

Tennessee 4-H Junior High Academic Conference



If you are chosen as a delegate for 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 inside the classroom, outdoors, and in laboratory settings.

Who May Attend?

Junior High 4-H members (6th-8th graders, as of January 1, 2026), who are enrolled in one of the following project areas, are eligible to attend. Delegates may attend in a project area only once. Delegates are encouraged to choose a first and second choice of project areas in which to attend.

- Beef
- Citizenship
- Communication/Public Speaking
- Companion Animals
- Computers & Technology
- Consumer Education
- Creative Arts and Design
- Dairy Cattle
- Entrepreneurship
- Food Science/Dairy Foods
- Forestry/Wildlife/Fisheries
- Goat
- Healthy Living
- Horse
- Outdoor Recreation/Shooting Sports
- Performing Arts
- Plant Sciences
- Poultry
- Sheep
- Swine
- Vet Sciences

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 (All activities are tentative and subject to changed without notice.)

Tuesday, June 9	Wednesday, June 10	Thursday, June 11	Friday, June 12
Arrival/Registration	Breakfast, Lunch	Breakfast, Lunch	Depart
Welcome	Project Work	Project Work	
Dinner	Field Trip	Field Trip	
Project Group Meetings	Pool Party	Graduation Banquet	

Housing and Meals

Central and Western Region 4-H members will be bused to Knoxville, while Eastern Region 4-H members should plan to be transported by parents or 4-H agent. Once youth have arrived on campus, they will be housed in air-conditioned comfort of the UT Knoxville residence halls— just like real college students! Most of the meals will be on campus: the University Cafeteria, breakfasts sponsored by UT Collegiate 4-H/FFA Club, lunch sponsored by Knox County 4-H Honor Club, and a Pizza Party. The Graduation Banquet is a fancy shin-dig so pull out fancy outfit (not really — just bring a nice suit or dress).

Cost to Attend

The registration fee to attend Academic Conference is \$110 per delegate. Because our sponsors think this conference is important to attend, each delegate is only paying a portion of the total fee. Once delegates are notified of their selection, they will be instructed to pay the \$110 fee to the County Extension Office.

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 or hoodie for cool weather
- 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*)
- Jeans and old shoes that can get dirty (*Specifically for the Forestry/Wildlife/Fisheries project*)
- Consider bringing some work-type clothing for 4-H Project Classes (*Many will be involved in hands-on learning experiences with plants and animals*)
- Spending money and money for lunch on the way to Knoxville and breakfast on the way home
- Water Bottle
- Prescription medications (*Must be in the original bottle*) & F600M form
- [F600 Health Form](#) should be turned in to the county 4-H agent prior to the conference)

The Characteristics of an Exemplary Delegate

As an official delegate representing your region, delegates should be on their best behavior and act as a model 4-H'er. Here are a few things 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 the scientists or specialists with delegates' 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 experiences with others when delegates return home. Take notes and be prepared to give an interesting and worthwhile account of the experience on the UTK campus
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How Can I Apply for This Conference?

Applicants will need to fill out the Application for Academic Conference and submit through the Qualtrics website. **Applications are due by March 31.**

Upon acceptance, delegates will be notified by their 4-H agent. This typically occurs by the end of each April.

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
 - Ezell/Purity Endowmentpr
 - Greever Memorial Fund
 - Stanfill Memorial Fund
 - University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
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More Information

If you have questions, feel free to visit the Academic Conference webpage on the Tennessee 4-H Website: <https://4h.tennessee.edu/academic-conference/>. Also, feel free to email Lynne Middleton, State 4-H Curriculum Specialist, at LMiddle2@utk.edu.



TENNESSEE 4-H ACADEMIC CONFERENCE APPLICATION

Name: _____ Gender: Female
 (First) (Middle) (Last) Male

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Parent Email: _____ County: _____ Grade (as of January 1 of current year): 6th

Region: Central
 Eastern
 Western

T-shirt (adult sizes): XS XL
 S 2XL
 M 3XL
 L

Roommate Preference (if any): 7th
 8th

(Note: every effort will be made to fulfill roommate requests, but there are no guarantees.)

Do you have any food-related allergies? If so, please list: _____

By checking this box, I am certifying that I have been in contact with my county 4-H agent. He/She is aware of intent to complete this form and apply for Tennessee 4-H Academic Conference.

I. My first project choice in which to attend Academic Conference: _____

PROJECT EXPERIENCES: Describe the activities you completed that shows mastery in this project area. Use as much detail as possible -- including numbers -- to show significance of impact and what was learned. Project experiences can be from other organizations and groups other than 4-H. The indicators of competition levels: (L) is local; (C) is county; (M) is multi-county or sub-regional; (R) is regional; and (S) is state. Please include the grade in which you completed the project work and the units. Units may be measured in a number of ways (units, number of times, products made, miles, acres, etc...) such as the number of times a project action was performed. Information included in this section should be for your preferred project area only.

Grade	Type of Presentation/Type of Exhibit	(L)	(C)	(M)	(R)	(S)	Units
4	Example: "4-H is Out of This World" 4-H Poster	1	1				1 poster



When you have completed the front AND back of this application, please use the QR code to upload this application into the judging system. Don't forget to complete the back page of this application FIRST!

2. If not selected to attend in my first project choice, I will be pleased to attend in my second project choice -- if selected: _____

PROJECT EXPERIENCES: Using the instructions from the previous section just completed, please include information about project experiences that are related for your alternative project area only.

Grade	Type of Presentation/Type of Exhibit	(L)	(C)	(M)	(R)	(S)	Units
6	Example: Practiced sub-Q injections on sheep.	5					5x

3. **WHAT ELSE:** List other activities in which you have participated, attended, completed, etc... related to your 4-H work -- not specifically a project. Think about community service projects, leadership, conferences, camps, countywide 4-H events, fairs, etc...

Grade	Type of Presentation/Type of Exhibit	(L)	(C)	(M)	(R)	(S)	Units
8	Example: Honor Club Refreshment Committee		6				6x

4. If you are selected to attend AC, how will you share your experience in your county when you return home and encourage others to apply in the future?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____