



United States Department of Agriculture | National Institute of Food and Agriculture | 4-H National Headquarters

Collegiate 4-H Programs

The purpose of a collegiate 4-H program is service, leadership development and professional development. Collegiate 4-H activities can range from working directly with state, county, or local 4-H groups to serving as volunteer leaders for projects, educational workshops, contests, judging competitions, or assisting with service projects. Additionally, collegiate 4-H programs are to be actively involved in campus activities through the involvement in community service projects and promoting positive youth development.

Membership Benefits

Collegiate 4-H membership is open to any college student whether they have previously been in 4-H or not. As a member of a collegiate 4-H program students have the opportunity to interact and engage with faculty and staff of the state's Extension and 4-H Programs, as well as work with volunteers and 4-H youth throughout their community and state. Membership allows collegiate 4-H members to explore career and volunteer opportunities within Cooperative Extension and 4-H. Attending professional development conferences, career networking events, and facilitating experiences for youth are all common activities in collegiate 4-H programs.

For example:

Regional and National Conference Opportunities

Collegiate 4-H programs are campus based organizations associated with their respective state 4-H programs. However, historically, collegiate 4-H programs have hosted invitational regional and/or national 4-H workshops/conferences open to collegiate 4-H programs across the country. Any conference hosted in the name of collegiate 4-H needs to be designed around an agenda of service, leadership development, and professional development. Conferences or events that involve multiple states must follow all [event guidelines](#) as outlined by [4-H National Headquarters](#).

Organizational Structure

Every state (including US territories and the District of Columbia) has a least one land-grant institution. These land-grant institutions are responsible for the chartering of collegiate 4-H programs taking place at any school within that same state. These programs must follow the rules and guidelines set forth from the state 4-H office and follow all policies and procedures of their respective college/university in order to be recognized as an official campus organization. These two processes are required essential components for recognition.

Every collegiate 4-H program needs to have an advisor. Advisors must meet the requirements from the college/university to serve in the advisor role, and have an interest in youth development and 4-H. For more information on establishing a 4-H program in your state contact your [state 4-H office](#).

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