

**APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE**



June 2026

Potential 2027 Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council and National 4-H Conference Applicants:

Apply by 11:59 PM Central Time on Thursday, October 1, 2026, to be considered for either National 4-H Conference Delegate and/or Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Representative for 2027.

Through this application, candidates may pursue one or both opportunities: National 4-H Conference Delegate and Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Representative. Both roles serve on the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council, with delegates selected and representatives elected at the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum on November 21-22, 2026.

Available positions include 12 Council Representative seats (3 per Extension Region: NE, SE, SW, and NW) and up to 6 National 4-H Conference Delegate appointments.

Eligibility: Kansas 4-H members ages 14-18 before January 1, 2027, may apply as Council Representatives; members ages 15-18 before January 1, 2027, may apply for National 4-H Conference Delegate.

[Application checklist](#)

- Submit the online application by 11:59 PM Central Time on Thursday, October 1, 2026, and use the posted application template to draft and proofread essay responses before entering them online.
- Arrange for one online reference from an Extension staff member or 4-H volunteer leader, submitted by 11:59 PM Central Time on Thursday, October 1, 2026.
- Email the signed signature page, including your Local Extension Agent/Staff and parent/guardian signatures, to [Kansas4H@ksu.edu](mailto:Kansas4H@ksu.edu) before 11:59 PM Central Time on Thursday, October 1, 2026.

**For Youth Council Representatives** - Applicants are first evaluated, then up to 12 candidates per region are invited to interview by Zoom before KYLF; after interviews, up to 6 candidates per region advance to give a speech and stand for election by regional delegates at KYLF. Selected members should expect travel, regular participation, and some out-of-pocket costs, requiring strong commitment from both the youth member and parent/guardian. For

**National 4-H Conference Delegates** - Selected applicants will be invited to interview before KYLF. The estimated participant cost is approximately \$2,000 after Kansas 4-H Foundation scholarships, with \$1,000 due January 15, 2027, and the remaining \$1,000 due March 30, 2027; delegates should also expect travel, preparation work, and ongoing Youth Council participation. Dates for 2027 have not been selected yet, but the event is typically in April.

The National 4-H Conference provides a high-level civic engagement experience through roundtable discussions, federal agency briefings, and required pre-work that prepares delegates to contribute effectively. 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.

### **Key commitments for ALL Youth Council members**

- Participate consistently in 4-6 in-person meetings during the year, monthly Zoom meetings, and additional work between meetings; more than 3 absences may be grounds for dismissal, and members must have a reliable device and internet access for virtual participation.
- Plan for major events including the Orientation Retreat (January 9-10, 2027), Citizenship in Action (February 7-8, 2027), KYLF (November 20-21, 2027), and other possible regional or state events; members are also expected to communicate regularly with their region, fellow council members, and advisors, and to monitor and respond to email daily.

For questions about the election process, contact the Youth Council Elections Committee Chairs, Brooke at [KS4HYLCelections@gmail.com](mailto:KS4HYLCelections@gmail.com). For questions about the National 4-H Conference, contact Beth Hinshaw at [bhinshaw@ksu.edu](mailto:bhinshaw@ksu.edu).

This institution is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact Beth Hinshaw four weeks prior to the deadline (September 3, 2026) at [bhinshaw@ksu.edu](mailto:bhinshaw@ksu.edu) or 785-532-5800. 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 is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Commitment Agreement

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

Application must be submitted by 11:59 PM (Central Time), Thursday, October 1, 2026. 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 October 15, 2026?

Yes

No

If you were a member of the council in 2026, please answer the next three questions. ***If you were not on council in 2026, skip questions the next two questions, and move to the essay response section.***

**(Only if you were on council in 2026)** How many Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Meetings did you miss in 2026?

**(Only if you were on council in 2026)** How many Council Committee Meetings did you miss in 2026?

## 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?

How has 4-H helped you build the skills you need to be Beyond Ready for your future?

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

**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.

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 - Check all that apply

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- 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

## Sex

- Male
- Female
- Choose not to provide

## Grade in School

- 8th grade
- 9th grade
- 10th grade
- 11th grade
- 12th grade
- Post High School
- Special Education

## Age on January 1, 2027

## 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](mailto: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



# **K-STATE**

## **Research and Extension**

Youth Leadership Council

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