OHIO 4-H

Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council Application

OVERVIEW OF THE COUNCIL

The Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council (TLC) is a statewide group of 4-H teens and young 4-H alumni that provides a youth stakeholder perspective in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of Ohio 4-H programming. In this process, council members develop knowledge, skills, attitudes, and aspirations needed for future success. Council members share advice and recommendations to 4-H professionals in order to improve, strengthen, and expand the Ohio 4-H program. Members also make recommendations regarding opportunities for Ohio 4-H teen programming. They serve as a sounding board for Ohio 4-H program direction.

TIME COMMITMENT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Number of Meetings/Events: See the program structure outline for specific numbers of meetings and events. Members are required to attend at least 75% of meetings and events.
  - Working Events: Members are required to work a number of statewide events at the Ohio State Fair, and elsewhere throughout the state (Farm Science Review, Legislative Luncheon, etc.). Each membership responsibility differs in the number of events that are required. See the program structure for more information.
- Location of meetings: Meetings are typically held at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center in Columbus, Ohio, but there are occasionally instances when they are held elsewhere due to events on Ohio State's Campus. In these instances, meetings may be held at locations close to Columbus. Members will be notified prior to the location change.
- Additional Opportunities: Depending on the level of involvement, council members have the option to apply for additional opportunities.

We urge you to encourage each county's top youth representatives between the ages of 14 and 18 to apply for the Ohio 4-H Council for the 2026-27 term (see eligibility criteria below). Below is a description of the ***"Selection Process"*** and ***"How to Apply."*** PLEASE encourage your youth to submit their applications.

Please note: in order to be eligible to serve as a committee chair, members must:

- In at least their 2nd year on TLC the year they would serve as a chair
- Have 75% or greater attendance in meetings and events (with no more than one unexcused absence)
- Be in regular communication (such as responding to emails and other requests)
- Have followed through on their TLC tasks and responsibilities
- Must be 14-18 as of January 1 in the year of application

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Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council (TLC) Program Structure

<table>
<tr><td>1st-4th Years</td><td colspan="2"><u>Council Member</u>
Individual can be at this level 1st through 4th years on council.
In addition to participation in events, individuals would serve on a committee. Committees will be the first contact for “youth voice” perspective for statewide 4-H programming.
6 in-person meetings per year, in addition to committee conference calls and communication in between meetings
Responsible for working approximately 6 events at the state fair/statewide events along with performing committee work.
Must attend the Ohio 4-H Conference (O4HC).
Committees include (see the next page for more information about the committees)
Agricultural and Animal Science
College and Career Readiness
Healthy Living
STEM
4-H Promotion & Advocacy</td></tr>
<tr><td>2nd-4th Years</td><td><u>Committee Chair</u>
Individual can be at this level 2nd-4th years on council.
In addition to participation in events, individuals would be responsible for running a committee (and participating in committee work).
6 in-person meetings and 2 conference calls (committee conference calls with officers) in addition to committee conference calls each year.
Responsible for working approximately 4 events at the state fair/statewide events ALONG with performing committee work.
Must attend the Ohio 4-H Conference (O4HC)</td><td><u>Officer</u>
Individual can be at this level 2nd-4th years on council.
In addition to participation in events, individuals would be responsible for particular officer duties
6 in-person meetings, 6+ conference calls, and officer retreat each year.
Responsible for working approximately 3 events at the state fair/statewide events ALONG with performing other duties.
Must attend the Ohio 4-H Conference (O4HC)</td></tr>
<tr><td>3rd-5th Years</td><td colspan="2"><u>Junior Advisor</u>
Individual can be at this level 3rd-5th years on council; must be 18-20 (Jan 1) when applying.
In order to be considered, youth must have previously been in an officer or committee chair position, but not necessarily in the previous year of application.
Responsible for overseeing an entire program area/event (e.g. 4-H promotion, teen luncheon, officer/committee assistance, etc.)
Must attend the Ohio 4-H Conference (O4HC).</td></tr>
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NOTES:

-Each portion of the diagram represents a different level of involvement for the youth member.

-It is NOT required to be at one level before moving to another level. The youth may have previous experience elsewhere to bring to the table which would be sufficient. However, it is likely the prior experience of being at one level before another would be beneficial to the youth.

-The number of meetings is approximate. There could be additional meetings depending on activities/events and committee work.

Ohio 4-H TLC Committees

Animal Science

Description: Best choice for teens who have experience in the area of Animal Science projects who also have a passion for sharing their expertise and knowledge. Committee members will have the opportunity to assist with state equine and livestock events throughout the year, make presentations at OFMA Junior Fair Conference and Ohio 4-H Conference, and be given ample opportunities to create excitement for Animal Science project work and activities while also enhancing their interpersonal and presentation skills.

Goals:
- Submit a presentation for OFMA and Ohio 4-H Conference
- Provide valuable support for state animal science events

Career & College Readiness

Description: Being part of the College and Career Readiness Committee means working with other teens to help students across Ohio get ready for what's next after high school. The committee creates cool resources, leads fun and interactive workshops, and shares opportunities that make planning for the future a little easier. It's all about teamwork, leadership, and helping others feel confident about their goals—whether that's college, a career, or something totally unique.

Goals:
- Lead a Workshop at the Ohio 4-H Conference
- Test out and improve career tools (MRW Work Ethics, YouScience, etc.)
- Spot the gaps in your school's career/college prep and create 4-H tools/activities to aid in the process

4-H Promotion & Advocacy

Description: The TLC 4-H Promotion and Advocacy committee works to support the planning and implementation of the Older Youth Opportunities session at the Ohio 4-H Conference, planning promotion and outreach activities at the Ohio State Fair and supporting the Teen Leadership Council with marketing and social media efforts.

Goals:
- Submit session proposal at Ohio 4-H Conference related to Older Youth Opportunities
- Plan 3-5 hands-on activities to facilitate at the Ohio State Fair 4-H Promotional Booth
- Create a social media outline for the Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council page in conjunction with the TLC VP of Marketing Officer for various events such as National and Ohio 4-H Weeks

Healthy Living

Description: The TLC Healthy Living Committee brings the 4th H, Health, to life. Whether its mindfulness, cooking, fitness, public speaking, or peer leadership, your passion for health has a place here. As a member, you can be part of initiatives that focus on improving the well-being of Ohio teens. Together, we'll ensure that 4-H lives up to its pledge of "my health to better living".

Goals:
- Plan activities that promote physical activity, stress reduction, and healthy habits
  - Add a Healthy Living component to each TLC meeting
  - Create and share healthy living games or activities that 4-H clubs can use
- Assist with the State 4-H Food Challenge Activities
- Provide input to and review of new and revised project books in the healthy living area

STEM

Description: The TLC Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) committee supports Ohio 4-H's mission to empower young people with STEM skills to think logically, solve complex problems and engage in creative innovations. As a member, your voice will help shape the future of 4-H STEM in Ohio – by sharing your ideas, promoting new opportunities and making sure more youth across the state get the chance to experience the fun of STEM.

Goals:
- Submit session proposal at Ohio 4-H Conference
- Help with STEM related event (Farm Science Review, STEAM on the Quad, WestFest: Science and Sustainability Festival, Cloverbud Design Challenge, etc.)
- Share ideas with 4-H professional STEM Design Team

ITEMS TO NOTE:
- Every TLC members selects a programmatic committee to serve on
- Each committee has a TLC member serving as a committee chair as well as a 4-H professional mentor
- Each committee has a few set goals that they are expected to accomplish, as well as room to make their own goals for the year

SELECTION PROCESS:

1. Interested Ohio 4-H members are asked to submit their completed application, program fee (see below for more details), and all requested attachments by **August 14, 2026. NOTE: Committee chair applications are due August 10, 2026**. Late applications will not be accepted. Applicants must be at least 14-18 years old as of January 1, 2026 to apply to be a council member, committee member, committee chair, and officer.
2. The Member Selection Board of the council reviews all applications, conducts interviews or reference phone calls (when necessary), and notifies candidates of their decision. The criteria for selection will be potential for success in completing the roles and responsibilities outlined above, and as evidenced by past performance in providing leadership and service to the 4-H Program, application materials, and recommendation letters.
   -Committee chair candidates will have virtual interviews Sunday, August 23, 2026. Upon submission of their application, candidates will sign up for an interview slot. Interview times will be in a time ranging from 10:00am.-3:00p.m.
   - Member candidates will have phone interviews the week of August 31, 2026. Upon submission of their application, candidates will sign up for an interview slot.

3. Those selected to join will be invited to serve a twelve-month term September 1, 2026-August 31, 2027. Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council members who successfully complete their responsibilities during their term will be invited to apply to serve additional terms in subsequent years, with each term beginning September 1.
4. If you would like to (tentatively) mark your calendar, in-person meeting dates and special events for all council members will be:
    - October 3, 2026, Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
    - November 8, 2026, Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
    - December 29, 2026 Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
    - February 20, 2027, Location TBD, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
    - REQUIRED: Ohio 4-H Conference; Columbus Convention Center, March 13, 2027
        - TLC Overnight Service and Social March 12-13, Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center
    - April 3, 2027, Location TBD, 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (Service activity in afternoon)
    - July 13, 2027, Ohio State Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
        - *Alternative OSF Training: July 9, Ohio State Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
    - August 22, 2027 - Award Recognition Program (2026-27), 6:00 p.m., Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center

    Committee chairs, officers, and junior advisor members will also have conference calls:
    - October 11, 2026, 8:00-9:00 p.m.
    - January 24, 2027, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Complete the **application** found at **https://go.osu.edu/TLCapp**.
    - See the next page for questions you will need to answer (please note: the application must be completed online).
- Ensure **two (2) reference forms** including one from an unrelated county Extension/4-H professional, and a second from another unrelated adult such as a 4-H club advisor, coach, minister, teacher, employer, or other adult who has worked with you are completed on your behalf at **https://go.osu.edu/TLCref**.
    - Please note: it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all references have been submitted on their behalf.
- **Complete payment,** which can be made online via credit card. First year applicants need to pay $50 at go.osu.edu/TLC50, and subsequent year applicants need to pay $15 at go.osu.edu/TLC15. (Funds go toward attire for the council members, nametags, service and other projects, etc.) If individuals are not selected for this role, applicants will be refunded.
- All application materials must be **received by August 14, 2026** for the applicant to receive full consideration.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS :

- Demographic information:
    - Name
    - County
    - Birthdate
    - Age
    - Gender
    - Mailing Address
    - Phone Number
    - Applicant Email
    - School / Grade
    - Years in 4-H
    - Parent / Guardian Name
    - Emergency Contact Information (Name and phone number)
    - Dietary needs / special accommodation
    - Polo shirt size / cut
- Level of Membership (member or committee chair)
- Headshot Photo
- Short 1-3 sentence biography of your 4-H experience. (Ex. Years in 4-H, 4-H Club name, projects you have taken, leadership roles in county, favorite part of 4-H). This may be used for member highlights on social media or newsletters created by committees.
- Why are you interested in the opportunity to serve as an Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council member? (100 word maximum)
- What leadership and service have you provided to the Ohio 4-H program? Please list examples and include if you have previously served on the Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council.
- What are some qualities that you have that will benefit the Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council? (100 word maximum)
- What activities, projects, or events have you participated in as a 4-H member? What are your current 4-H responsibilities?
- Describe any involvement in other organizations, school, or church.
- Please list your top 3 strengths and 1 are you would like to improve upon and why.
- Rank your preference of committees to serve on (all members will serve on one committee)
    - Agricultural and Animal Science
    - 4-H Promotion and Advocacy
    - College and Career Readiness
    - Healthy Living
    - STEM
- *Optional:* Ohio 4-H Luncheon Committee
    - In addition to standing committees, TLC also has an Ohio 4-H Teen Luncheon committee that will meet at various times throughout the year--OUTSIDE TYPICAL MEETING DATES. Any level of membership may serve on this, in addition to their other obligations to TLC.
    - The Teen Luncheon Committee helps plan to the Ohio 4-H Teen Luncheon awards program at the Ohio 4-H Conference – including the theme, key note

speaker, script, activities, decorations, and more! Members are also expected to have a speaking role at the luncheon.
    - If you are interested, you will be asked provide a few sentences why you would like to serve on that committee. Depending on interest of individuals, committees will be determined and assigned.
- *Optional:* Returning Applicants Only- Ohio 4-H Conference Steering Committee – 2 Year Term!
    - In addition to the standing committees and "Ad Hoc" Committees, we have an opportunity for returning TLC members to be a teen representative for 2 years on the Ohio 4-H Conference Steering Committee. This is a group of adult 4-H volunteers and 4-H professionals from across the state that plan the overall conference (making the program, selecting the sessions, awards, silent auction, etc.). There are 4 in-person meetings throughout the year to attend in addition to responsibilities and communications in-between meetings. Steering committee members are required to attend the Ohio 4-H Conference and may have additional responsibilities that day.
    - If you are interested, please fill out the additional questions below. 1-2 TLC members will be selected this year to fill the teen representative positions.
        - What ideas do you have for enhancing the teen experience at the Ohio 4-H Conference?
        - Please list 2 reasons why you would encourage someone to attend Ohio 4-H Conference?
        - How has attending Ohio 4-H Conference benefitted you?
        - What sub-committee would you be interested in serving on?
            - Recognition
            - Marketplace
            - Program and Education
            - Decorating
            - Marketing