

MONTANA 4-H AMBASSADOR OFFICER APPLICATION INFORMATION

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 15

ABOUT

The Montana 4-H State Ambassador program provides opportunities for youth to represent 4-H through leadership and service at the state level. State Ambassador Officers are a select team of Montana 4-H Ambassadors that have demonstrated leadership in their county 4-H programs, and who are interested in developing and refining skills to teach other 4-H youth about leadership, promotion and service.

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The State Ambassador program is a time-intensive program and requires full participation in all required event activities in order to adequately fulfill their role.

Key expectations include:

- To uphold and abide by the Montana 4-H Code of Conduct throughout the duration of their appointment as a State Ambassador Officer, beginning on the first day of Orientation in July.
- To participate in 100% of all required State Ambassador Officer events and activities. (schedule on page 3)
- To be a positive role model to and representative of all youth involved in Montana 4-H
- To be willing to work with team members to establish and meet objectives
- To be responsible for providing or arranging their own transportation to all activities/events with support from team advisors
- To be prompt in response to emails and other forms of communication
- To be willing to engage in a youth-adult partnership model of leadership

The Montana 4-H Ambassador Officer Team is financially supported by the Montana 4-H Foundation with a budget for travel and expenses. Gas and meals are reimbursed when traveling for official team activities. The officers and/or their families will not be financially responsible for registration or lodging at required events.

IDEAL SKILLS OF APPLICANTS

The Montana 4-H State Ambassador program is a youth development program that strives to exemplify the ultimate in youth citizenship & leadership in Montana. Those interested in applying for the officer team should:

- Self-starter, motivated to do their best at all times with minimal instruction**
- Someone who is willing to go above and beyond without being asked
- Be interested in developing and/or enhancing skills related to leadership, such as: conflict resolution, facilitation, teamwork, decision-making, respect, and communication
- Be able to accept and incorporate constructive criticism to enhance their own skills and the strength of the team
- Be willing to explore and apply diverse concepts of leadership, service and promotion.
- Have basic skills in teaching others, facilitating discussions, and public speaking.
- Comfortable talking to large groups

ELIGIBILITY

1. Must be a current Ambassador (2015-2016) who will be in high school during the coming year (2016-2017).
2. Must be willing to devote the time necessary to become an effective State Ambassador Officer.
3. Fulfill all Montana State Ambassador qualifications as outlined in the 4-H Ambassador Handbook.

APPLICATION

1. Submit your completed Montana 4-H Ambassador Officer application form to the State 4-H Office by June 15. Send Applications to:

4-H Center for Youth Development
ATTN: Ambassador Officer Application
210 Taylor Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717

2. Have two letters of recommendation sent to the State 4-H Office or sealed and included with the application. One letter must be from a person associated with 4-H. One letter must be from someone who is not associated with 4-H.

Neither letter can be from someone who is directly related to the candidate. These letters will be shared with each member of the selection committee.

INTERVIEW

1. Interview will be conducted by a selection committee at Montana 4-H Congress. *The interviews will not conflict with participation in congress events.*
2. The selection committee will include the following 14 people:
 - TWO retiring state officers
 - ONE representative from State 4-H Council
 - ONE representative from State Foundation
 - ONE county agent or other representative as chosen by the State office.
 - ONE representative from each of the (8) Montana 4-H Districts
 - ONE Collegiate 4-H member

The committee is advised by a retired State Ambassador officer and the State 4-H office.

Montana 4-H is committed to ensuring that the Ambassador program is represented by an officer team made up of youth who are exceptional in their leadership and service skills, and can professionally represent the entire Montana 4-H Youth Development Program. Additionally, applicants will be scored on the application's written questions, interview, presentation, and recommendations.

ELECTIONS

1. Based on the information provided by the nominee's application, letters of recommendations, and interview, the selection committee will present their nominations for the 5 state officers to all voting ambassadors at the Ambassador Meeting.
2. This nomination must be passed by a majority vote.
3. If the nomination fails it will be returned to the selection committee. The new nomination will be accepted as presented.

SCHEDULE OF AMBASSADOR OFFICER TEAM EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES*

Officer Candidates should expect to schedule these dates at the beginning of the year in order to attend all of the required events and activities. If conflicts exist the expectation is that they be made known during the officer retreat in September.

- ★ Officers should expect to attend one conference call a month
- ★ Officers should expect to spend a minimum of 2+ hours a week on Officer duties.
- ★ Officers should expect to plan/facilitate/attend one activity or event of their own choosing ATLEAST once a month.

It is expected that being a state officer is a priority and should exhibit a high level of commitment to the officer team.

2016

July-September	Various county fairs throughout the state (Officers discretion)
August/September	Ambassador Officer Retreat (possible date 9/2-4) (REQUIRED)
October	September 30 – October 2: Montana 4-H Leadership Forum (REQUIRED) 20-22: Ambassador Fall Training–Bozeman (REQUIRED)
November	TBA: Ag Days (OPTIONAL)

2017

January	14-16 Ambassador Officer Retreat (REQUIRED) 16-17 Montanans for 4-H legislative Breakfast (REQUIRED) TBA: MT 4-H Council Meeting - (Council Representative Only) 19-20 MAGIE and KMON Great Falls (PREFERRED)
February	TBA: Foundation Meeting - (Foundation Trustee Only)
March/April	TBA: Rec Lab (REQUIRED)
May/June	TBA: Spring Officer Retreat (REQUIRED)
July	9-11 Pre Congress – Bozeman (REQUIRED) 11-15 Congress – Bozeman (REQUIRED)

**These dates are subject to change and there will be many more events (ex: board meetings, conference calls, etc.).*

If you have any questions regarding the application process or the Ambassador program please contact:
Brett Schomer, bschomer@montana.edu

MONTANA 4-H AMBASSADOR OFFICER APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____ Grade this fall: _____

County: _____ Age: _____

Years in 4-H: _____ GPA: _____

Describe your significant 4-H leadership roles and responsibilities, both past and present.

Describe your non-4-H leadership experience within your community.

What do you believe are the three most important characteristics of a good leader? How do you exemplify these characteristics and/or how do you hope to demonstrate those characteristics in the future?

The ambassador officer team is highly engaged in teamwork. What is your greatest strength working as a part of a team and what is your greatest weakness?

What are three of your accomplishments as a Montana 4-H County Ambassador? What was the most rewarding aspect of being a county ambassador?

If your best friend was asked to describe you, what would they say in three words.

How would you describe 4-H to a possible funder? What do you think is the greatest contribution 4-H makes your community?

Why are you interested in being a member of the Montana 4-H Ambassador Officer Team? What would you bring to the team and what would you hope to get out of the experience?

(500 words or less.)

INCLUDE TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.

One letter must be from a person associated with 4-H.

One letter must be from someone who is NOT associated with 4-H.

Neither letter can be from someone who is directly related to the candidate

SIGNATURES



I have read the Montana 4-H Ambassador Officer application information. I understand and agree to the expectation and responsibilities of me if selected as a Montana 4-H Ambassador Officer. I also verify that this application is my own work and represents my skills adequately.

Applicant

Date



I have reviewed this application and believe the applicant prepared to fulfill the role of Montana 4-H Ambassador Officer and meet the expectations and responsibilities if selected.

MSU Extension Agent

Date



I have reviewed the application information and understand the commitment and responsibility the youth applicant will be making if selected to be a Montana 4-H Ambassador Officer.

Parent or Guardian of Applicant

Date

MONTANA 4-H IS THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF MSU EXTENSION



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Montana State University and the Montana State University Extension prohibit discrimination in all of their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and family status. Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jeff Bader, Director of Extension, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717.