



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.
<https://tinyurl.com/2027KS4HYLCApp>
- 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 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:KS4HYLCelelections@gmail.com). For questions about the National 4-H Conference, contact Beth Hinshaw at 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 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.