

## STATE 4-H AMBASSADOR PROGRAM DETAILS

The State 4-H Ambassador program began in 1995 to recognize teens for standards of excellence and leadership in Ohio 4-H. All Ohio 4-H teens who have achieved excellence in 4-H work, 4-H participation, 4-H citizenship, 4-H leadership, 4-H officer/committee work, and other-than-4-H leadership are invited to apply for position on the State 4-H Ambassador Team.

### **State 4-H Ambassador Purposes are:**

1. to recognize 4-H teens who have achieved high standards of excellence in their 4-H program or project work, in citizenship, and in leadership.
2. to provide Ohio 4-H teens who become Ambassadors with opportunities and experiences to enhance their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and aspirations in leadership, citizenship, communications and public relations, scholarship, and related areas of interest and need.
3. to enable teens who become Ambassadors to serve as 4-H spokespersons in order to develop and strengthen 4-H partnerships with government officials, the media, state associations, donors, civic groups, parents, volunteers, and others.
4. to provide meaningful opportunities for teens to be actively involved and valued as equal partners in defining, developing, implementing, diversifying, and improving 4-H youth development in Ohio.
5. to involve teens in expanding 4-H marketing and promotion efforts and in managing the Ohio 4-H image to ensure compatibility with our vision, mission, and values.

### ***State 4-H Ambassador Responsibilities***

Being a State 4-H Ambassador is both a tremendous honor and an important responsibility. Teens who are installed as State 4-H Ambassadors hold that title for life, unless they resign or are discharged for cause from the program. The term of active status for each State 4-H Ambassador is currently one year. Active status begins with the Orientation Program when the individual is initiated into the program, and ends at the conclusion of the Recognition Program after which the next group of State 4-H Ambassadors is installed.

Throughout their tenure as active and graduate State 4-H Ambassadors, Ambassadors have the responsibility of maintaining high standards of excellence related to the 4-H pledge commitments of clearer thinking, greater loyalty, larger service, and better living, for the betterment of their clubs, communities, country, and world. Teens who complete the 4-H Ambassador application, and are selected will be sent an application to serve Ohio 4-H as a State Ambassador. Teens who have been selected and chose to accept will be expected to complete the following during their one year active term:

- ✕ Develop knowledge, attitudes, skills & aspirations related to leadership, citizenship & service, communications, promotion & public relations, scholarship, and personal areas of interest.
- ✕ Participate in the State 4-H Ambassador Orientation Program Saturday, March 10, 2012 during the Ohio 4-H Teen Conference at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.
- ✕ Participate in two **MANDATORY** leadership training sessions scheduled for the **March 31st and April 14, 2012**, to be held at the *Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center*. **THESE ARE NOT OPTIONAL**. If you have participated or registered to participate in the Buckeye

Leadership work shop in 2012 ([www.BuckeyeLeadership.com](http://www.BuckeyeLeadership.com)) or if you have participated in the State 4-H Leadership Camp within the last two years, provisions can be made for one of the two required sessions at the discretion of the State 4-H Ambassador Advisory Team.

- ✕ Serve as emcees, committee members, and in other roles at the Ohio 4-H Teen Conference, State Fair 4-H Events, and other state 4-H programs.
- ✕ Assist as needed in planning, implementing, and evaluating statewide 4-H programs such as: subject matter conferences, volunteer training sessions and recognition programs, member recognition programs, new 4-H project development, etc.
- ✕ Represent Ohio 4-H members on statewide program and development committees.
- ✕ Work with other State 4-H Ambassadors to plan, implement & evaluate an Ambassador project to strengthen, promote, and publicize the Ohio 4-H youth development program.

### **Costs**

The State 4-H Ambassador program is organized to be as cost-efficient as possible...

- ✕ Expenses associated with Ambassador presentations and appearances will be handled by the hosting program. For example, the State Fair will provide admission and parking passes for Ambassadors who have responsibilities there. Similarly, Ambassadors who speak at banquets or conduct Ambassador programs at conferences should receive free meals and registrations.
- ✕ A list of state wide meetings will be supplied to the 4-H Ambassadors during the Orientation at the Ohio 4-H Teen Conference. Ohio 4-H provides sponsorship so that meeting facilities, speakers, programs, educational materials and other resources are available to Ambassadors. However, Ambassadors are expected to provide their own transportation and other expenses associated with attending the regular statewide Ambassadors meetings.
- ✕ Ambassadors are also expected to secure the funds necessary to pay their own program costs, meals, lodging if necessary, and transportation for the State 4-H Ambassador Orientation, State Fair, Ohio 4-H Teen Conference, and for their Recognition and Graduation Commencement. A limited amount of sponsorship to support these expenses is available in many counties. Contact your Extension 4-H Educator to see if such support is available in your county.

### **How To Apply**

All Ohio 4-H teens are eligible who:

1. are high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors on January 1 of the year of application,
2. are approved by their 4-H Educators as good representatives of the Ohio 4-H Youth Development Program,
3. accept the invitation to be State 4-H Ambassadors,
4. agree to meet the terms and conditions of the program, and
5. agree to participate in and complete the State 4-H Ambassadors Orientation

All Ohio teen 4-H'ers are invited to complete the *State 4-H Ambassador Application* to apply to be considered for the 2012 State 4-H Ambassador Team. To apply, complete the following application and return it to the County Extension Office before the county deadline. Deadlines vary from county to county, but all applications are due to the State 4-H Office by February 6, 2012.