National 4-H Conference

National 4-H Conference is a working conference. Delegates attend workshops and discuss issues in teams to suggest future programming for 4-H on a national, state, and local basis. Delegates meet with federal legislators on Capitol Hill to discuss the impact of 4-H and Extension programming in their areas.

The overall purpose of the National 4-H Conference is to provide meaningful involvement of representative groups of 4-H participants in program development at the national level.

Conference Dates: April 9 - 14, 2016
Conference Location: National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, Maryland

Selection Procedure

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| National 4-H Conference | Grade 9-11 at time of application | Application must be submitted online by 11:59 PM February 1, 2015. Interview March 28, 2015 | Evaluation & interview at State level. 4 Delegates selected. (Cost: TBD, contingent on donor support and cost of trip.) | Application questions and up to 2 pages of support material (see application for format) | *Can attend one time only  
*One national trip/year |

The Conference Objectives

- Help selected youth and adults develop to their maximum potential by providing opportunities to participate actively in 4-H program development at the national level.

- Assist states in involving youth, volunteers, and professional staff directly in 4-H program planning.

- Provide an opportunity for input by youth, volunteers, and professional staff into National 4-H Program Development Committee discussions.

- Provide a system for an exchange of 4-H programming ideas among states.

- Provide a national experience for 4-H participants to update government officials, national association, donor groups, etc., in Washington, D.C. on current developments in 4-H at national, state and local levels.
• Help national and state 4-H program leaders keep abreast of “grass roots” needs, concerns and program ideas by counseling directly with youth, volunteers and field staff professionals working in 4-H from varying backgrounds and experiences.

Suggested Criteria for Selection of Participants

1. Have experience in local, county, area and/or state advisory groups, councils, etc.

2. Be willing and able to do considerable work in the state prior to the Conference to obtain facts, ideas, etc., of local people regarding areas of youth and 4-H programming to be discussed.

3. Represent different segments of society in the state: males, females, Native Americans, Asian-Americans, Latinos, Afro-Americans, Caucasians, etc.

4. Be willing to grow personally.

5. Commit to make significant contributions within 4-H following your trip. This includes reports to state 4-H staff and donors.

6. Be able to work with different people in various situations.

7. Have a curiosity about new things, people, events.

8. Be able to cope with ambiguity and not just rush to solve problems to get on with business.

9. Care about others.

10. Be willing to share follow-up program insights gained with appropriate county, area and state staff and committees.

Participants

Pending available funds, Iowa plans to send four youth and one adult, which will be a staff member and serve as group coordinator. Donors pay for the major portion of program and travel expenses.

Find out what former participants had to say about National 4-H Conference at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/recognition-opportunities. This site contains video clips of delegates sharing what made them successful and what they gained from National 4-H Conference.