

Texas 4-H Council



The Texas 4-H Council is a team of 4-H members elected by their peers from across the state of Texas. Serving as ambassadors for the Texas 4-H program, members represent the organization statewide while collaborating with Extension faculty to plan, coordinate, and facilitate activities and events.



Texas 4-H Council membership is open to all youth, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation or gender identity. Representation may consist of two delegates from each District 4-H Council selected at the District level according to state/district guidelines. Six members will be elected during LEAD Academy as at-large delegates. All delegates will share the same rights and privileges as members of Texas 4-H Council.



Texas 4-H Council membership is conferred after participation and completion of the entire Texas 4-H Council Workshop. If an elected delegate is unable to participate in the entire workshop, they forfeit their space on the Texas 4-H Council to another delegate who can participate in the training. However, they will still retain their elected district office as deemed appropriate by the district by-laws.



There are specific events/activities/meetings that are required of the elected officers. These same activities are encouraged of all members. Dates for the following events are distributed as soon as they are known to the advisors.

- State Fair of Texas Honor Awards; Dallas
- Fall Meeting; Dallas
- Junior Leadership Retreat; Brownwood
- January Planning Meeting; Brownwood
- Texas 4-H Roundup; College Station
- Texas 4-H Congress; Austin



Expectations for Texas 4-H Council members

- Be engaged in regularly scheduled business and planning meetings
- Serve as positive role models for other 4-H members
- Uphold the high ideals, values and standards of the Texas 4-H program
- Work with Extension faculty in planning and conducting District and State events and activities
- Seek opportunities to expand and diversify audiences and programs of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program
- Be committed to the Council and work to fulfill the selected goals and responsibilities
- Be dedicated to personal development while having fun and respecting the differences in others



Texas 4-H Council – Election of delegates

General Information

- Texas 4-H Council membership will consist of a total of 30 delegates.
- A maximum of two delegates will be elected from each district in accordance with district by-laws.
- In addition to the elected District representatives, six at-large delegates will be elected by the entire Texas 4-H Program senior level membership during LEAD Academy/Texas 4-H Roundup. These six delegates have no restrictions or quotas regarding district representation.
- Delegates elected to the at-large positions will serve at the state level and will not have district responsibilities. At-large positions will have equal state level rights and privileges as all other positions.
- Minimum age/grade requirements will have to be met by all delegates.
- All delegates must participate in a mandatory Texas 4-H Council Workshop held in the summer to become an official member of Texas 4-H Council.
- Delegates would serve a one-year term on Texas 4-H Council.
- Applications will be accepted for the at-large positions and narrowed to a pool of applicants (approximately 12 or so to complete the speech/impromptu question part of the process) by a selection committee. The selection committee will be made up of the four Texas 4-H Council advisors and three current Texas 4-H Council members.
- Candidates elected at the state level for the at-large position **will not be eligible** for any position at the district level. Candidates not elected during the state level elections **are eligible** to run for a district position **given they meet district eligibility requirements.**
- Social media may be used to promote a candidate. An official photo and statement will be released for each candidate through the Texas 4-H social media platforms. These posts may be shared through individual or group social media platforms. Comments and shared posts made by candidates and/or candidate's followers will be about said candidate only. Individuals and/or county 4-H or Extension social media platforms **MAY NOT** create and/or post their own posts for any candidate. **Negative comments targeted at others will not be tolerated.**
- Social media will not be used until after the official information has been released through Texas 4-H.
- Giveaways, flyers, handouts, posters, custom t-shirts, texting and any other form of campaigning other than the above-mentioned social media method before and/or during LEAD Academy/Texas 4-H Roundup are **not permissible.**



- Violation of the above policies regarding positive social media use and restricted campaigning methods will result in the disqualification of the candidate from the election process. The selection committee and the Texas 4-H Program Leader will have the authority for making decisions regarding the above policies and the decision will be final.
- Candidate speeches will be presented as part of LEAD Academy and voting will be completed using 4HConnect. All registered/enrolled senior age 4-H members will have the opportunity to vote whether-or-not they are participating in LEAD Academy/Texas 4-H Roundup. A live presentation of the candidate speeches is planned for those not attending (subject to technical availability, not responsible for technical difficulties that may occur).

Process

Specific dates will be announced as the applications are released.

- Early April: Complete and submit a written brief application through 4HConnect outlining leadership experience, letter of recommendation (from anyone who can attest to the applicant's leadership abilities) and a two-minute video in response to a question prompt. Video will be uploaded, and the link must be submitted through the application.
- Late April: Candidate interviews (phone/WebEx) with selection committee
- Early May: Announcement of candidates before LEAD Academy/Texas 4-H Roundup registration closes; Official candidate photos and short individual statements will be posted to Texas 4-H social media sites; Candidates will be required to register for LEAD Academy or Texas 4-H Roundup
- Mid May: Social media information posted
- June: Candidates participate in meet-and-greet during LEAD Academy/Texas 4-H Roundup
- June: Each candidate will present a live speech and answer impromptu questions during LEAD Academy/Texas 4-H Roundup in front of an audience (will live stream so that people not in attendance may view the presentations)
- June: Voting will be conducted through 4HConnect and will open and close at specific times
- June: Election results announced during Texas 4-H Roundup final assembly

Texas 4-H Council Standing Rules

Youth involvement in program development at all levels is an essential aspect of successful 4-H programming. For this reason, the Texas 4-H Council provides for representative 4-H youth 16-19 years of age:

- the opportunity to provide input to the state Extension staff on programs for 4-H youth,
- to maintain linkage with District 4-H Councils,
- to assist with the development and implementation of state events and activities,
- to provide 4-H youth the opportunity to learn democratic principles and procedures, and
- to interpret the 4-H program to the public through effective and satisfying group organization.

The following standing rules adopted by the Texas 4-H Council members serve as guidelines for group procedures.

1. Name:

- The name of this organization shall be the Texas 4-H Council.

2. Purpose:

The purpose shall be to act as a sounding board to:

- Identify needs and interests of 4-H youth.
- Suggest and explore programs that will meet the needs and interests of youth.
- Advise in the determination of future 4-H programs.
- Provide a youth voice and leadership team for Junior Leader Retreat, Texas 4-H Roundup, and Texas 4-H Congress.

3. MEMBERSHIP:

- a. The Texas 4-H Council membership is open to all youth regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation or gender identity. It consists of two delegates from each District 4-H Council and six state elected at-large delegates.
- b. Council members must be entering the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades and must be between the ages of 16 and 18 on August 31st of the calendar year in which they are installed on the Texas 4-H Council.
- c. Delegates shall be eligible to attain and hold membership on the Texas 4-H Council for only one year.
- d. Elected delegates must participate in the total Texas 4-H Council Workshop and training to be an official member of the Texas 4-H Council.
- e. District Councils may select alternates to fulfill responsibilities of regularly elected delegates. Any alternate who attends the Texas 4-H Council Workshop becomes the official recognized delegate on the Council from his/her respective district and will fulfill Council duties throughout the remainder of the year. This alternate shall meet the requirements for the Council membership.

Texas 4-H Council Standing Rules

- f. Six at-large delegates will be elected during LEAD Academy by senior level Texas 4-H members.
- g. A Council member enrolling out of state or district of which they were elected/selected shall automatically relinquish his/her position on the Texas 4-H Council pending approval by council advisors.

4. OFFICERS:

- The officers shall be elected annually and shall be: President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Public Relations Officer, and Health and Safety Officer. The Executive Committee shall appoint members as needed to fill vacancies in officer positions.

5. TERM OF OFFICE:

- Council members and officers shall serve from the time of installation until installation of new members and officers the following year. Officers shall be elected annually and shall be eligible for only one term of office. No person shall hold more than one office on the Texas 4-H Council.

6. TEXAS 4-H COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- Council Workshop shall be held as scheduled. Officers shall be elected at the workshop and will be nominated by ballot. Elections shall be by ballot. A majority constitutes an election. Each candidate may speak on the given topic and will have two (2) minutes total to prepare and offer remarks.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers and council advisors.

8. COMMITTEES:

- Committees may be appointed at any time by the Executive Committee.

9. VOTING BODY:

- The voting body shall consist of the members as defined in Rule 3, except in the election of officers. The two current participating delegate representatives will cast a single vote to be used in the event of a tie. In the event of a tie, each candidate will speak on a new topic. If another tie occurs, the sealed vote of the current council representatives will break the tie.

10. QUORUM:

- A quorum shall be a simple majority of the membership representing at least seven different districts.

11. AMENDMENTS:

- Suggested/recommended amendments may be made at any regular meeting and approved with a two thirds vote but must have the approval of the state 4-H Program Leader before amendments can be made to the by-laws.

Texas 4-H Council Standing Rules

- Amendments may be made as needed for administrative purposes by the Texas 4-H Program Leader without membership approval.

12. REPRESENTATION REPORTS:

- Texas 4-H Council members who are designated as representatives of the council at various events will be responsible for submitting a written report of their participation in the event to the Texas 4-H Council Secretary or to the council advisors within two weeks after the event. These reports will become part of the official secretary's notebook.

13. TEXAS 4-H COUNCIL MEMBER BEHAVIOR:

- Texas 4-H Council members are required to follow the stated Texas 4-H and Youth Development Consequences of Misbehavior and Code of Conduct. If a Texas 4-H Council member is suspected of any illegal activity (consuming alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs, etc.) before or during any activity or while representing the Texas 4-H Council, he/she shall be subject to be sent home and/or to dismissal from the Texas 4-H Council at the discretion of the Executive Committee and/or council advisors.

14. COUNCIL DISSOLUTION:

- Upon the dissolution of the Council, all real property, including money, equipment and land, shall become the property of the Texas 4-H Program for care and distribution. The last official duty of the advisors shall be to effect the transfer of council property and to turn over all records to the State 4-H Office.

