

Frequently Asked Questions Oregon 4-H Ambassador Program

1. Do I have to become an Ambassador in order to apply for National 4-H Congress?

No. The Ambassador Program and National 4-H Congress are two completely different programs.

2. Can I be nominated by my county agent to become a state ambassador?

Your agent can invite you to apply but all applicants go through the same process. You must complete the Ambassador application, have a reference form, and be approved by your county agent (as noted by their signature on the application) before you will can interview to be a State Ambassador

3. Can I use my 4-H Resume as my application to be an Ambassador? No/partially. To apply to be a state ambassador you must complete the Ambassador application. However, the summary section of the resume can be used for part of the Ambassador application.

4. What grade do I have to be in to apply to become a State 4-H Ambassador? For the 2010-11 school years you must be in the 10th or 11th grade. This means you would serve as an ambassador your junior and/or senior year in high school.

5. What is the difference between County 4-H Ambassadors and State 4-H Ambassador Team members?

County 4-H ambassadors have been approved by their county 4-H agent and have completed the training at 4-H Summer Conference. They return to their county to serve as a youth resource by working closely with the county 4-H staff in conducting and promoting 4-H events. Their primary responsibility is in their county, although they may be involved in more widespread activities. They typically take more of a leadership role and may plan activities as well as host them. Statewide Ambassador Team members are selected during the Summer Conference Ambassador Training. They do not plan activities but do serve as hosts at them. Their job is to effectively tell the 4-H story to a variety of audiences such as legislators, donors, leaders and potential 4-Hers.

7. How do I apply to become a member of the State Ambassador Team?

On the ambassador application form, check the statement on page two that indicates you are interested in the State Ambassador Team. During Summer Conference, you will participate in an interview process. You will also be observed during Summer Conference for your level of participation, enthusiasm, promptness to sessions and ability to effectively present yourself in a positive manner.

8. Do I have to participate in the summer Ambassador Training every year in order to continue to be a 4-H Ambassador? No, you only need to attend ambassador training once.

10. If I am selected as a State Ambassador, how long do I serve in that role?

Once selected, you will remain an active State Ambassador for the remainder of your career as a 4-H member.

There are two exceptions:

- 1) You choose to resign from being a State Ambassador or
- 2) You do not meet the expectations of being a State Ambassador. (This could be a violation of the 4-H Code of Conduct or failure to be an active ambassador.) As far as being an ambassador for 4-H, it is our hope that you will be a “4-H ambassador for life”, always supporting and promoting of the 4-H program.

11. I have 4-H camp at the same time as Summer Conference and can't be at the selection/training, can I still be on the State Ambassador team?

Yes/possibly. Since there are a limited number of positions on the state ambassador team and it is important that State Ambassadors be committed to the program, preference may be shown to those who are physically at the training. Applicants who cannot make the training should work with their 4-H agent and the state ambassador advisor to determine an individual plan. Exceptions will only be made for members at 4-H events (i.e. 4-H camp), not members participating in rodeo courts, sports camps, or other such events.

12. What costs are associated with being a state ambassador?

We try very hard to keep the costs associated with being a state ambassador low. Typically apparel is provided free of charge, the annual retreat is also done at no cost to the ambassadors. Ambassadors are responsible for their own travel to and from events (i.e. state fair, summer conference, retreat). For ambassadors that may live a distance away from an event we try to organize carpooling and have parents driving from long distances chaperone so they have a place to stay at no charge as well.

13. What should I wear at my State Ambassador interview?

We want to get to know the real you and how you might act while interacting with the public. Part of being a good ambassador is your judgment and that includes clothing choice. We don't require you to “dress up.” More, we would like to see how you would dress if you were at the fair, a recruitment day, or other event. Think neat, clean, and appropriate. Look at your outfit through the eyes of parents of an elementary school child. Would they see you and think this is an organization they want their child to be a part of?