APPLICANT INFORMATION PACKET
Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors

Minnesota 4-H Ambassador programs engage youth to represent 4-H. Through citizenship education and leadership activities, the Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors contribute meaningfully to 4-H and to their communities.

ELIGIBILITY
Any youth currently involved in Minnesota 4-H and its programs who has completed at least the tenth grade and is eligible for 4-H through the duration of the term ending in June 2016, is able to apply. Previous participation in activities conducted by State Ambassadors, such as BLU and YELLO! is helpful, but is not required.

EXPECTATIONS
The State Ambassador program is a time-intensive program and requires full participation to build relationships with team members, plan for events, and be prepared for State Ambassador activities. The program begins in late July 2015, and will conclude in mid-June 2016. Key expectations include:

• To uphold and abide by the Minnesota 4-H Code of Conduct throughout the duration of their appointment as a State Ambassador, inside and outside of 4-H events;
• To participate fully in all required State Ambassador activities (see included schedule);
• To be a positive role model to and representative of all youth involved in Minnesota 4-H;
• To actively promote inclusion and respect for diversity within 4-H programs;
• To be responsible for providing or arranging personal transportation to all activities/events;
• To be prompt in response to emails and/or phone calls from advisors;
• To be willing to engage in a youth-adult partnership model of leadership.

Once appointed, failure to uphold these expectations may jeopardize your opportunity to complete the State Ambassador term.
KEY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES
The State Ambassadors serve in a variety of key roles throughout the year. The following are the minimum expectations of participation:

- Participate in four retreats designed to plan the State Ambassador year, BLU, and YELLO!
- Implement five regional overnight leadership retreats, 4-H Building Leadership & Understanding (BLU) – attendance of all Ambassadors at all BLUs is not expected or required
- Implement a statewide leadership conference, 4-H Youth Exploring Leadership & Learning Out loud! (YELLO!)
- Host 4-H youth at the Minnesota State Fair and support implementation of 4-H activities at fair
- Promote Minnesota 4-H to various stakeholders through public speaking, writing, and/or creating material for sharing on social media or web communication

APPLICATION PROCESS
Interested applicants will need to complete the following steps no later than May 15, 2015, at 11:59pm Central. All forms are available at: http://www.4-h.umn.edu/ambassadors

1. Review all details in the Applicant Information Packet
2. Complete the online 4-H State Ambassador program application – a list of questions is provided in this packet so you can prepare your answers in advance.
3. Ask a local 4-H staff or 4-H volunteer to complete a recommendation form on your behalf no later than May 15, 2015. This person should not be a member of your immediate family, but somebody who is knowledgeable about your 4-H involvement.

Semi-finalists will be contacted by a member of the selection committee to set up an in-person interview in their region. All interviews will be held between May 20 & June 1 – specific dates will be determined by the number of applicants and availability of the interview committee. Semi-finalists will be expected to:

1. Participate in a 15-20 minute interview with members of the selection committee.
2. Prepare ahead of time, and deliver a 5-7 minute presentation, choosing one of four topics provided to you. The purpose of the presentation is to evaluate your presentation style, skills, and approach to the topic. Topics are available at the end of this application packet.

*If you are unable to participate in an interview during these dates due to other commitments, please explain your situation in the application.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION
The Extension Center for Youth Development is committed to ensuring that the Ambassador Program is representative of the diversity of Minnesota, is represented by youth who are exceptional in their leadership/service to their communities, and can professionally represent the entire Minnesota 4-H Youth Development Program. Additionally, applicants will be scored on the following: application and written questions, interview, prepared presentation, recommendation from 4-H staff or 4-H volunteer they have worked with in their 4-H career. We are a youth
development program, and there is a considerable amount of learning that occurs in the program as well. Ideally, applicants should:

- Be interested in developing and/or enhancing skills related to leadership, such as conflict resolution, facilitation, teamwork, decision-making, respect, and communication; and
- Be able to accept and incorporate constructive criticism to enhance skills; and
- Be willing to explore and apply diverse concepts of citizenship; and
- Have basic skills in teaching others, facilitating discussions, and public speaking; and

KEY DATES FOR APPLICANTS

- May 15, 2015 – Application Due Date – including recommendation from 4-H staff person
- May 18, 2015 – Notification of interview sent to semi-finalists via email
- May 21-June 1, 2015 – In-person interviews for all semi-finalists
- June 15, 2015 – All applicants notified of selection status via email

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Selected Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors are provided with the following resources to support them in their role:

- Partial State Ambassador uniform – a personalized jersey and polo shirt
- Nametag for use at official events
- T-shirt for 4-H BLU and 4-H YELLO!
- Housing and meals at orientation, all retreats, and official events that are attended – State Fair, 4-H BLU, and 4-H YELLO!

Training for the role is provided, including, but not limited to:

- Understanding Minnesota 4-H and 4-H as a national youth leadership organization
- Public speaking and communicating your 4-H story
- Working in teams, decision making, conflict resolution
- Planning and implementing service-learning activities
- Working with technology tools

Selected Ambassadors are responsible for the following:

- Transportation to/from all required events – carpooling is encouraged when possible
- Partial State Ambassador uniform – khakis, jeans, close-toed shoes
- Communicating via email

If you are concerned about any of these items, please contact Jacquie at jlonning@umn.edu to discuss.

QUESTIONS?

Jacquie Lonning, State Program Director, Citizenship & Leadership
612-624-9117 – jlonning@umn.edu
2015-16 STATE AMBASSADOR CALENDAR

The events listed below are components of the State Ambassador program. Please review these closely prior to applying for a role. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us to discuss – we are happy to visit with you about the experience.

All dates except Orientation are currently being finalized, so consider them tentative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Location</th>
<th>Meeting/Event</th>
<th>Participation Expectations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2-4</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota Twin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cities Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 25-26</td>
<td>Minnesota State Fair Training</td>
<td>Required if attending State Fair as an Ambassador</td>
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<td>State Fairgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 27-September 7</td>
<td>Minnesota State Fair</td>
<td>Highly recommended</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Fairgrounds</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 13-15</td>
<td>Fall Retreat (BLU &amp; Promotion Planning)</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Cloud Area</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 15-17</td>
<td>Winter Retreat (BLU Finalization &amp; Practice)</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Cloud Area</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 6-7 – Central – St. Cloud</td>
<td>BLUs (1 per region)</td>
<td>Required to attend your region’s BLU, optional for others</td>
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<td>February 20-21 – Northwest - Moorhead</td>
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<td>February 20-21 – Southeast – Rochester</td>
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<td>February 27-28 – Northeast – Duluth</td>
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<td>February 27-28 – Southwest – Marshall</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11-13</td>
<td>Spring Retreat (YELLO! Planning &amp; Practice)</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>St. Cloud Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8-12</td>
<td>YELLO! Conference</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>Minnesota State Fairgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>State Ambassador Celebration</td>
<td>Optional, but we’d love to have you there!</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Paul Area</td>
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Application Questions

These questions are provided only to allow you to prepare your answers in advance. Your application MUST be submitted using the online form found at: http://www.4-h.umn.edu/ambassadors

- Basic information: name, address, phone, email address, academic grade, county, region, name of the 4-H leader completing your letter of recommendation

- Essay questions:
  - Why are you interested in being a Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador? What would you bring to the team? What would you hope to get out of the experience?
  - What are main 4-H project areas and activities you are currently involved with? Identify one skill you have learned from each project you identify.
  - If you were selected as a State Ambassador, how would it benefit your county and/or region?
  - The Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors are highly engaged in teamwork. What is your greatest strength in working as part of a team and what is your greatest weakness?
  - What ideas do you have to promote Minnesota 4-H?
  - How do you manage conflict in groups? Can you describe a time when successfully resolved a conflict in a group?

- Informational questions:
  - Have you ever participated in BLU or YELLO! (not required, but may be helpful)?
  - Describe your availability for the planned interview dates
  - A key role for the Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors is working at the State Fair. If you are participating in State Fair as a State Ambassador, we work around your 4-H schedule, but there will be very limited time to participate in non-4-H activities such as FFA projects, working in the food stands, etc. Describe your plans for the 2015 Minnesota State Fair - what projects are you hoping to take to fair? What other commitments are you looking to have? When do you start school? Note: your lack of ability to participate is encouraged, but will not affect your selection
  - Please review the planned dates in the provided schedule. Indicate if you foresee any difficulties meeting any of the dates. Think of - your spring/winter breaks, family or school vacations, school start dates, prom/homecoming, etc. Also, note that these dates are tentative.
Interview Topics

On May 16, an email will be sent to all semi-finalists inviting them to participate in an interview with a selection team of 3-5 youth and adults. During the interview time, a series of questions will be asked, and applicants will also need to prepare and deliver a 5-7 minute presentation on one of the following topics. A standard projector and laptop will be available for your presentation, but you are not required to use it. Do not expect additional items to be available to you.

In preparation of your potential interview, the following topics have been provided in advance. You should select **only one** of the following topics for your presentation. Not all applicants will be invited to interview.

1. Minnesota is changing and the Minnesota State Ambassadors need to change to reflect Minnesota. How would you address making the State Ambassadors more reflective of a changing Minnesota? When thinking about your response, you may include (but are not limited to) race, gender, ability, ethnic background, identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, etc.

2. In Minnesota 4-H, a big problem we face is losing our first-time members. What role can the Ambassadors play in remedying this challenge?

3. The State Ambassadors’ feature programs, BLU and YELLO!, are always in a state of constant improvement. Our 4-H Program Leader, Dorothy McCargo Freeman has encouraged us to focus BLU and YELLO! to make participants “active citizens.” How would you lead this charge? What outcomes do you hope to have? Would there be other enhancements that you would make to BLU and YELLO!?

4. Present about a community effort you have been involved with, discuss your role, and clearly state the outcomes of the project. What impact has your work had on the community? What have you learned from the project? How has it transformed or added to your understanding of service and community?