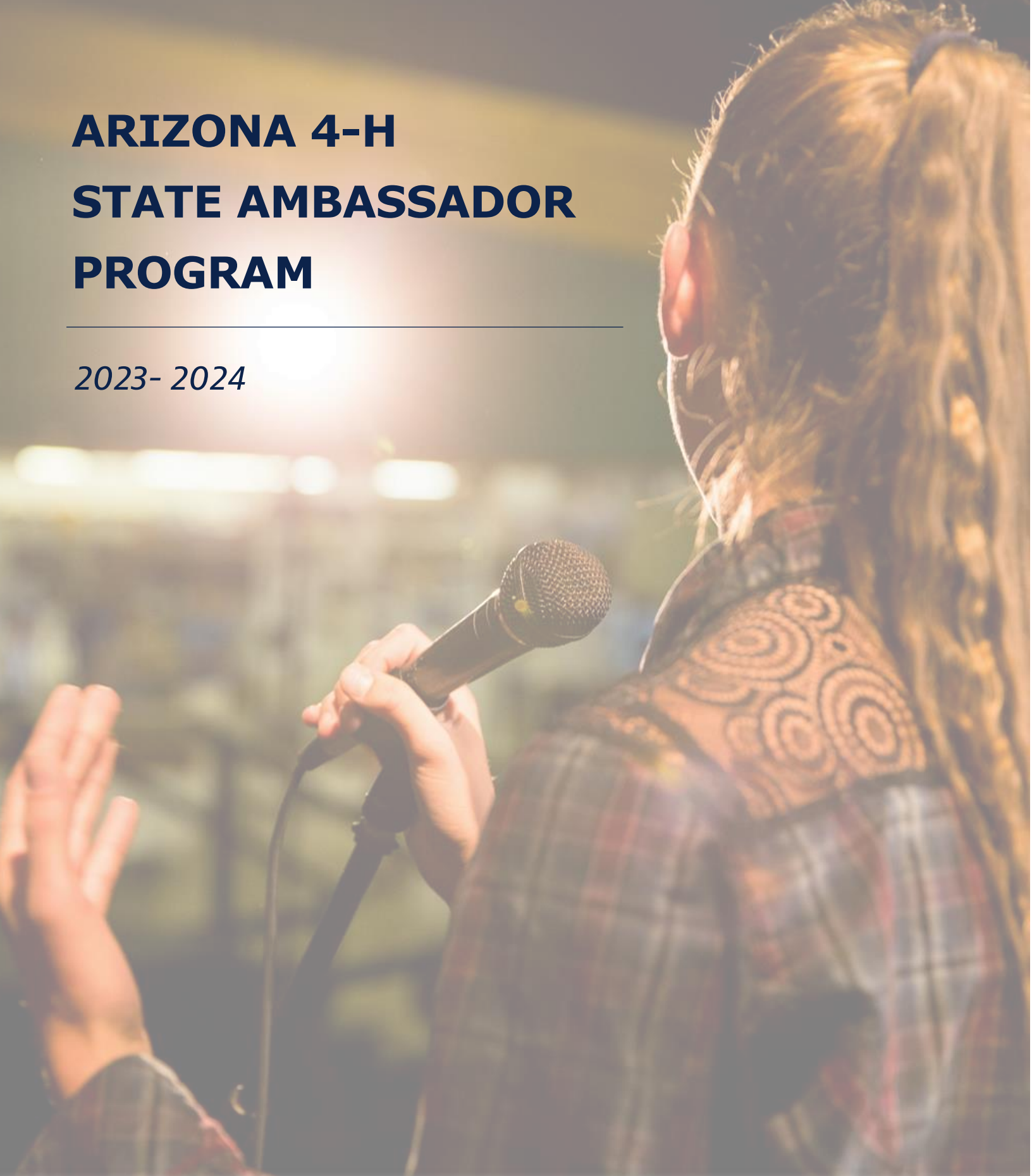


ARIZONA 4-H STATE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

2023- 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension



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ARIZONA 4-H STATE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The ambassador program provides 4-H teen leaders with the opportunity to advocate for 4-H youth, represent Arizona 4-H, and develop as generational leaders.

VISION

To be the premier youth leadership development opportunity in Arizona 4-H.

MISSION

To empower Arizona 4-H teen-leaders as generational leaders.

OVERVIEW

The Arizona State 4-H Youth Ambassador Program (State 4-H Ambassadors) is the premier youth leadership development opportunity in Arizona 4-H. The State 4-H Ambassador program provides 4-H teen leaders with the opportunity to advocate for 4-H youth, represent Arizona 4-H, and develop as generational leaders. The team consists of seven highly qualified 4-H State 4-H Ambassadors selected annually from a pool of statewide applicants. The seven ambassador positions include:

- Arizona 4-H State 4-H Ambassador President
- Arizona 4-H State Communications Ambassador
- Arizona 4-H State Foundation Ambassador
- Arizona 4-H State Healthy Living Ambassador
- Arizona 4-H State STEM Ambassador
- Arizona 4-H State Agriculture Ambassador
- Arizona 4-H State Citizenship Ambassador

The State 4-H Ambassadors will work closely together as a collaborative team to help lead 4-H statewide leadership initiatives. Additionally, each will provide mentorship and leadership specific to their areas of expertise. State 4-H Ambassadors have the unique opportunity to make a significant difference and help steer the course of 4-H programming throughout our state.

The State 4-H Ambassador program was revived in 2020 after a decades long hiatus to deliver a premier leadership development program for Arizona 4-H teens. Through this experience the Arizona 4-H program welcomes youth voice and advocacy at the highest level of the organization and establishes a formal opportunity for Arizona 4-H members to represent and promote the program to new and current stakeholders.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Each State 4-H Ambassador will support all team goals and fulfill their specific position obligations. Arizona state 4-H Ambassadors are a representation of Arizona 4-H in all they say and do. This role possesses high visibility and responsibility for the selected individual. Every State 4-H Ambassador,

regardless of their specific position, needs to be able to articulate what 4-H is, how it came about, and where it aspires to take the next generation of leaders.

To be a successful State 4-H Ambassador it is important that participation in the State Ambassador Program as the number one extracurricular activity, i.e., you make time to fulfill the role. It will also be important that successful State 4-H Ambassadors be able and willing to get out of school on a limited basis for special programs.

The pages that follow include overviews of each of the seven ambassador positions, profiles of qualified candidates, and descriptions of unique role responsibilities. While the attempt is to give a clearer picture of what is expected of each position, the roles are subject to change in accordance with the program needs and the youth engagement opportunities.

ELIGIBILITY

Minimum Qualifications:

- applicants must be rising Juniors or Seniors in high school;
- or, 16 – 18 years (as of 4-H age);
- member in good standing with County 4-H Program;
- willing to commit to attending the required events (please see the annually posted schedule for a complete list);
- exhibit a high level of responsiveness and communication skills.
- experience with managing an electronic calendar, email and social media.

Preferred Qualifications:

- demonstrated ability and willingness to work well with team members;
- have experience working with youth and/or serving as a mentor for other people;
- interest in developing skills as a leader.

GENERAL RULES

- State 4-H Ambassadors may only be elected twice for two consecutive terms.
- Students may apply up to twice if not selected during the first year's selection process.
- All State 4-H Ambassadors must very closely abide by the 4-H Code of Conduct.
- All State 4-H Ambassadors are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and mature manner while representing Arizona 4-H.
- All State 4-H Ambassadors need to be willing to commit the necessary time and energy to be a statewide representative of Arizona 4-H.
- State Ambassadors are held accountable for their conduct outside of 4-H functions, including the content they choose to share on personal social media accounts.

MEDIA RELEASE

Arizona State 4-H Ambassadors are public figures within the Arizona 4-H program and therefore will be photographed, recorded, and their likeness may be shared in a variety of statewide and potentially national publications. Because of this, all 4-H Ambassadors are expected to have a signed and updated media release on file.

ARIZONA 4-H STATE AMBASSADOR PRESIDENT

Position Overview

The role of the Ambassador President is to promote team camaraderie, excellent communication, and strong leadership. They serve to be a representative and advocate of all 4-H principles through both their actions and words. In addition to being the primary youth representative of the Arizona 4-H Youth Development organization, they are tasked with supporting each of the other State 4-H Ambassadors in their various roles. The ideal candidate will have strong public speaking skills and dynamic leadership abilities.

Candidate Profile

You aspire to not only work with a team of skilled teen leaders, you want to help provide stewardship and support for the team so that everyone is able to perform their functions within the team. Your strong communication skills and teamwork based attitude make you the right fit for this role. In various environments, people often look to you for guidance or support due to your innate leadership capacity. Additionally, you may exhibit the qualifying characteristics or past experiences provided below.

Qualifying Characteristics

- Strong Communicator
- Team driven leadership style
- Poised under pressure
- Vocal advocate for 4-H as a positive youth development organization
- Informed and open to learning more about 4-H as an organization

Potential Past Experience

- Officer type leadership position in a 4-H capacity or other organization
- Impactful 4-H experiences that have shaped where you are now
- Formal or informal experience with public speaking
- Experience with mediating conflict

Role Responsibilities

The Arizona State 4-H Ambassador President is an esteemed position that comes with certain responsibilities unique to the role. While many of the events are subject to change based on programs and scheduled appearances for each unique year, the overarching responsibilities remain the same.

Responsibilities may include:

- Providing leadership and running monthly team meetings;
- Periodically providing support for county and tribal community teen leadership experiences;
- Being the first point of contact for the adult staff when communicating with the team;
- Demonstrating commitment to the program by actively attending events and appearances that occur within the program year;
- Communicating with the team on a regular basis to ensure engagement and camaraderie;
- Assisting the adult staff in mediating interpersonal conflicts that may arise on the team.

Events

(Events are very fluid between years, everything mentioned below is merely an example.)

Special appearances or public speaking engagements such as meetings with public officials, community facing events, local 4-H program awards events, and other opportunities beyond the mandatory team events outlined in the annually released calendar.

ARIZONA 4-H STATE COMMUNICATIONS AMBASSADOR

Position Overview

The role of the Communications Ambassador is to help reach all 4-H communities by regular written and verbal communication. They will be responsible for producing a multi-annual youth driven newsletter, writing some digital communications (i.e., social media takeovers and blog posts) and supporting 4-H clubs with their communication needs. Additionally, this ambassador will coordinate team communications, including taking notes at meetings. In all they do, the Communications Ambassador advocates for consistent Arizona 4-H messaging and embraces excellent communication as a guiding principle.

Candidate Profile

Between your excellent written communication skills and your confident voice, you are the right teen leader for this role. You enjoy keeping things organized and ensuring that the team is able to look back at meeting notes and grasp the main events.

Qualifying Characteristics

- Excellent verbal and written communicator
- Demonstrated mastery with the use of electronic communication software (e.g., Google Suites, Microsoft Office).
- Interest in writing and/or journalism

Potential Past Experience

- English course(s) focused on creative writing
- Experience with social media platforms

Role Responsibilities

The Arizona 4-H State Communications Ambassador is an esteemed position that comes with certain responsibilities unique to the role. While many of the events are subject to change based on programs and scheduled appearances for each unique year, the overarching responsibilities remain the same.

Responsibilities may include:

- Taking notes during meetings to ensure appropriate follow-up and reporting;
- Producing a multi-annual youth driven newsletter to orient teen leaders around the state;
- Supporting the team with organization techniques and best practices;
- Providing guidance and leadership for any local area programs in the realm of communications;
- Ensuring that team communications are properly within the bounds of Arizona 4-H messaging.

Events

(Events are very fluid between years, everything mentioned below is merely an example.)

Potential events unique to the communications Ambassador role may include speaking at a local area communications day, making an appearance at the state public speaking contests, and potentially attending an event with communications related community stakeholders.

ARIZONA 4-H STATE FOUNDATION AMBASSADOR

Position Overview

The role of the Foundation Ambassador is to advocate for youth initiatives that are developed by the Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation. Whether it be informing 4-H communities about annual scholarships or collaborating with the Foundation board about youth state funding needs, this role engages with the financial aspects of Arizona 4-H.

Candidate Profile

You have an interest in learning more about the Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation and helping 4-H members understand the funding opportunities that exist through the Foundation. Whether you are interested in helping Senior youth learn more about scholarship opportunities or providing a youth voice on the Foundation Board of Trustees, your passion for financial literacy and 4-H, along with your poise and communication skills, make you the best fit for this State Ambassador position.

Qualifying Characteristics

- Ability to stay calm and poised in professional situations
- Comfortable speaking in front of people and providing a youth voice
- Passionate about advocating for financial literacy and opportunities for youth

Potential Past Experience

- Experience working with adult stakeholders on projects, committees, or councils
- Experience working with and presenting before a governing board

Role Responsibilities

The Arizona 4-H State Foundation Ambassador serves on the Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation as a youth voice and non-voting (ex-officio) member. In this role, you will benefit from attending Foundation meetings as an experiential learning opportunity that will help to build your knowledge of board proceedings as well as the roles and responsibilities of board members. Further, you will discover and share with peers across the state, the role of the foundation as the financial support to Arizona 4-H programming.

Responsibilities may include:

- Help create and share Club Presentations about funded opportunities through the Foundation;
- Attend periodic Donor Visits to articulate your 4-H story and experience as a member of the AZ 4-H Ambassador Team;
- Present Scholarship sessions dedicated to supporting peers with scholarship applications;
- Help record a PSA to share about scholarship opportunities that the foundation provides for youth members across the state including camps, national events, college, etc.

Events

(Events are very fluid between years, everything mentioned below is merely an example.)

Special events may include special donor visits, foundation specific events, and foundation board meetings. Other events may arise throughout the year and all events are subject to change.

ARIZONA 4-H STATE HEALTHY LIVING AMBASSADOR

The role of the Healthy Living Ambassador is to support healthy living initiatives around the state of Arizona. Healthy Living is a large part of 4-H programming and it has further potential to engage youth across Arizona. The primary narrative of this ambassador is to help provide youth with knowledge related to healthy living based projects, programs, and opportunities. This team member also serves to communicate how local community projects align with the four 4-H pillars.

Candidate Profile

You are uniquely passionate about Healthy Living initiatives and youth programs. In this role, your voice will reflect the experiences, needs, and direction of Healthy Living programs around the state. You not only use your voice to bring further awareness to healthy living initiatives, you help support other healthy living specific events, contests, and programs around the state.

Qualifying Characteristics

- Passionate about Healthy Living
- Creative minded and excited to explore further possibilities of healthy living programs in Arizona 4-H

Potential Past Experience

- Leadership role relating to healthy living
- Experience communicating as an advocate for healthy living

Role Responsibilities

The Arizona 4-H State Healthy Living Ambassador utilizes opportunities of engagement with various stakeholder groups to share about healthy living programs. Additionally, this role may be asked to provide support or governorship to different local and community based healthy living programs.

Responsibilities may include:

- Sharing about the importance of healthy living with various stakeholder groups;
- Supporting and providing leadership for local healthy living programs;
- Creatively presenting about healthy living programs in Arizona 4-H.

Events

(Events are very fluid between years, everything mentioned below is merely an example.)

Special events for the State Healthy Living Ambassador may include attending state contests, competitions, or programs relating to healthy living initiatives. All events are subject to change.

ARIZONA 4-H STATE STEM AMBASSADOR

The role of the STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics*) Ambassador is to advocate and support STEM programming around the state of Arizona. Whether it be through engaging campus partners or highlighting local STEM projects, this person serves to highlight the great work being done around the state. Furthermore, this ambassador will advocate and educate about the present state and future goals of the Arizona 4-H STEM program.

Candidate Profile

STEM is not only an area of interest for you, but you're also fascinated by the various programs that exist within Arizona 4-H to empower STEM youth. Your passion for STEM may be conventional in nature or it may be indirect, nonetheless, your passion for helping youth find opportunities in STEM remains. You're able to speak to the impacts of STEM across 4-H programming. You are enthusiastic about providing peer leadership and support to local and statewide STEM programs.

Qualifying Characteristics

- Able to express a personal connection to STEM
- Interested in supporting state STEM programs and being a recognized leader for local programs

Potential Past Experience

- Personal experience with STEM programs and opportunities
- Previous leadership roles potentially relating to STEM

Role Responsibilities

The Arizona 4-H State STEM ambassador is expected to engage with STEM programs around the state. Through an advocacy and mentorship role, this Ambassador has the primary responsibility of speaking from the perspective of STEM programs, experience, and youth participants.

Responsibilities may include:

- Attending statewide STEM programs and events that are offered throughout the year;
- Sharing information and knowledge that further educates youth about STEM, and its presence in all 4-H programs;
- Support local STEM leadership programs by engaging with local programs and providing mentorship in some cases.

Events

(Events are very fluid between years, everything mentioned below is merely an example.)

Special events may include the seasonal statewide STEM programs that are focused on different area challenges, extra support with the STEM content track at Summit, and potentially attending a few local program events to provide mentorship for youth around the state.

ARIZONA 4-H STATE AGRICULTURE AMBASSADOR

The role of the Agricultural Ambassador is to speak on behalf of agricultural projects, programs, and events. 4-H has deep roots with agriculture and this ambassador serves to advocate for both the history and future of agriculture in Arizona. There are many opportunities to further educate youth about opportunities and important issues facing the agricultural industry. As one of the most well known 4-H programs, this ambassador serves to advocate for many youths across Arizona.

Candidate Profile

As the State Agriculture Ambassador, your primary narrative is speaking on behalf of 4-H youth involved in ag-based programs and experiences. Your unique passion for agriculture could take many shapes; however, your passion for empowering youth with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful are enduring. As an ag advocate, your role may take different forms throughout the year, while remaining true to your area of focus within ag-based learning opportunities.

Qualifying Characteristics

- Passionate about agriculture
- Able to utilize personal experience to connect and represent youth around the state in ag-based projects

Potential Past Experience

- Personal experience with agriculture
- Previous leadership role held, potentially in an area related to agriculture

Role Responsibilities

The Arizona 4-H State Agriculture Ambassador is the primary voice in Arizona 4-H for agriculture. As a state representative your role is to speak on behalf of youth in agriculture and help provide support for some statewide programs relating to your field.

Responsibilities may include:

- Attending statewide events or competitions in ag-based fields such as the horse project, livestock projects, and more;
- Speaking with community partners who have strong ties in ag-based industries;
- Providing education opportunities for youth to continue their growth at a state level within the field of agriculture.

Events

(Events are very fluid between years, everything mentioned below is merely an example.)

Special events will be determined each year, however they may include attending the annual Arizona National Livestock and Horse Show as a 4-H representative or speaking at an event for a community partner that focuses on agriculture.

ARIZONA 4-H STATE CITIZENSHIP AMBASSADOR

The role of the Citizenship Ambassador is to promote civic education, community engagement and global awareness. This ambassador serves to support current civic programming and to advocate for youth voices across Arizona. Furthermore, this ambassador advocates for the various national and international 4-H opportunities surrounding Citizenship, such as National 4-H Congress, Citizenship Washington Focus, and Leadership Washington focus.

Candidate Profile

As a strong communicator, an advocate on behalf of Arizona 4-H, and your passion for civic education you are the right fit for this role. You value community engagement and helping to provide fellow 4-H members with opportunities to use their voice and make an impact both locally and statewide. Your ability to speak with various community partners and government officials equip you with the skills you need to be a strong Citizenship State Ambassador.

Qualifying Characteristics

- Passionate about civic education and leadership
- Interested in helping to empower youth with knowledge about government affairs and career opportunities

Potential Past Experience

- Prior history attending State or National Civic Education events such as the Engaged Citizens Event, Citizenship Washington Focus, or Leadership Washington Focus or National 4-H Conference

Role Responsibilities

The Arizona 4-H State Citizenship Ambassador is an advocate for youth who are interested in citizenship based programming and local projects. Ranging from community service to government affairs, this ambassador provides peer guidance for youth in areas of civic engagement.

Responsibilities may include:

- Providing state teen leadership for initiatives relating to community service, such as during the month of April for True Leaders in Service;
- Helping empower youth voices around the state;
- Offering assistance and mentorship for youth projects relating to civic engagement.

Events

(Events are very fluid between years, everything mentioned below is merely an example.)

Special events may include extra engagement with the annual Engaged Citizens Event, attendance at meetings with Arizona legislators, or partners related to community engagement.

TIMELINE FOR APPLICANTS

March 15, 2021

Applications are released and are open for submissions.

March 22, 2021

Zoom session for families and prospective state ambassadors.

Friday, April 30, 2021

Applications are due to the State 4-H Office via the online link.

May 7, 2021

Applicants will receive a notification if they will have the opportunity to do a virtual interview.

May 10th, 2021

Interview Orientation Applicant and parent information session.

May 12th – May 13th, 2021

Virtual interviews take place with the selection committee.

May 17th, 2021

The selected Arizona 4-H Ambassador Team for 2021 – 2022 is publicly announced.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The selection committee will be comprised of a diverse team of individuals. There will be approximately eight people on the selection committee.

The committee will include:

- two current 4-H members;
- one 4-H state office representative;
- one AZ 4-H Youth Foundation representative;
- one Arizona Cooperative Extension representative;
- one county 4-H agent;
- one 4-H volunteer;
- one community partner.

APPLICATION

Each candidate will complete and submit the application in accordance with the application deadlines determined for the year. The contents of the application are composed of four main components, general demographic information, short answer questions, two letters of recommendation, and a video or written essay.

General information

(Name, county, preferred Ambassador position, etc.)

Short-answer questions

1. Please share some of the ways that you have exhibited leadership skills.
2. Why are you interested in being a statewide representative of Arizona 4-H?
3. When working with a team, what do you feel are your strengths? What do you believe are your greatest areas for improvement?

Essay Question

As a State 4-H Ambassador in many cases, you are the voice of the program. Whether you have the opportunity to speak at a state-level recognition event or at a neighboring county's award night, in that moment you are Arizona 4-H. In some cases, you may be asked to share your "4-H story."

We are interested in hearing more about how 4-H has shaped your life experience so far and where you hope for it to lead you in the future. Please describe an experience in 4-H that has significantly impacted your life.

For these questions, you can either write an essay (500 words or less) or answer the same questions in a video (2 - 3 minutes).

Letters of Recommendation

One of the letters of recommendation needs to be from a 4-H related person, such as a leader, county agent, or county staff member. The second can be from any person who you feel knows you well and can speak to your leadership capabilities. (Neither of the references can be completed by a family member).

INTERVIEW

Upon initial review of the applicants who have submitted all the application components in accordance with the deadline, interviews will be offered to up to sixteen candidates. The interview is modeled to be in supplementation to your application. For that reason, topics may include general questions about one's experience, personal approach to certain relevant scenarios, personal skills, and meaningful experiences in 4-H.

Sample questions:

- What experience or opportunities have shaped you into the person you are today?
- Describe a time that you faced a challenge. How did you overcome that challenge?
- What is the strongest skill that you bring to a team?
- Why do you want to be an AZ State 4-H Ambassador?
- Are there any positions you are not interested in holding? If so, what are those positions?

Selection Committee

The selection committee will be comprised of a diverse team of individuals. There will be approximately nine people on the selection committee.

The committee may include:

- two current 4-H youth members;
- one 4-H state office representative;
- one AZ 4-H Youth Foundation representative;
- one Arizona Cooperative Extension representative;
- one county 4-H agent;

- one 4-H volunteer;
- one former State 4-H Ambassador;
- one community partner.

OFFICIAL DRESS

Members of the Arizona 4-H Ambassador program are statewide leaders and represent the best that Arizona 4-H has to offer. To that end, it is expected that they present themselves in accordance with the expectations of any event at which they may find themselves. At the beginning of each year, the team will work together, under the guidance of the state adult staff, to develop a basic dress code to ensure that all members have an understanding of attire expectations based on the event. This dress code should be short and concise and appropriate for 4-H. If specific attire is required for an event, it will be the expectation of the 4-H adult staff to provide guidance. If an ambassador is unsure of what to wear to a specific event, they are expected to ask the adult staff for guidance.

Provided by Arizona 4-H:

- white button-down long sleeve shirt with Arizona 4-H branding;
- ambassador nametag;
- black show tie;
- black or navy blazer.

Not provided* by Arizona 4-H:

- closed toed professional black shoes;
- black or navy slacks or skirt;
- black belt if pants have belt loops.

NON-OFFICIAL DRESS

Provided by Arizona 4-H:

- polo shirt with Arizona 4-H branding;
- ambassador nametag.

Not provided* by Arizona 4-H:

- khaki pants;
- belt if pants have belt loops;
- closed-toe professional shoes.

** Financial need should in no way inhibit a candidate from applying. If any of the 'not provided' items on the list above are inaccessible to you, please do not hesitate to reach out to the State 4-H Office.*

PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation offers financial support for the Ambassador program. The budget is voted on by the board annually.

STATE 4-H AMBASSADOR ADULT STAFF TEAM

Youth development programming cannot successfully occur without a youth-adult partnership. Youth-adult partnerships take place when youth and adults plan, learn and work together, with both groups sharing equally in the decision-making process (Zeldin et al., 2005). This dynamic is very different from many relationships in which adults take the leadership roles and youth are assigned inferior roles, or programs where youth make all the decisions while the adults sit back and watch. Instead, youth-adult partnerships build on the strengths of each group and the final program or activity is stronger than a program or activity devised and delivered individually by either group. The State 4-H Ambassador Adult Staff Team approaches this program from a youth-adult partnership. The State 4-H Ambassador Adult Staff Team has multiple team members creating a mentoring mosaic that supports youth leadership identity development (Bush et al., in press). There are multiple caring adults on the State 4-H Ambassador Adult Staff Team, each with important roles.

Team role: Program Director

Role to be filled by: Associate Director & State 4-H Program Leader

- Provides overall guidance and insight for any senior level decisions.
- Receives the final say on any and all decisions that impact the Arizona 4-H Program.

Team role: Arizona 4-H State 4-H Ambassador Coordinator

Role to be filled by: State 4-H Office Employee

- They will coordinate the seasonal retreats for the Ambassadors.
- They will facilitate the selection process annually for the ambassador program.
- They collaborate with the advisor team to oversee the ambassador team.
- They will develop the annual materials and content associated with the program.
- They will coordinate Ambassadors' calendars and social responsibilities.
- They will attend specified state leadership events with the ambassador team.
- They will help to provide consistency for the ambassador program and state level initiatives.

Arizona 4-H State 4-H Ambassador Advisor Team

Role to be filled by: Two Arizona 4-H advisors as appointed by the Arizona 4-H Program Director.

Team role: Lead Ambassador Advisor

- The position is to be filled by a County 4-H agent or staff member.
- The former assistant advisor becomes the lead advisor and will fulfill a two-year term in this specific position.
- They will attend specified state leadership events with the ambassador team.
- They will support the ambassadors by attending each of the seasonal retreats.
- They will help the ambassadors to develop as a team by facilitating team building exercises at retreats and other ambassador events.
- They will collaborate with the Ambassador Director, the Ambassador Coordinator, and the Assistant Advisor.

Team role: Assistant Ambassador Advisor

- The position is to be filled by a County 4-H agent or staff member.
- The assistant advisor will complete a two-year term in this specific role and will then automatically move into the lead advisor.

- They will attend specified state leadership events with the ambassadors.
- They will help the ambassadors to develop as a team by facilitating team building exercises at retreats and other ambassador events.
- They will collaborate with the Ambassador Director, the Ambassador Coordinator, and the Lead Advisor.
- They will support the Lead advisor with guiding the ambassador team throughout the year.

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