

4-H Ontario Ambassador Information 2021

In 2022 the 4-H Ontario Ambassador program will be celebrating 17 years! As an ambassador you will be part of this exciting year experiencing amazing events from celebrations, provincial programs and activities, media connections and much more that presents itself throughout the year. 4-H Ambassadors will be engaged in virtual opportunities and in-person activities as possible with the impacts of COVID-19.

We are also excited to announce that there will be two scholarships available for eligible youth that complete their as a 2022 Ambassador.

Purpose:

- To provide senior 4-H participants (18-21 years old before January 1st) with opportunities and experiences to enhance their knowledge, skills, attitudes and aspirations in leadership, citizenship, communications and public relations.
- To provide senior 4-H participants the opportunity to be actively involved and valued as partners in expanding 4-H marketing and promotion efforts.

Objectives:

- To empower youth to enhance and/or gain new skills
- To recruit new 4-H participants
- To retain current 4-H participants
- To share the value of being involved in 4-H
- To raise awareness of 4-H and increase visibility

The Ambassador Program is a provincial opportunity that promotes involvement within local, regional and provincial 4-H activities and more! Each Ambassador will serve a term of one year commencing in mid-late March with a Reception (**March 26**) and Orientation weekend (**March 25-27**). Ambassadors may serve a maximum of two terms.

Selection Process:

Applicants will need to complete and submit the application form, available here: <https://4-hontario.ca/youth/youth-positions/>. The following information will be required as part of the application:

- Application form questions (see below to assist in your time and preparation)
- Cover letter (explaining your ideas and interest in becoming a 4-H Ambassador)
- Resume
- Two typed reference letters (one must be from a volunteer within your Local 4-H Association) explaining why you would make an excellent Ambassador. Letters should come from sources other than 4-H Ontario staff.

Successful applicants will then move on to:

- Attend an interview, hosted over ZOOM, with a panel of 3 individuals. **Hosted January 29**
- Present a 3-5 minute presentation on one of the following topics (*Please note that these presentations should be prepared in a way that assumes the interview panel is the audience outlined in the question):
 - Showcase the values of 4-H to an audience of grade 6 students
 - Demonstrate how you would inspire others to get the most out of the 4-H program (choose adults or youth)
 - Share the value of the 4-H program to an urban audience during a television interview

Please note that parents/guardians must read and sign an agreement of understanding with regards to time commitments and travel involved with the Ambassador program, should you be selected for the program

Training and Orientation:

An orientation will be hosted on **March 25-27, 2022** with advisors to plan out the year – roles, responsibilities, expectations, rules and guidelines of expected behaviour, outline of events to attend (or not to), review of completing activity reports and expense forms, introduction to our amazing sponsor, training in such areas as communications, public relations, workshop facilitation, speaking to the media, and more. This year the training will be held in person this year in conjunction with the Volunteer Conference which will provide a unique opportunity to network and learn from some of our amazing volunteers

Opportunities for training throughout the year could include:

- etiquette
- resumes and interview skills
- public relations, writing reports and news releases, working with the media
- facilitation techniques
- public speaking, using visual aids,
- agricultural awareness, 4-H awareness
- encouragement to participate in other training/update sessions, both as a learning
- along with these trainings, the staff advisor will work with the group of Ambassadors to identify any learning opportunities that they would like as well.

Duties May Include:

For the health and safety of all participants, activities will follow the requirements outlined by the Government of Ontario in relation to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Ambassadors will be engaged in virtual events and activities as well as having the opportunity to participate at in-person engagement as possible.

- Attending events to promote 4-H at various locations including schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, community activities, etc.
- Assisting with 4-H events including booths at fairs/community events to increase the visibility of 4-H
- Engaging in local events such as awards programs, sign up experiences and 4-H information nights
- Educating people about 4-H and help increase awareness of 4-H by making presentations
- Writing blog posts for inclusion in 4-H Ontario's blog
- Attending regional or local 4-H meetings and workshops to promote the Ambassador Program and as a learning experience
- Attending a maximum of two preplanned engagements or events for the sponsors to thank them for their support and to increase the visibility of 4-H
- Writing articles about 4-H events for publication in local or regional publications
- Creating digital materials for inclusion in 4-H Ontario's digital presence including, but not limited to, the 4-H Ontario Ambassador Instagram account, 4-H Ontario's Podcast.

Requirements of each Ambassador:

- Sign an agreement indicating commitment to fulfill specific duties and obligations
- Arrange for parents to sign an agreement indicating their understanding of program responsibilities
- Participate in orientation, learning opportunities, and Ambassador teleconferences
- Engage in provincial opportunities/events
- Respond promptly to email and phone correspondence and event attendance requests
- Submit entries to the 4-H Ambassador blog, as outlined
- Create digital works (i.e. videos, Instagram posts, etc.)
- Work cooperatively with 4-H Ontario staff to arrange participation in events and activities
- Submitting activity reports, photographs, videos and expense reports regularly to ensure requirements of the program are being met – if they are not being met removal from the program will occur
- Complete an Ambassador Community Engagement Project of your choosing

- **COVID-19 note: 2022 Ambassadors will be required to show proof of vaccination prior to being accepted into the program. This is due to the nature of the role including attending events at venues that will require it and certain means of transportation.**

For more information about the Ambassador program, check out the Ambassador page on the 4-H Ontario website, www.4-HOntario.ca or contact the Coordinator, Programming by emailing opportunities@4-hontario.ca or by calling 226.979.3657.

4-H Ontario Ambassador Application Questions

In hopes to assist you when filling out the application, please see the application questions you will be asked to answer are as follows:

- Full Name:
- Preferred Name:
- Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD):
- Gender Identity:
- Email Address:
- Phone:
- Address 1:
- Address 2:
- City:
- Postal Code:
- 4-H Association:
- Parent/Guardian Name:
- Years as a 4-H participant:
- Number of projects completed:
- List any special club, local, and regional 4-H activities in which you have participated or awards you have received:
- List any provincial, national or international 4-H activities you have attended:
- List any school and/or community activities (clubs, committees, volunteer work, sports, etc.) in which you are currently involved in:
- List any school or community achievements you have received (i.e. awards) you have earned:
- What makes you proud to be a 4-H participant?
- Why do you want to become a 4-H Ontario Ambassador?
- What skills do you bring with you to the Ambassador program?
- What would you tell someone who isn't familiar with the 4-H Program to get them to sign up as a 4-H Participant?
- Is there any other information that you would like the selection committee to know about?

Please remember that the following is also required as part of your application:

- Cover letter (explaining your ideas and interest in becoming a 4-H Ambassador)
- Resume
- Two typed reference letters (one must be from a volunteer within your Local 4-H Association) explaining why you would make an excellent Ambassador. Letters should come from sources other than 4-H Ontario staff.

4-H Ontario Ambassador Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q. Is the 4-H Ambassador Program a provincial opportunity?

A. Yes! The 4-H Ontario Ambassador Program welcomes applications from all 4-H Ontario participants 18-21 years of age as of January 1st of the year in which they are vying for the position. The strongest applicants will be declared ambassadors when all elements of the competition are considered, regardless of home association or region.

Q. What are the responsibilities of the 4-H Ambassadors?

A. The Ambassadors are committed to the promotion of 4-H in Ontario, primarily on a provincial basis, although some national and international opportunities may be available as well. Ambassadors promote 4-H in both traditional and non-traditional 4-H venues. At 4-H events, the presence of Ambassadors sparks enthusiasm amongst participants as Ambassadors encourage participants and volunteers to take advantage of opportunities presented to them. Events/activities may be in-person or virtual in nature. Ambassadors also complete a community engagement project, short reports on their activities and are required to submit expense forms monthly.

Q. How does the COVID-19 pandemic impact the Ambassador Program?

A. The health and safety of all 4-H participants is of the utmost importance. With COVID-19, the opportunity to travel to in-person events/activities may be limited. However, we are hopeful that in 2022 there will be more in person events/ activities for our team of ambassador to take part in.

Q. When are the 4-H Ambassadors selected?

A. Following the interviews, successful candidates will be contacted within three business days. Ambassadors will be officially welcomed at a reception the weekend of March 26, 2021.

Q. What is the time commitment for Ambassadors?

A. Typically, each ambassador participates in 2-4 events during the month, with a greater concentration of activities during the summer when there more events happening. Some activities, such as the orientation and training weekend are required; however, personal schedules (especially school and jobs) are considered when most events arise.

Q. Does the position involve traveling?

A. The hope for 2022 is that traveling will be possible, however with COVID-19 activities may be more virtual in nature. If travel and in-person activities are possible, Ambassadors will be asked to attend events throughout the province. Local events may be attended on an availability basis, but most are regional or provincial in scope. Travel opportunities are spread out amongst the ambassadors. Since there is considerable travel involved, access to reliable transportation when required is a must.

Q. If I am selected, why are my parents required to approve my participation in this program?

A. The Ambassador program requires travel throughout Ontario, with occasional opportunities for travel outside of the province, and access to technology for digital engagement. Your parents' endorsement acknowledges that they are comfortable with you traveling, sometimes long distances, often with no other ambassadors or staff, and that they will support you in your full participation in the program.

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Q. How do the Ambassadors benefit from the program?

- A.** An important goal of the program is to enhance the 4-H experience of the participants involved by providing a number of worthwhile opportunities:
- Provincial recognition as an outstanding 4-H participant
 - Training opportunities in several areas, such as interview skills, public relations, communication, writing reports and blogs, public speaking, using visual aids, agricultural and 4-H awareness, etiquette
 - Opportunities to participate in local, regional, and provincial 4-H events, as possible
 - Opportunities to engage in the 4-H Ontario digital presence
 - Networking opportunities and resume building experiences
 - New friends, experiences, and much more

Q. I heard that there is now a scholarship that is open to just 4-H Ontario Ambassadors. Is this true?

- A.** Yes! For 2022 4-H Ontario Ambassadors there are two scholarships available to those that complete the program and are in or entering post-secondary education. This Scholarship is generously sponsored by the Walker Wood Foundation.

Q. If I applied in the past and didn't get selected, is it worth applying again?

- A.** Absolutely! Every project you complete, and every 4-H event you participate in makes you a stronger ambassador. Every 4-H participant is an ambassador in their county or club. Unfortunately, only a small group can become ambassadors each year, so reapplication is encouraged. 4-H participants are encouraged when reapplying to take note of the comments and recommendations made by the committee during the previous application process.

Q. I have been a 4-H Ontario Ambassador in the past, am I eligible to reapply?

- A.** Yes. The program offers a maximum of two terms as an ambassador as long as you are within the age range identified within the program outline.

Q. Do I receive a project completion for fulfilling the ambassador program requirements?

- A.** No, this is an opportunity, not a project.

Q. Will I be expected to attend every event that I am invited to?

- A.** No, you will be assisted by a 4-H staff participant in deciding which events fit the mandate of this program. 4-H Ontario understands the demands on time and that you will need to coordinate with other things like school and work.

Q. Do I receive any compensation for representing 4-H?

- A.** Your expenses, including mileage, are covered for approved attendance at events. Compensation comes in the form of incredible life experiences!

Q. How can I find out more about the Ambassador experience?

- A.** Ask one of the many Ambassador Program alumni! They will be happy to share their stories.

Q. Is this a beauty pageant, like many other Ambassador titles?

- A.** No! The role of the Ambassadors is to promote 4-H and selected 4-H participants are chosen for their abilities to fulfill that responsibility. Applications are reviewed and a select group of applicants are chosen for interviews and short presentations to a panel of judges.