



University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension
Wisconsin 4-H
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<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/>

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

TO: WI 4-H Youth Leaders Interested in Applying for National Conference

FROM: PYD Educational Programs

DATE: November 2, 2022

RE: 2023 National 4-H Conference Applications

Thank you for your interest in representing Wisconsin 4-H at the 2023 National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C., **Friday, April 14 - Thursday, April 20, 2023.**

Purpose of the National 4-H Conference: National 4-H Conference is a working conference in which youth and adults—at the invitation of the Secretary of Agriculture—assist in the development of recommendations to help guide 4-H and other Extension Youth Development Programs and federal department activities nationally and in their communities. This event brings together youth, volunteer leaders, and state and county Extension staff members from across the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the Canadian Provinces. The Conference includes roundtable discussions, federal partner agency presentations, and an opportunity for delegates to engage with their U.S. Senators and Representatives. There will also be recreational activities, including a tour of the monuments, and inspirational keynote speaker, and social opportunities to meet other youth from around the country. For more information, visit <http://4hconf.4-h.org/>.

Wisconsin's Delegation to the National 4-H Conference will be a team of approximately ten-fifteen diverse young people from across the state who will work together before, during, and after the conference. Delegates must be willing to work with the group on an Action Plan upon return, which involves activities at the county, district, and state level. The conference is a working conference. Participants will gain new ideas and wonderful friendships but expect to be actively engaged in committee work at this event.

Application Procedure: The first step is to complete, sign and deliver your original application to your UW-Madison County Extension Office in plenty of time to complete a reference and send in your packet and reference so it arrives at the State 4-H Office **on or before February 3, 2023.** If there is no educator in your county, please identify another non-related individual who has worked with you in a leadership capacity and knows about your leadership and civic engagement experiences. Have them send the reference form directly to your UW-Extension Office. Find the form in Microsoft Word or PDF format at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/national-4-h-conference/>.

A state 4-H identified committee will subsequently review the applications and make their selections. Applicants will be notified of their status in February. Selected candidates will be asked to complete and return an acceptance form.

Keep the purpose, objectives, and expectations of the event in mind while you are completing your application.

The purpose of National 4-H Conference is to provide an opportunity for 4-H members to:

- engage in personal development experiences that will increase knowledge, resources, and skills;
- discuss topics affecting youth and 4-H programming nationwide; and
- be empowered and mobilized to create positive social change in their communities in a meaningful and genuine way.

National 4-H Conference objectives are:

- 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.

At National 4-H Conference, delegates can expect to:

- learn about 4-H and other Extension Youth Development Programs in other states, Native American Reservations, the U.S. Territories, and Canada
- share recommendations through your roundtable for federal agencies to work with youth and 4-H to solve issues affecting our country
- learn about the work of National 4-H Headquarters and USDA
- visit your Wisconsin Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill
- enhance youth-adult partnerships in your state
- participate in professional workshops
- learn new skills to apply back home
- make new friends and have fun!

National 4-H Conference delegates must be willing to make time and fully commit to participating in the Mandatory Orientation Zooms and the entire conference (including travel time) **Friday, April 14** through late **Thursday, April 20, 2023**, as well as reporting back and bringing their plan of action to fruition in their communities, counties, districts and state.

Logistical Details: The event will be held at a hotel and conference center in the Washington, DC area. Participants depart home on Friday for seven days and return on Thursday. The Wisconsin delegation Adult Advisors are two Youth Development Educators. The ratio of youth participants to adults is about 5:1. Participants will spend most time under the direct supervision of trained Collegiate Facilitators and adult leaders. Health staff consists of volunteers who have first aid training. Participants will fly on a regularly scheduled airline flight between Wisconsin (or Minnesota) and Washington D.C. Frequent Flyer Miles cannot be honored for flights for this program. Hotel lodging will be provided with two youth in each hotel room with a private bathroom and shower. Youth will be assigned roommates based on gender. To the best of our ability, Adult Advisors are assigned to rooms on the same floors as their assigned delegates. Participants will eat at the hotel or other restaurants. Any dietary restrictions must be sent in advance in order to accommodate. During the conference, adults and youth will participate in large group activities which may involve any of the following: discussion, writing, reading aloud; role plays or skits, running, dancing, climbing stairs, standing or sitting for long periods, or having personal contact with other participants. They will walk distances of several miles on sidewalks during off site excursions; they may ride the Metro subway/train and/or a chartered excursion boat. Please inquire if you have questions about accommodations you would require to participate.

Costs:

- Cost is approximately \$1,500. Final cost will be set when travel and registration costs are confirmed.
- The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation sponsors a portion of the cost.
- Many County 4-H Youth Development programs provide partial local sponsorships.
- The remaining amount is the responsibility of the delegate and their family. National and statewide scholarships are available.

If you have questions about National 4-H Conference, please email or call Justin Lieck at justin.lieck@wisc.edu or (608) 263-5971 or Laura Pine at lpine@wisc.edu or (608) 262-1222.

2023 National 4-H Conference Application Process

The 2023 National 4-H Conference application and information is enclosed.

Application Procedures for National Conference

Participation:

National 4-H Conference is an opportunity available to all WI 4-H youth leaders grades 10-12 who are interested in civic engagement and leadership development at the local and national level.

A committee will review all applications received and may call finalists for an informal interview. Selection of approximately six to ten National 4-H Conference delegates and two alternates will be made in February. Applicants will be notified and asked to return an acceptance form stating whether they accept the opportunity to represent WI 4-H and the Youth of Wisconsin at National 4-H Conference in April.

If interested in receiving funding from for National 4-H Conference from their county 4-H program, applicants must adhere to their county's scholarship application process. All interested youth should check with their 4-H staff member for more information.

Criteria for National Conference Delegates

1. Diverse 4-H 4-H, Youth In Governance, or other Extension Youth Programs experiences at the county, state and/or national level, such as Pathways Conference, Area Animal Science Days, State Arts Experiences, Citizenship Washington Focus, Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership, Youth in Governance, Teen Court, etc.
2. Experience in local, county, area, and/or state developmental committees, advisory groups, councils, etc. and in public speaking to strengthen or advocate for 4-H Youth Development Programs.
3. Willingness and ability to work prior to National Conference in collecting facts, ideas, etc. of local people regarding concerns of youth and possible action.
4. Commitment and time to stay involved in the work of conference throughout the year and make significant contributions in their communities.
5. Flexibility as individuals to meet differing situations and to cope with ambiguity, have growth potential, and a curiosity about situations, people, and events.
6. Strong interpersonal skills with people of all ages and backgrounds.
7. Good energy levels, capable of participating fully in an active and demanding program involving long hours.
8. Committed to fully participating in a Mandatory Zoom Orientations, and the **entire conference** (including travel time) **April 14-20, 2023**.

2023 NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE APPLICATION

This application must be typed and may not exceed two pages to be considered.

Program Description: *The purpose of the National 4-H Conference is for 10th-12th grade youth to gain leadership skills and learn about government processes through hands-on activities, workshops, large group discussions, committee work, role play, and youth networking time and to provide feedback to the National 4-H Headquarters.*

Personal Information

Name (Please enter your name as it appears on your drivers' license, passport, or other government issued photo identification.)

(first name) (middle name) (last name) County _____

Home address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Gender: _____

Primary phone (_____) _____ Secondary phone (_____) _____
(Check: ___cell ___school ___work) (Check: ___cell ___school ___work)

E-mail _____ Birth date _____

Age _____ Grade _____ Years in 4-H (Extension Programming) _____

Current/College address & telephone (if different than above) _____

Parents/guardians _____

Address/telephone _____

Nickname (for badge) _____ T-Shirt Size: (adult) ___small ___med ___large ___XL ___2X ___3X

Educational Status: ___ High School Student ___ High School Graduate ___ College Student ___ Other, specify _____

Residence: (check one)

___ farm: _____ acres ___ rural or town under 10,000 ___ town or city of 10,000-50,000

___ suburb of city over 50,000 ___ central city of over 50,000

Race/Ethnicity (optional used for statistical purposes only):

Ethnicity (check one): ___ Hispanic ___ Not Hispanic

Race (check all that apply): ___ American Indian/Alaskan Native ___ Asian ___ Black/African-American

___ Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ___ White ___ Two or more races ___ Other _____

Please limit your responses to the following questions to no more than one page (front and back; Calibri 11 pt. Font)

1. Describe your most significant 4-H, Youth In Governance, or other Extension Youth Programs leadership and/or community service experience, including what was accomplished and your role in achieving the outcome.

2. At National Conference, it is important to hear from diverse viewpoints. What skills do you specifically bring when working with a team of diverse individuals or what experiences have you had that will help you be successful on a diverse team?

3. Outline your future education and career plans. What has most influenced those decisions? How will being a delegate at National Conference help you achieve your future goals?

4. Describe any experiences you have had communicating with federal, state or local elected officials and stakeholders. Include any relevant training you have received.

5. Please share information about your federal legislator; what are some of the topics or issues he/she works on? What committees is he/she a member of?

6. Attach a 1 page resumé of your 4-H, school, community leadership, and work experiences. Do not use acronyms for organization names and please indicate your role, such as volunteer worker, coordinator, co-leader, committee member or chair, etc. For ideas on writing a resumé, check out the following websites:
<http://resume.monster.com/> or http://www.quintcareers.com/teen_resume-writing_worksheet.html

Applicant: Email or mail the completed application packet (form and resume) to your reference in plenty of time so they can email or mail it along with a completed reference form to **arrive** at the State 4-H Office by **February 3, 2023** to be considered.

Reference: Send application with reference to 4-H Educational Programs, 432 N Lake St, Room 105, Madison WI 53706 or scan/email to justin.lieck@wisc.edu.

2023 National 4-H Conference

CONFIDENTIAL COUNTY 4-H REFERENCE

If you do not have a county 4-H educator, you may have a non-related teacher or equivalent leader who knows of your leadership skills complete this reference.

Applicant's Name: _____

The above-named individual has applied to be a Wisconsin delegate to the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. Your thoughtful evaluation of the applicant's ability to participate as a responsible delegate will be appreciated. All information is confidential. Thank you for your assistance.

1. Interpersonal Relations: As you observe this applicant in relationship to other people, is the applicant usually: comments

- Cooperative? ___ yes ___ no _____
- Looked to for Guidance? ___ yes ___ no _____
- Respected? ___ yes ___ no _____
- Outgoing? ___ yes ___ no _____
- Sensitive toward others? ___ yes ___ no _____

2. Will this applicant serve responsibly by setting aside time before, during, and after conference to:
1) gather ideas to present at conference, 2) be a good spokesperson for those ideas, and 3) bring information back to the county and district or state programs?

3. In comparison with persons you have known, how would you rate the applicant in the following areas?

	Below average	Average	Above Average	Top 10%
Emotional Maturity	___	___	___	___
Leadership	___	___	___	___
Enthusiasm & Energy	___	___	___	___
Self-Confidence	___	___	___	___
Sense of Humor	___	___	___	___
Creativity	___	___	___	___

4. How do you know this applicant and do you recommend her/him for participation in the National 4-H Conference in Washington, DC?

___ Yes ___ No Why or why not?

Reference Name: _____ Date _____
Title _____ Telephone (____) _____

Due February 3, 2023 to WI 4-H Educational Programs, 432 N Lake St, Room 105 Madison WI 53706 or scan/email to justin.lieck@wisc.edu along with the application and resume.