National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2024 NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE
Information Session
Hello and Welcome

THANK YOU
for joining us to learn more about how you can participate in National 4-H Conference and help young people LEARN, PRACTICE and APPLY new skills and use their voices, talent and ideas to make a difference. Youth are empowered to GENERALIZE what is learned to affect change in their own community.
Agenda

WELCOME, OVERVIEW AND HISTORY
Manoharan Muthusamy, Acting Division Director, Division of Youth and 4-H (DY4-H), Institute of Youth, Family and Community, USDA-NIFA

2023 CONFERENCE EVALUATION
Jill Lingard, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Wendy Hein, Oregon State University

2024 NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE
Annie Ceccarini, National Program Leader, DY4-H
Maurice Smith, National Program Leader, DY4-H
Andrea Wikiera, Program Specialist, DY4-H

QUESTIONS + ANSWERS
All
What is the 4-H Program?

4-H has a rich history of being a leader in positive youth development experiences for more than a century.

4-H is the youth outreach program of the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) and is implemented by the Cooperative Extension System (CES) through over 110 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES across the United States and its territories.

CONDUCTED AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL, 4-H REACHES MORE THAN

6 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE

2.6M RURAL

1.8M URBAN

1.6M SUBURBAN

AND IS DELIVERED BY 3,500 COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS AND A HALF MILLION VOLUNTEERS
What is National 4-H Conference?

USDA has hosted National 4-H Conference also known as the “Secretary’s Conference” since 1927.

The goal of Conference is to develop the next generation of leaders to solve societal problems.

Youth between the ages of 15 and 19 share their voice with federal government officials in the nation’s capital with the goal of impacting change in America.
National 4-H Conference was originally called the “National 4-H Club Camp,” where delegates slept in tents on the grounds of the National Mall in front of USDA headquarters in Washington, DC.
288 YOUTH DELEGATES – 34% Increase

63% Female       34% Male       3% Other

42% Youth of Color

7 Branches of Military Service

16.6 AVG AGE | 76% >5 YEARS IN 4-H
Impact and Engagement – Youth Experience

Program quality (Belonging, Agency, and Contribution) were very positive. There was no difference in these measures between groups of interest (race, ethnicity, gender, or length of time in 4-H). Youth of different backgrounds can successfully engage here!

The ROUNDTABLE EXPERIENCE and the BREIFINGS were the highest rated daily experiences of the conference (>3.9, scale of 1-5) and clear anchors of the program. Expressing their “Youth Voice” while in the nation’s capitol are profound experiences!

The CAREER FAIR exposed youth to federal employment opportunities and enabled them to discover career interests. 90% increased their understanding of federal government careers.

Watch for more opportunities at the career fair in 2024!
Youth Experience

Youth reported an increased capacity for leadership, civic engagement, and an increased level of agency.

After Conference, more than 85% of attendees:

- Intend to seek out civic engagement opportunities in their communities.
- Feel a sense of responsibility to solve problems in their communities.
- Feel empowered to make a difference in their communities.

This represents a 30% increase from before the conference.
As a Result of Conference, Youth:
*(scale of 1 to 4)*

**RESPECT DIVERSITY**
Understand the value of working with others different than themselves (3.7)

**PROMOTE INCLUSION**
Will look for ways to involve all members of a group (3.6)

**INCREASE CONFIDENCE**
Are comfortable being a leader (3.6)

**VALUE TEAMWORK**
Have increased respect for others’ ideas (3.6)

"National 4-H conference taught me patience and how to learn to collaborate with others that are very different from myself. This proved to be a challenge at first, but I can confidently say that I am much better at this than I was before.

– Youth delegate"
Roundtable Experience

Sharing Youth Voice
The ability to provide YOUTH VOICE TO FEDERAL DECISION MAKING is the cornerstone of the Roundtable Experience.

I'm also proud of what my group was able to accomplish and how the EPA took our thoughts and ideas into account and will use them in the future.

– Youth delegate

Peer-to-Peer Leadership
COLLEGIATE FACILITATORS ARE CRITICAL to the success of the Roundtable experience.
Youth felt they positively influenced the experience (4.7, scale 1-5).

My facilitator was amazing. Her method of teaching and helping was amazing. She made everyone feel included and cared about.

– Youth delegate

Agency Connection
PRESENTATIONS were delivered ON SITE at the partnering agency. You had time to interact with staff.

One of the youth from our state reported being offered an internship on the spot at their agency, and multiple said the agency was planning to use their ideas!

– LGU Contact

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USDA
How Delegations Can Enhance Outcomes based on Youth Feedback

Exploring DC and Hill Visits
Participants value visiting the nation’s capital.
Consider extending your trip to accommodate this. Delegates frequently report the importance of experiences at the hill and the mall.

Conference Logistics
This may be the first convention youth have attended.
Help them feel confident by reviewing the handbook and schedule. Discuss what to expect from the hotel meal, attire, sessions and networking.

Being Present
All parts of the program are intentional to create the complete experience.
Delegates valued participation by their peers and expressed concern when youth were not present or engaged.

Making Connections
“Meet New People” was the most frequent pre-survey response about what delegates were looking forward to at Conference.
Trading pins were a popular way of initiating conversation, especially on the first day.
Overview
#N4HC24

**When:**
Friday, April 19 – Wednesday, April 24, 2024

**Where:**
Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel
2799 Richmond Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Once at the hotel, your meetings, meals and social gatherings are just an elevator ride away from your guest room.

Additionally, charter bus transportation and public transportation will be accessible for off-site events.
2024 Conference Objectives

#Opportunity4All
Reduce barriers for young people involved in 4-H to attend National 4-H Conference.

Partnerships
Encourage partnerships between 1862, 1890 and 1994’s in the same state to select a diverse state delegation.

Engage with more federal agencies before, during and after Conference.

Workforce Development
Increase 4-H’ers familiarity with the federal government and future career opportunities.
There are many ways young people, as well as federal partners and Land-grant Universities, can benefit from participating in National 4-H Conference.

**Federal Partners**
Federal partners play a key role by presenting an issue of importance on which they would like to receive youth perspective.

**Land-grant Colleges and Universities**
All Land-grant Colleges and Universities are invited to select and send high school-aged 4-H participants, along with chaperones, to National 4-H Conference.

**Youth Experience**
Delegates choose the topic, research the issue, work with their peers to develop a 45-minute briefing and formally present their recommendations to the federal partner.
Peer Leadership Model

**Adult Advisors**
- Manola Erby, Mississippi
- Natalie Korniak, Indiana
- Brian Luckey, Nevada
- Nicole Swinson, Virginia

**Youth Leadership Team**
- 6 High School Students

**Collegiate Facilitators**
- Lead: Olivia Hall, Connecticut
- 20 College Students
Handbook & Guidebook

2024 Delegate Handbook
• Travel, accommodations & packing information
• Conference sessions & activities
• Pre- and post-conference expectations
• Health & safety

National 4-H Conference Guidebook for 1862, 1890 and 1994 Staff and Volunteers
• Roles & expectations
• Policies
LGU Responsibility for Youth Protection

Conduct & Discipline

Enforce the code of conduct outlined in the National 4-H Conference Delegate Handbook and have a disciplinary procedure in place.

Medical Care & Insurance

Secure medical information and releases, seek emergency medical assistance, and follow your LGUs procedure for reporting accidents or making insurance claims.

Supervision & Room Assignments

The ratio of five youth per one adult is the preferred rate of supervision at events and activities. For this purpose, adult is defined as someone 21 years of age or older. Roommates must be assigned by the LGU.

Transportation

When transportation is not provided by the Conference Logistic Coordinator, chaperones should follow their LGU transportation policies.
Attire Guidelines

**Casual**
- Roundtable Sessions
- Evening Entertainment
- 4-H Flag Raising Ceremony

**Business Casual**
- Opening Assembly

**Business Professional**
- Youth Perspective Briefing
- Career Fair
- Closing Assembly
- Capitol Hill Visit
Chaperone Orientation

SAVE THE DATE
Further details of LGU and chaperone’s responsibilities will be covered at the Chaperone Orientation on March 28 4:00-5:00 EST.
Federal Briefings

Youth Voice + PARTNERSHIPS

Federal agencies present an issue of importance through a “Challenge Question” on which they would like to receive youth voice.

Youth delegates provide a 45-minute Youth Perspective Briefing on Tuesday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m. EST.

“If time is money, the 45 minutes or so that we spent listening to the youth presentations was worth it. My team and I certainly enjoyed the experience, and the youth certainly seemed to be engaged in both their presentations and the questions that we asked after. All in all, a 5-star experience.”

– Federal partner
**Briefing Process**

01. Youth delegates are assigned a “Challenge Question” based on their top three preferences given at registration.

02. Delegates meet with their roundtable group prior to and during conference to research, brainstorm ideas, and prepare a presentation.

03. Roundtable groups present their 45-minute Youth Perspective Briefing at the federal agency on briefing day.

04. Federal agencies are encouraged to remain engaged with their roundtable group via webinars, focus groups, panel discussions, and presentations to larger audiences.

“I really had a great time and I am very grateful for the opportunity. I hope there are more events like this where we get to talk about issues very important in our nation...”

– Youth delegate
Youth Career Fair

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Federal agencies will have booths set up on Tuesday, April 23 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EST.

Staff will engage with young people about internships, fellowships, careers, and volunteer opportunities at their agency.

Booths will include interactive, educational engaging exhibits with demonstrations and materials.

“This was an incredible experience and I was able to grow as a leader and in my passion for civic engagement. This experience helped me want to be more involved in our nation.”

– Youth delegate
Who We’re Working With

AmeriCorps
SAMHSA
Peace Corps

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Friday, April 19

**Registration & Hotel Check-in**
4:00-6:00 PM

**Opening Assembly**
Dinner provided.

**Welcome Activity**
Bring state or territory pins for pin swap.

We encourage delegations to arrive early to spend additional time exploring D.C. or visit capitol hill.
Saturday, April 20

**Chaperone Orientation**
Review schedule, chaperone expectations, and answer questions.

**Roundtable Sessions**
Youth delegates will be assigned a challenge question based on preference selected on registration form.

Each roundtable group will have 1 collegiate facilitator, 13-15 youth delegates, 4-6 assigned chaperones, and 1 NIFA Liaison

**Evening Performance**
Coyaba Dance Theatre

Each roundtable group is given a challenge question submitted by a federal agency. The roundtable groups prepare a 45-minute Youth Perspective Briefing that is presented to the federal agency.
Sunday, April 21

**Roundtable Sessions**
Same challenge question assignments as Saturday.

**Briefing Rehearsals**
Chaperones, collegiate facilitators, and delegates are invited to observe rehearsals and provide feedback.

**Evening Monument Tours**
Guided outdoor tours by bus.

There will be two Youth Perspective Briefing rehearsal sessions, half of the groups will rehearse in the first session and the other half will rehearse in the second session.
Monday, April 22

4-H Flag Raising Ceremony at USDA Headquarters
Brief remarks and photo opportunity with USDA leaders.

Delegation Choice
Explore Washington D.C. with your delegation. Dinner and transportation on your own.

Delegates should wear their conference t-shirt to the flag raising ceremony.
Tuesday, April 23

**Chaperone Refresher**
Review Tuesday schedule, chaperone expectations, and answer questions.

**Youth Perspective Briefings**
Roundtable groups will travel to their federal agency to give a 45-minute presentation.

**Youth Career Fair**
Federal agency exhibits including paid internships, fellowships or job opportunities.

**Closing Celebration & Dance**
Certificate ceremony

The protocol for entering federal buildings will be reviewed at the Chaperone Refresher. Most federal agencies require a photo ID at entry.
Wednesday, April 24

**Hotel Check-out**
11:00 AM

We encourage delegations to stay late if they want to spend additional time exploring D.C. or visit Capitol Hill.
## Schedule-At-A-Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FRIDAY APRIL 19</strong></th>
<th><strong>SATURDAY APRIL 20</strong></th>
<th><strong>SUNDAY APRIL 21</strong></th>
<th><strong>MONDAY APRIL 22</strong></th>
<th><strong>TUESDAY APRIL 23</strong></th>
<th><strong>WEDNESDAY APRIL 24</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Registration &amp; Hotel Check-in</strong>&lt;br&gt;4 pm – 6 pm</td>
<td><strong>Chaperone Orientation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Roundtable Sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;(all day)</td>
<td><strong>4-H Flag Raising at USDA Headquarters</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chaperone Refresher</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hotel Check-out</strong>&lt;br&gt;11 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Opening Assembly &amp; Welcome</strong></td>
<td><strong>Roundtable Sessions</strong>&lt;br&gt;(all day)</td>
<td><strong>Youth Perspective Briefing Rehearsals</strong></td>
<td><strong>Delegation Choice</strong></td>
<td><strong>Youth Perspective Briefings at Federal Agencies</strong></td>
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Arrive early to explore or visit capitol hill.

Explore or visit capitol hill after 4-H Flag Raising.

Lunch & Dinner on your own in D.C.

Stay late to explore or visit capitol hill.
Now Accepting Applications for Scholarships

Scholarship form due January 19, 2024 11:59 PM Eastern
Available to youth delegates and adult chaperones.

Steps to apply
1. Applicants complete **Part A** of the Scholarship Form with resume.
2. Applicants email form with resume to their Land-grant University or State 4-H Office.
3. Land-grant University or State 4-H Office must email forms and resumes to National4-Hconference@usda.gov by scholarship deadline.
4. If selected, scholarship recipients complete **Part B**.
Registration

Registration will be open February 1 – February 29, 2024 11:59 PM Eastern*
*or earlier if sold out

Registration fee
- Youth (double occupancy room) $920.00
- Adults (double occupancy room) $920.00
- Adults (single occupancy room) $1,425.00

National 4-H Conference Registration Form includes:
- Challenge question preference
- Dietary restrictions
- Reasonable accommodations
- Parent and/or guardian consent

Online registration system & payment
Accessibility Requests

**Reasonable Accommodations**

If you need or a youth in your delegation needs a reasonable accommodation to participate in National 4-H Conference, please contact Maurice Smith, National Program Leader, at maurice.smith2@usda.gov *no later than March 15*.

**Language Access**

If interpretation or translation services are needed, visit [Language Access Services](https://www.usda.gov) or contact Lois Tuttle, Equal Opportunity Specialist, at Lois.Tuttle@usda.gov or (443) 386-9488 *no later than March 15*. 
Next Steps

REGISTER
Online registration will be open from **February 1 to February 29** or earlier if sold out.

ATTEND CHAPERONE ORIENTATION
Chaperone Orientation will be held online on **Thursday, March 28** 4:00-5:00 pm EST.

BOOK FLIGHTS
Land-grant Universities are responsible for booking their delegation’s travel arrangements and scheduling capitol hill visits.
Key Dates

Thursday, November 16 – Friday, January 19 11:59 PM Eastern | Scholarship Period
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Thursday, February 1 – Thursday, February 29 11:59 PM Eastern or earlier if sold out | Online Registration Period
Every Tuesday in February 2:00 PM Eastern | Registration Office Hours
Thursday, March 28 4:00 PM Eastern | Chaperone Orientation
Friday, April 19 – Wednesday, April 24 | 2024 National 4-H Conference
Get excited for #N4HC24
Non-Discrimination Statement

https://www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs, are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.
Contact Us

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