



## THE NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE

Bringing hundreds of 4-H'ers to the nation's capital each spring, the National 4-H Conference is the flagship youth development opportunity of USDA, hosted by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Known as the "Secretary's Conference," this nationally recognized event aims to develop the next generation of leaders to create positive change in America.

**"I was able to grow as a leader and in my passion for civic engagement. This experience helped me want to be more involved in our nation." - YOUTH DELEGATE**



### PURPOSE

The National 4-H Conference is an exciting educational, civic engagement and leadership opportunity. Young people are provided opportunities to:

- Share their voice with Federal officials on important issues to impact decision making
- Learn, practice, and apply new skills
- Generalize knowledge to create change in their home community

4-H'ers are **future scientists, business leaders, government officials, educators, and community leaders**. Participants in the National 4-H Conference will acquire valuable information, build networks, and become inspired to make a difference in their local community. Those who participate in the National 4-H Conference report increased leadership, civic engagement, agency, and social and cultural competence.



Learn more at <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/national-4-h-conference>



## HOW IT WORKS

There are many ways young people, as well as Federal partners and Land-grant Colleges and Universities, can benefit from participating in the National 4-H Conference:

- **Federal Partners** play a key role by presenting an issue of importance on which they would like to receive youth perspective. Federal partners provide young people an opportunity to see firsthand how they can influence government decision making.
- **Land-grant Universities** are invited to select and send high school-aged 4-H participants (ages 15-19), along with chaperones, to the National 4-H Conference. Each is encouraged to partner within their state to select a delegation based on age, background, geographic distribution and/or experience with 4-H.
- **Youth Delegates** choose the topic, research the issue, work with their peers to develop a 45-minute briefing and formally present their recommendations to the Federal partner. They can also apply to serve in various leadership roles at the National 4-H Conference.

## YOUTH PERSPECTIVE BRIEFING

The roundtable experience provides young people with an opportunity to think critically about current issues posed by Federal agencies. By providing a youth perspective and recommend new ideas, delegates contribute to positive change.



## EXPLORATION & DISCOVERY

The 4-H Youth Expo provides delegates and collegiate facilitators the opportunity to discover and learn about issues of importance, focusing on citizenship, leadership, and agricultural prosperity.

## MONUMENT TOURS

The National 4-H Conference schedule of events includes a guided evening tour of the National Mall to explore popular monuments and memories.

