youth Council or Kansas 4-H. Establish and maintain good communication with the Extension Units (counties and districts) in your respective region, fellow members of Youth Council, and advisors of the Youth Council.

Reading and responding to e-mails must become a daily habit. Please consider these requirements before completing your application. Youth Council is a great commitment, but also a great opportunity! Youth Council will need all 12 elected members and National Conference Delegates to make this commitment to have a successful year.

Thank you for your time and consideration in applying for the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council. If you have any questions about the election process, please do not hesitate to contact Hailey and Grace Youth Council Elections Committee Chairs KS4HYLCelections@gmail.com

Questions about the National 4-H Conference? - please contact Beth Hinshaw, bhinshaw@ksu.edu

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting (Beth Hinshaw) two weeks prior to the deadline (September 10, 2025) at (620-496-8206 or bhinshaw@ksu.edu). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative
Extension Service

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Commitment Agreement

☐ I have read the potential K4-HYLC candidate letter and understand the commitment required to become a Youth Council Member/National Conference Delegate.

Application must be submitted by 11:59 PM (Central Time), Wednesday, October 1, 2025. Your application is not complete until you press the forward button at the end. You will get a thanks for submitting message when you are done.

Personal Information

I am submitting my application for:

- ☐ National 4-H Conference Delegate
- ☐ Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Representative
- ☐ I am applying for both opportunities

Full Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Birthdate MM/DD/YYYY

Delegate Cell Phone Number, if you do not have a cell phone please share the best number to reach you?

Email Address

Permission

☐ Allow permission for emails and texts about the Youth Council Elections process.

Extension Region

☐ NE

☐ NW

☐ SE

☐ SW

County/District

Choose your Extension Unit

Do you plan to register to attend the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum by Monday, October 15, 2025?

☐ Yes☐ No

If you were a member of the council in 2025, please answer the next three questions. ***If you were not on council in 2025, skip questions the next two questions, and move to the essay response section.***

(Only if you were on council in 2025) How many Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Meetings did you miss in 2025?

(Only if you were on council in 2025) How many Council Committee Meetings did you miss in 2025?

Essay Responses for ALL

Please introduce yourself and explain why you want to be on the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council and/or why you want to be a National 4-H Conference Delegate.


List 3 examples of your most significant 4-H Involvement. Include offices held, leadership positions, and committees served. List most recent activities first. Be descriptive.

List 2 examples of your most significant non 4-H Organizational Involvement Include offices held, leadership positions, and committees served. Be descriptive.

Describe your current local 4-H involvement and the importance of the local 4-H program.

Write about a time in your life when you faced failure or hardship and how that has helped you grow as a person.

When you think of your future in and out of 4-H, what are you most excited for and why?



Tell us about your experience with teaching or facilitating discussions. Include what you have learned from your experiences and what you want to improve on.



How do you plan to use your position on council to live out the 4-H motto "to make the best better"?



What is a strength that you possess and what are the drawbacks of that strength?



What does leadership mean to you and how will you reflect that in your work on the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council?

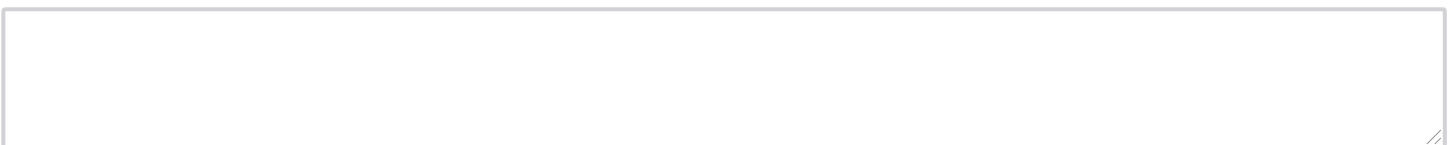
A large, empty rectangular text box with a thin gray border, intended for the respondent to write their answer to the question about leadership.

Where or how did you learn about the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council and/or National 4-H Conference?

A large, empty rectangular text box with a thin gray border, intended for the respondent to write their answer to the question about where or how they learned about the council.

The next 4 questions only need to be completed if you are applying to be a Kansas National 4-H Conference Delegate. National 4-H Conference candidates must fill out the application questions above as well.

Explain your leadership development journey from when you first became involved in leadership to where you are today. Include some of the key experiences that you feel have prepared you to be a National 4-H Conference Delegate.

A large, empty rectangular text box with a thin gray border, intended for the respondent to write their answer to the question about their leadership development journey.

What is your understanding of the role of USDA-NIFA with 4-H.

What is one important issue facing youth today and what ideas do you have to make a difference?

Please indicate your commitment and ability to do the research for focused roundtable work for agency briefings. Much of the work during the conference is with your roundtable group, putting a presentation together for a federal agency.

The next 4 questions are for the purpose of our Extension Education reporting obligations. K-State Extension programs are open to everyone. To ensure civil rights policy adherence, we are required to report program participant race and gender data to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Only aggregated information (total numbers across all programs) about race and gender are reported to the USDA.

Providing the following information is **voluntary** and will be maintained strictly for reporting purposes. These records are kept separately from mailing lists and other participant information. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with this information.

Ethnicity

- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Choose not to provide

Race

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ White or Caucasian
- ☐ Two or more Races
- ☐ Choose not to provide

Residence

- ☐ Farm
- ☐ Rural (under 10,000)
- ☐ Town (10,000-50,000)
- ☐ Suburb of Cities (less than 50,000)
- ☐ Central Cities (Greater than 50,000)
- ☐ Choose not to provide

Gender

- ☐ Specify
- ☐ Choose not to provide

Please share anything else that is important for us to know about your identity.

Reference Letter and Signature Page

In addition to this application you need:

*One Online Reference - from an Extension Staff member or 4-H Volunteer Leader. You will need to send this link (<https://bit.ly/KS4H2026Ref>) to your references for them to fill out the online form. This should be completed on or before 11:59 PM Central Time, Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

*Signature Page scan and email to Kansas4H@ksu.edu before 11:59 PM Central Time, Tuesday, October 1, 2025.

I hereby acknowledge that in order for my application to be considered complete, I must fill out, scan and email the Signature Form that is posted on the website and my reference person must complete an online reference for me. Click to acknowledge and press the forward arrow below. This is not complete until you see this message: Thanks for submitting your application for the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council. You should get an email response too.

☐ Click to acknowledge



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