



Summit County 4-H Newsletter

For Teens



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[Click the title to visit the event or organizations website.](#)

In Summit County

Camp Whitewood –



**Become a
4-H Camp
Counselor**

APPLY TODAY

Deadline Jan 9

***2026 Camp Whitewood Counselor Applications
Portage, Stark, and Summit Counties***

Camp Whitewood is July 5 – July 10, 2026

Online Application Link:

<https://go.osu.edu/2026campcounselorapp>

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be at least 15 years old by the start of camp.
- Must be able to get transportation to meetings and events as needed.
- Must complete a minimum of 20 hours of training including 1 overnight
- First time applicants must provide contact information for two references.

Complete this online application by Monday, January 9, 2026

In-person Camp Counselor interviews will be conducted on Monday, January 19, 2026. Applicants will be contacted by Wednesday, January 14, 2026 with interview details.

Where is Camp Whitewood? This beautiful camp is located in rural Winsor Ohio in Ashtabula County. The large, forested property features lakes for swimming, fishing, and kayaking as well as hiking trails, streams and studding rock formations. The camp allows youth to connect to nature while providing modern comforts such as electricity, plumbing, heat and running water. Learn more about Camp Whitewood here: <https://www.4hcampwhitewood.com/>

Junior Leaders –a 4-H club consisting of horse knowledgeable youth ages 13 and up. Members must have attended Summit County Horse Camp at least once prior. These youth make up the incredible team of counselors for Horse Camp. They meet once per month to do leadership trainings in preparation for Horse Camp in June. For more information and how to become a Junior Leaders Member contact Erika Somerville and MacKenzie Pennell at JLHorseCamp@gmail.com.



Summit County Junior Fair Board- Youth leaders age 13-19 working year-round to promote organize and manage events and shows held during the Summit County Fair. Applications for new terms are due yearly in September. Contact summitcojrfairboard@gmail.com for more information or visit <https://summitfair.com/summit-county-jr-fairboard/>



State Level Opportunities

[Ohio 4-H Conference](#)

Teens may attend Ohio 4-H Conference held the Saturday of 4-H Week in each year in March. This one-day conference in Columbus brings together 4-H youth and volunteers from across the state to learn about new 4-H projects, programs, and leadership

[Ohio 4-H Awards](#)

There are a variety of awards that older 4-H members can apply to receive at a state level. Most awards are presented at the annual Ohio 4-H Conference Teen Luncheon.

[Ohio 4-H Achievement Records](#)

Older members (14 years and older) are eligible to complete the Ohio 4-H Achievement Record to be selected to represent Summit County at Leadership camp, Sea camp, Buckeye Leadership Workshop, and Citizenship Washington Focus, as well as state achievement awards. Learn more here: [Learn more about Ohio 4-H Achievement Records](#)

[Teen Hall of Fame & Teen of the Year](#)

These state awards recognize the top 4-Hers in Ohio each year. Applications are due on December 1 of the current year. Awarded to 4-H members who have worked to make their best better in all aspects of life as well as in the world around them.

- [Teen of the Year Nominations](#)
- [Teen Hall of Fame Nominations](#)

[Scholarships](#)

All state level 4-H Scholarships to The Ohio State University can be found online and can be applied to using the same application!

How to Apply:

ScholarshipUniverse: Beginning **Dec. 1, 2025**, Ohio 4-H, ATI, CFAES, and university-wide scholarships are available through osu.scholarshipuniverse.com.

Log In: Use your lastname.# to access the system. New students must apply for admission before accessing ScholarshipUniverse.

Organizations

Ohio Junior Fair Board

4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and FFA members ages 16-20 have the opportunity to stay at the Ohio State Fair for twelve days working at various shows, concerts, and events around the fairgrounds.

4-H Teen Leadership Council (TLC)

4-H members aged 14-18 and 4-H alumni ages 18-20 work throughout the year to encourage improvement in the Ohio 4-H program and facilitate 4-H judging at the Ohio State Fair.

4-H Fashion Board

Clothing Construction and Consumer Clothing 4-H members can be nominated by their county to serve on the Fashion Board. Members meet a few times throughout the year, speak at the Ohio 4-H Conference, and facilitate the Ohio State Fair Clothing Days Judging.

Events

The Ohio Youth Institute

The Ohio Youth Institute is a transformative experience where high school students engage with local leaders and agriculture experts on critical global challenges, participate in hands-on activities and explore meaningful ways to make a difference in Ohio and around the world.

- **Date:** April 13, 2026
- **Venue:** The Ohio State University
- **Registration Deadline:** April 1, 2026
- **Age:** Grades 9-12

2026 Leadership Camp--June 1-5, 2026

The 2026 Ohio 4-H State Leadership Camp will be held from June 1-5, 2026 at 4-H Camp Ohio. Individuals must be nominated by their county and then will receive additional information about registering. **If you are interested in attending, please first contact your county's 4-H professional.**



Ohio 4-H State Leadership Camp

June 1-5, 2026; 4-H Camp Ohio

What is it? The Ohio 4-H State Leadership Camp is a premiere leadership development opportunity that offers participants engaging sessions in topics such as motivation, communication, teamwork, and more! While at camp, participants are actively learning AND teaching their peers!

MXC (Making Extreme Counselors)



Save the Date

Making eXtreme Counselors 2026

February 28-March 1, 2026

Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center

Please contact your county Extension Office to register.

Key details:

- **MXC is a statewide camp counselor training** that supplements county training. It is interactive, covers specific core competencies each year, and brings together teens from multiple camps to share ideas. It is a great way for counselors to learn from someone different and to share ideas from songs and skits to evening programs and facilitation skills! We will also have a keynote speaker with expertise in 4-H Camp Counseling, Jalisa Danhof, Director at Camp Newaygo!
- **Dates:** February 28-March 1, 2026
- **Age:** 14-18
- **Location:** Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center Columbus OH
- **Cost:** \$65/youth, \$45/adults (includes t-shirt, food, and swag items!)
- **Registration Deadline:** January 30, 2026 Please contact your county Rachel chapman.894@osu.edu to register.

2026 Ohio 4-H shooting sports camps

Learn basic and advanced disciplines such as Archery, pistol, rifles, marksmanship and more while also participating in fun classic camp activities and meeting new people from around the state of Ohio!

- **Date:** Senior Camp: **July 12-17 2026**
- **Location:** Canter's Cave 4-H Camp in Jackson Ohio.
- Open to any teen completing **grades 7-12** in the current school year
- **Cost:** ~ \$400 scholarships available

Shooting Sports Camp Counselors Needed

We are seeking enthusiastic 4-H members age 14-18 and 4-H Alumni age 19-20 to serve as camp counselors for the 2026 Junior and Senior Shooting Sports Camps!

Counselors serve in a leadership role, supervising campers, providing cabin management, planning and participating in all camp activities, leading songs, games, educational programs and more. At Shooting Sports Camp, campers participate in discipline-specific sessions with adult instructors. Counselors must select a shooting sports class to assist with during the camp. These camps provide counselors with a great learning experience and we have tons of fun! **Counselors also attend camp for FREE**. Training will be provided through your county 4-H program with applications opening in in January.

Ohio Sea Camp

Ohio 4-H Sea Camp at Kelleys Island offers teenage youth the opportunity to learn about aquatic science and experience a variety of recreational watersports on Lake Erie. Ohio 4-H Sea Camp offers an introduction to the Great Lakes through hands-on experiences in a variety of aquatic-based programs. Participants will gain an understanding of safety, explore a variety of potential careers from professionals in aquatic science, natural resources, and watersports. Participants will gain lifelong skills, while developing lasting friendships and comradery with peers on the beautiful Lake Erie Shore!

Sea Camp Info:

Dates: July 20-24, 2026

Location: Kelleys Island 4-H Camp

Who: Teens 14-17 years of age as of January 1, 2026.

Cost: Cost per camper is approximately \$450. Any camper who is enrolled in 4-H can attend for a discounted rate of \$400/camper.

Website: go.osu.edu/SeaCamp



Staff/Counselor Information:

- Must be 18+ years of age by January 1, 2026
- No prior counseling experience is required, but previous 4-H camping and counseling experience is helpful to be selected.
- Submit application by April 15, 2026 (will be available at go.osu.edu/SeaCamp)

Ohio 4-H Forestry Wildlife Conservation Camp

Join Ohio 4-H, Hocking College, and ODNR professionals at Canters Cave 4-H Camp for a weekend of learning about forestry and wildlife education, fishing, hiking, tree climbing, outdoor survival, ODNR careers, college opportunities, and more! Counselor opportunities are available for this camp. Counselors must be at least 15 and have one year of camp counselor experience. Applications are due in March.

Location: Canters Cave 4-H Camp in Jackson, Ohio.

When: Spring

Who: open to campers in grades 7-11

Cost: \$115


Adaptive Adventure Camp





“4-H is for everyone,” but sometimes accessibility issues deny youth with unique abilities the opportunity to attend camp. In Ohio, a statewide 4-H camp is held at Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp in Jackson, Ohio for young people who have needs that cannot be accommodated for in a traditional camp and their caregivers. Being a typical kid is what Camp is all about and it is no different for youth with unique needs. Our goal is to give Campers a true experience of Camp while meeting their needs and letting them set their own pace for fun and success!

National & International Opportunities

Youth Leadership Program

 **Save the Date:** Sunday, January 11, 2026

 **Location:** American Farm Bureau® Convention, Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA

 **Register:** Encourage your 4-H youth to [register today](#).

This **FREE** program for 4-H members gives youth the chance to:

- 🍀 Connect with farmers, ranchers, and industry leaders nationwide
- 🍀 Network with other youth leaders and build leadership skills!
- 🍀 Attend the *Empowering Young Leaders* reception with AFBF President Zippy Duvall

Citizen Washington Focus

Would you like to travel to Washington DC with other Ohio 4-H members learning about engaged citizenship, collaboration and innovation? Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is a premier 4-H leadership experience for high school youth 4-H ages 14–18 from across the United States held in March.

CWF part of Ignite 2026 by 4-H. <https://4-h.org/events/citizenship-washington-focus/>

While in Washington, D.C., participants will:

- Visit Capitol Hill and engage directly with representatives
- Explore career pathways
- Build lasting connections with peers
- Enjoy guided tours of our nation's capital
- Participate in immersive workshops and sessions



4-H Cultural Immersion Projects

Urban Immersion (Washington D.C.)

The Urban Immersion Project is a 4-H initiative that combines cross-cultural learning, teamwork, and service-learning in the urban environment of Washington, DC. Teens ages 15-18 are eligible for this 4-day service-learning experience that will build skills and abilities to prepare youth for success in a diverse workplace as well as build a cultural understanding of those who are different. This experience will not be about shopping or sightseeing, although we will visit some monuments and historic sites.

Who: Ohio 4-H teens ages 15-18 and still in high school (by the date of the trip)

Where: Washington, DC

When: Fall 2026

Cost: 2025 cost= \$250 (limited scholarship opportunities available)

Cultural Immersion (Puerto Rico)

You will build multicultural skills and understanding, as well as an increased ability to communicate in the increasingly diverse society that we live in. You will experience both the Old San Juan urban area as well as life in the remote mountain town of Castañer. The group also be working with Puerto Rican youth in joint service projects and leading teambuilding activities for students at University Gardens High School.

Who: Ohio 4-H teens ages 15-18 (by the date of the trip and still in high school)

Where: Puerto Rico (San Juan and the mountain village of Castañer)

When: Fall 2026

Cost: estimated to be \$1,500 (includes airfare, ground transportation, most meals, lodging, and program fees)

Nomination Deadline: May 1, to be nominated for 2026 contact the Summit County Extension Office

Global Immersion (Greece)

The Global Immersion Project allows teens to engage in a cross-cultural and agricultural career field exploration program about ag careers, cross-cultural interactions, workforce preparation, and leadership skills. Participants will engage in a variety of educational classroom and field activities. In addition, youth will help facilitate teambuilding and problem-solving activities through a Leadership Workshop with Greek high school and Jr. high students. Two off-site cultural experiences include an overnight experience in the historical town of Xanthi. Youth will have the opportunity Kayak and experience the beautiful landscape.

Who: Ohio 4-H teens ages 15-18 (*Teens are nominated by Ohio 4-H Professionals*)

Where: Thessaloniki, Greece (American Farm School)

When: Spring 2027

Cost: estimated to be \$3,000 (Includes airfare, most meals, lodging, and ground transportation)

Nomination: If you are interested in participating in a future Global Immersion trip to Greece please contact the Summit County Extension office for nomination information.

National 4-H Conference

April 9-15, 2026 // Washington, D.C.

Open to enrolled 4-H teens across Ohio!

Background: The National 4-H Conference is the premier civic engagement opportunity for 4-H members (15-18 years old) who are actively engaged in 4-H programs across the U.S. and its territories. The conference is administered by 4-H National Headquarters

Clover- an online learning program

Clover by 4-H is a fun learning program that includes over 250 courses and 190 interactive activities and games. Clover helps youth develop job and life skills while having fun. Best of all it is powered by university backed research and infused with positive youth development techniques.

Learn more and register for Clover here: <https://4-h.org/clover/about/>



Thank you for being a part of 4-h in Summit County!

