

Welcome to the Tennessee 4-H Junior High Academic Conference!

As a delegate at this conference, you will be involved in educational programming on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (UTK). Delegates will receive extensive, hands-on training in project areas, under the supervision of university scientists and specialists on the UTK campus. The conference will provide a variety of rewarding and fun-filled experiences including inside the classroom, outdoors, and laboratory settings.



Who May Attend?

Junior High 4-H members (6th-8th graders, as of January 1, 2023), enrolled in one of the following project areas, are eligible to attend the conference. Delegates may only attend in a project area once.

- Beef
- Citizenship
- Communication/Public Speaking
- Companion Animals
- Computers & Technology
- Consumer Education
- Creative Arts and Design
- Dairy Cattle
- Food Science/Dairy Foods
- Forestry/Wildlife/Fisheries
- Goat
- Horticulture/Gardening
- Horse
- Nutrition/Health/Fitness
- Outdoor Recreation/Shooting Sports
- Performing Arts
- Poultry
- Sheep
- Swine
- Veterinary Science

The Purpose of the Conference

- To recognize outstanding 4-H members and leaders
- To provide academic training related to the 4-H members' project area
- To offer opportunities for career exploration in agriculture and family and consumer sciences
- To meet other 4-H members with similar interests or in the same project area
- To experience campus life and facilities firsthand

Program Staff

The scientists and specialists who will be conducting the program are experienced UT faculty members with national reputations in their areas of specialization. They have been chosen for the conference on the basis of their experience and ability to work with youth.

Program Highlights By Day

Tuesday, June 13	Wednesday, June 14	Thursday, June 15	Friday, June 16
Arrival/Registration	Breakfast, Lunch	Breakfast, Lunch	Depart for Home
Meet & Greet: Icebreakers	Project Work	Project Work/STEM Fair	
Dinner	STEM Fair	Off-Campus Field Trip	
Welcome/Opening Event	Trip to Main Event	Graduation Banquet	
	Pizza Party	Movie and Pool Party	

Housing and Meals

You will be housed in air-conditioned comfort of the UT Knoxville residence halls— just like real college students! Most of your meals will be on campus: some in the university cafeteria, some sponsored by the UT Collegiate 4-H/FFA Club, one sponsored by the Knox County 4-H Honor Club, and Pizza Party. The Graduation Banquet is a fancy shin-dig so pull out a fancy outfit!

How Can I Apply for This Conference?

You will need to fill out the Application for Academic Conference and a [Section A](#) form for the portfolio for all project areas except Citizenship. If you are applying to attend Academic Conference in the Citizenship project area, you will fill out the application for Academic Conference and a [Section C](#) form. **Both forms (your application and Section A or C) should be sent to your 4-H Agent by March 31.**

What You Should Bring

- Sheets, blanket, pillow and/or sleeping bag for a twin bed
- Towels and washcloth
- Soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, other toiletries
- Comfortable walking shoes(2 pairs)
- Raincoat or umbrella
- Light jacket
- Appropriate clothing (*sports clothes in good taste will be appropriate for most of the conference. No cut-offs, tank tops, inappropriate words/images on attire or short shorts*)
- Girls - a “dressy” dress or suit will be appropriate for the graduation banquet
- Boys - a suit or sport coat with tie will be appropriate for the graduation banquet
- Alarm clock/Watch or time piece
- Bathing suit (*This should be appropriate*)
- Closed-toed shoes (*For all participants in animal projects*)
- Old shoes that can get wet or dirty (*Specifically for those in the Forestry/Wildlife/Fisheries project*)
- Consider bringing some work-type clothing for your 4-H Project Classes (*Many of you will be involved in hands-on learning experiences with plants and animals*)
- Spending money and money for lunch on the way to and breakfast on the way home from the event
- Water Bottle
- Prescription medications (*Must be in the original bottle*) & [F-600 Health Form](#) (*with photograph*)

Cost to Attend

The registration fee to attend Academic Conference is \$100 per delegate. Because our sponsors think it is important for you to attend this conference, each delegate is only paying a portion of the total fee. Once you are notified of your selection as a delegate, please pay the \$100 fee to your County Extension Office.

The Characteristics of an Exemplary Delegate

As an official delegate representing your region, you should be on your best behavior and act as a model 4-H member. Here are a few things you can do to ensure success during this conference:

- Make it a point to be on time or ahead of time for each session or event
 - Be a good listener. Impress your scientists or specialists with your ability to pay attention
 - Tobacco products, drugs, weapons, and chewing gum are not permitted at this conference
 - Writing notes of thanks to sponsors, leaders, agents, and parents is greatly appreciated
 - Share your experiences with others when you return home. Take notes and be prepared to give an interesting and worthwhile account of your experience on the UTK campus
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Sponsorship

The conference is conducted through a cooperative effort by UT Extension, the University of Tennessee Herbert College of Agriculture, the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine and UT AgResearch. This event is sponsored by gifts from a variety of donors with an interest in giving youth an in-depth project experience on the University of Tennessee campus including the following:

- Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
 - Tennessee 4-H Foundation
 - Tennessee Pork Producers Association
 - Charles Weber
 - Ezell/Purity Endowment
 - Greever Memorial Fund
 - Stanfill Memorial Fund
 - University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
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More Information

Upon selection, delegates will receive more information regarding their attendance at Academic Conference. If you have any questions, feel free to email Lynne Middleton, Interim State 4-H Curriculum Specialist, at LMiddle2@utk.edu.

