National 4-H Conference

Minnesota 4-H youth will be selected for this national civic engagement opportunity.

IF I AM CHOSEN AS A MINNESOTA YOUTH DELEGATE, WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

- Prepare for conference via conference calls and research materials provided by collegiate facilitator
- Fully engage in conference
- Design and carryout a “Taking it Home” Community Action Plan with pre-conference, during-conference and post-conference planning expectations

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE, PLEASE CONTACT:

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NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE
The Premier Youth Development Opportunity of the Department of Agriculture
April 7 – 12, 2018

National 4-H Conference is the pinnacle experience in 4-H Citizenship, providing the opportunity for young people to connect, learn, engage, lead and impact their communities, their nation and their world.

MINNESOTA DELEGATE COST IS $990. NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE IS PARTIALLY FUNDED BY MINNESOTA 4-H FOUNDATION.

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What does a typical week schedule at National 4-H Conference look like?

- First Day – Travel via Air Flight
- Second Day – Pre-conference Preparation; Opening Ceremonies Delegate Activities; State Exchange
- Third Day – Roundtables; Workshops; Social Time and Global Entertainment
- Fourth Day – General Session, Workshops, Roundtables, Briefing Critique
- Fifth Day – Briefings at Federal Partners; Debriefings and Focus Groups; Learn Through Visit of Historical Monuments
- Sixth Day – Visit with Elected Officials at the Nation’s Capital and Capitol tour; Explore the National Mall and Museums; State’s Night Out Event
- Seventh Day – Conference Close and Travel Home

HOW DO I APPLY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS NATIONAL OPPORTUNITY?

In September, the full application process can be found on the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development website under 4-H events National 4-H Conference at: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/events/

Qualifications:
- Be 15 years old by January 1, 2018 and cannot be older than 19 by June 1, 2018; and must be at least a sophomore in high school. (Note: Selection preference will be for youth delegates who are sophomores and juniors in high school during 2017-2018 school year).
- See additional qualifications at website above.

Application Materials:
- Program Staff Recommendation Form
- Youth Applicant Application Form Including the Paying it Forward “Taking it Home” Community Action Plan Contract
- Non-Relative Adult Recommendation Form

A committee will select four Minnesota youth delegates for this national civic engagement event. Taken into consideration are qualifications, application materials, recommendation forms, and the agreement to “Minnesota Delegate Responsibilities” found on backside of this brochure. In addition, an interview will be held via conference call or skype that will include:
- Interview questions
- One-minute speech on how to market 4-H to someone who does not know about 4-H.
- One-minute comments on the following: identification of a community issue and identifying a possible community action plan that would address the issue.

WHY A “TAKING IT HOME” COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN?

EMPOWERED CITIZENS ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

4-H Citizenship programs empower young people to be well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world. The “Taking it Home” Community Action Plan process will help youth delegates to understand their role in becoming engaged citizens.

NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

One of the premier objectives of this conference is to help youth understand the process that is used to help young people become social change agents. Youth delegates will have an opportunity to give input into issues identified by federal partners. Youth will explore the issue through research and brainstorm solutions. They will then present back to the federal partner on a recommended action plan that could address the issue.

TAKING LEARNING BACK HOME

The “Taking it Back” Community Action plan was developed to help youth take the process learned at this national conference and use it to address an issue back in their home state. It is recommended that youth identify an adult who will help carryout this community action plan. Resources will be available.

DIRECT LINK TO NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE WEBSITE

http://4-h.org/parents/national-4-h-conference/