



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources ■ 4-H Youth Development Program



2018 National 4-H Conference Chevy Chase, Maryland April 7-14, 2018

**Applications must be submitted by
11:59 pm November 5, 2017**

The National 4-H Conference is the Secretary of Agriculture's *premier* youth development opportunity to engage youth in developing recommendations for the 4-H Youth Development Program (YDP).

The 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 Youth Development Programs 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.

As the sponsor for this conference, the National 4-H Headquarters--located within Families, 4-H, and Nutrition at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES)--is charged with sharing the recommendations that emerge from the conference with the Secretary of Agriculture, national Extension Program Leaders, and others who determine 4-H programs. At the same time, we want to ensure that the conference is a meaningful experience for the youth and adult participants.

Purpose of California's Delegation to the National 4-H Conference

1. Allow California youth and adults to contribute to national level 4-H programming.
2. Assist California 4-H Youth Development in strengthening youth-adult partnerships and involving youth, volunteers, and staff in 4-H decision-making.
3. Provide a system for an exchange of 4-H Youth Development programming ideas among states.
4. Visit Congress and make legislators aware of the tremendous impact of the 4-H program.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Have not represented California 4-H Youth Development Program at the Conference in previous years.
2. Youth delegates must be at least 16 years of age as of December 31, 2017 and enrolled as a 4-H Member.
3. Youth delegates must be eligible to maintain their youth enrollment status through the conference dates.

Team Delegates

The aim of the selection committee is to select a team that encompasses the diversity of California and the 4-H YDP. To this end, the selection committee aims to select up to six 4-H members from Community Clubs, School Enrichment, After-School programming, and Collegiate 4-H, and one 4-H YDP Staff. The State 4-H Office may actively recruit or modify the makeup of the team to ensure diverse representation.

Sponsorship of the California delegation for National 4-H Conference

The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation support the California National 4-H Conference delegation through The California 4-H Foundation. Costs covered include travel to and from the pre-conference orientations, and travel to and from the National 4-H Conference and National 4-H Conference registration fees.

Contact Information

Inquiries about the National 4-H Conference Program should be directed to:

Jenna Colburn

State 4-H Office

2801 Second Street

Davis, CA 95618

530-750-1336 or jcolburn@ucanr.edu

Expectations for Delegates

Prior to Conference

- Attend the team meetings via webinar and in person
- Gather facts, opinions, and data from the 4-H Youth Development Program at the local, county, sectional, and state levels.
- Interview your county's 4-H YD Advisor and submits a recap to the California 4-H YD Office about the variety of services and programs offered by the 4-H YD Program in your local county and throughout California.
- As a team, develop a consistent message from California 4-H YDP to deliver at the conference.

During Conference

- Be an active participant while attending the National 4-H Conference.
- Be flexible, adaptable, and able to get along well with many types of personalities

After Conference

- Attend the team post-conference meeting.
- Complete a team report about the conference.
- Write a thank you note to the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation.
- Complete the "Take it Home Project".

Application Process

Completed applications must be submitted online to the State 4-H Office no later than 11:59pm November 3, 2017.

The completed youth application must include the following:

- Application Form, resume, and essay questions uploaded to online application
- Report on local U.S. Congressional Representative and U.S. Senator. [Find your Representative](#)
- References in provided survey. One each of the following (staff and 4-H Member):
 - 4-H Staff (employee): Program Rep, Program Assistant, 4-H YD Advisor, or County Director
 - 4-H Member or recent 4-H alumni (not over 21 years of age)

References should not be from family. References will only be accepted through the provided survey. Additional letters of reference will not be accepted.

Time Line

Required dates for the National Conference delegates

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|--------------------------|---|
| November 5, 2017 | Application submitted online |
| November 30, 2017 | Notification Letters emailed to applicants |
| December 13, 2017 | Team Meeting- Webinar, 6:30-8:30pm |
| February 24, 2018 | Team Meeting, 10:00am – 4:00pm, State 4-H Office, Davis |
| April 7-12, 2018 | National 4-H Conference, Chevy Chase, Maryland |
| April 12-14, 2018 | Extended Days- Tour of Washington D.C. |

Special Accommodations

A candidate whose disability prevents him or her from completing the application in the usual method should contact the State 4-H Office for assistance.

Selection Criteria

- Able to work and communicate effectively with peers, executives, and the general public.
- Have broad 4-H YDP experience (within and beyond the county)
- Be well acquainted with the entire California 4-H YDP.
- Capable of participating fully in a very active and demanding program involving long hours.
- Role models through actions and words a respect for human dignity and an appreciation for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, religions, abilities, and sexual orientations.

The evaluation of candidates will be weighted as follows:

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|----------------|---|
| Resume – 20% | Essay #4 – 10% |
| Essay #1 – 10% | Unique characteristics and skills – 10% |
| Essay #2 – 15% | Recommendations – 20% |
| Essay #3 – 15% | |



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