

4-H EVENT/OPPORTUNITY: 4-H Camp Counselor

DATE / DEADLINE: Applications are due or postmarked to the OSU Extension Office by January 12, 2023.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The 4-H Camp Counselors are a group of 4-H teens selected to assist in being responsible for campers ages 9 - 18 during 4-H camp. As a result of participation, counselors will develop knowledge, skills, attitudes, and aspirations needed for adult success, and the Highland County 4-H program will be strengthened and expanded. Roles and Responsibilities of 4-H Camp Counselors include:

- Attend required trainings prior to camp
- Market and promote camp
- Serve in a leadership and teaching role to other counselors
- Serve on committees or other groups to plan programs at camp
- Conduct self in an appropriate manner before, during, and after camp while serving as a role model to campers and peers
- Assist staff and other counselors with camp activities; work as a team to implement the activities
- Know and understand all safety guidelines, including emergency procedures, associated with the camp and program areas
- Follow and enforce camp rules
- Assure for safety of campers at all times including in cabins, sessions, and large group activities
- Be aware of child protection regulations and report any child abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect in accordance with university policy
- Identify and respond to camper behavior issues
- Ensure campers' health and hygiene, e.g., brushing teeth, eating meals, taking medication, etc.
- Promote camper participation during camp
- Lead and supervise campers in activities at camp including but not limited to songs, teambuilding challenges, group activities, challenges, etc.
- Teach and lead campers at workshops or during other components at camp (table setting, song leading, etc.)
- Mentor and give guidance to campers to encourage positive youth development and enhancement of life skills

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Must** be at least 14 years old by the start of camp.
- **Must** be able to get transportation to meetings and events as needed.
- **Must** complete a minimum of 12 hours of training. (2 of these hours must be on-sight for first time counselors).
- **Must** complete Child Abuse Awareness training.
- **Must** Sign Standards of Behaviors, complete the Code of Conduct form, and have a current Ohio 4-H Health History form on file.
- **First** time applicants must provide two references.
- **If** the individual is 18+ year old at least two months prior to camp, the individual must have their background check conducted.

SELECTION PROCESS:

- Individuals who complete the application and fulfill application requirements will be contacted regarding the selection process.

MEETING DATES/TIME/FREQUENCY/TRAINING

- 4-H Camp Counselors meet the following dates throughout the year: first Wednesday of the month directly after Junior Leadership meetings.
Counselors are expected to notify the Extension Office if an absence is unavoidable.
- 4-H Camp Counselors will be trained on topics such as the camp counselor core competencies; risk management, including active shooter guidelines, emergency protocols, and child abuse recognition.

TO APPLY:

- Complete the application in its entirety.
- Turn in reference forms from two non-family members. OR provide non-family references with contact information.
- Read and sign the Standards of Behavior and Camp Counselor Code of Conduct forms.
- Return all materials to the Highland County Extension Office by January 12, 2023.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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Last Updated by H.K. Epley, 12/2018 (added photo option)

4-H CAMP COUNSELOR APPLICATION

Name _____

Age (January 1) _____

Date of Birth _____ (00/00/0000)

Home Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Email _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Is texting an option? (circle) Yes No

In case of injury or accident, notify:

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

Why do you want to be a camp counselor? _____

What traits, skills, or special experiences do you have that would benefit you in this position? (Please include experiences working with children and youth.) _____

What skills or contributions will you add to the counselor team in making sure camp is successful? (such as First Aid, Babysitter's Course, Recreation, etc.) _____

What hobbies and/or special interests do you have that you would like to share? _____

Please list 2 of your strengths. _____

**Standards of Behavior for Minor Participants Participating in
Activities and Programs with Minor Participants**

Minors participating in activities and programs with minor participants sponsored by Ohio State are required to conduct themselves according to the following standards of behavior. These standards operate in conjunction with the guidelines and regulations of the specific activity or program.

Minor participation expectations:

- Be responsible for own behavior, uphold high standards for self and accept consequences for inappropriate behavior
- Practice good citizenship, leadership and self-control
- Show respect to others, be courteous and respectful
- Use appropriate language at all times
- Be supervised by activity/program personnel at all times in which privacy would not be expected (restrooms, overnight stays, etc)

The following behaviors and actions are not permitted at The Ohio State University in activities or programs with minor participants:

- Actions that bully, tease, dominate, or display sexualized behavior toward others
- Disrespect of others, unsportsmanlike, unethical, immoral conduct
- Improper language, e.g., profanity
- Possession or consumption of alcohol and illegal drugs, including the use of tobacco by a minor
- Possession or use of harmful objects with the intent to harm or intimidate others, e.g., weapons, fireworks
- Being in spaces in which you are not permitted to be (including but not limited to unsupervised spaces, another's room, etc)
- Destruction or theft of property
- Violation of rules, including established curfew, when applicable
- Other conduct determined to be inappropriate for youth development

Violations of the standards of behavior will be handled as follows:

1. If a chaperone is present for the minor involved in the violation, this person will be made aware of the violation.
2. The parents will be notified of the incident and actions taken. When necessary, arrangements will be made to remove the minor from the activity or program.
3. The minor can/may be barred from participating in future Ohio State activities and programs with minor participants.
4. When warranted (e.g., violation of law) the situation may be turned over to the appropriate law enforcement authority.

Staff/volunteer expectations:

- Will not have private contact with minors, including electronically
- Refrain from any criminal conduct
- Endeavor to provide a safe and healthy experience for all participants
- Report any child abuse or neglect in accordance with university policy

If you suspect or know that a staff member or volunteer is not acting in accordance to these expectations, please contact the activity or program director immediately. Additional information can be found at: go.osu.edu/protectionofminors

I, _____, as a participant in an activity or program with minor participants, _____ 4-H Camp
(name of minor, print) (name of activity/program, print)

have read these standards of behavior and agree to accept and follow them. I also accept the consequences for my actions if I choose not to follow the standards of behavior.

Minor signature Date

I, we _____ have read the standards of behavior and support my minor's participation in the
(parent/guardian, print)
activity/program.

Parent/guardian signature Date

4-H CAMP COUNSELOR CODE OF CONDUCT

I, _____ agree that if selected, I will participate in the 4-H Camp Counselor Training Program. I understand that this is a training period and only once I complete my certification am I permitted to be a counselor at 4-H Camp.

I understand that I am taking on a different role at camp. I am applying to serve other, not to go purely for my own enjoyment. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by the above responsibilities if selected as a camp counselor. I understand and agree that I will be asked to call my parents/guardian immediately to pick me up if I conduct myself in an irresponsible manner, which includes being out of my cabin after hours and/or the possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs or fireworks.

I will be expected to:

- ✓ Attend the required number of counselor training sessions. I understand I will be dismissed if I am not able to complete the required training.
- ✓ Abide by the No Cell Phones at Camp Policy (note: unless otherwise authorized by Extension staff)
- ✓ Treat other peers with respect.
- ✓ Not bully fellow counselors or participate in roughhousing, horse-play, or hazing.
- ✓ Conduct myself as a positive role model and be responsible.
- ✓ Set a good example by not using profanity or telling off-color jokes, and stories.
- ✓ As a 4-H member, not have in my possession tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs.
- ✓ Not have possession of harmful objects without specific authorization from the camp director, including but not limited to: knives of any kind (pocket, utility, etc.), lighters, matches, fireworks, explosives, firearms, weapons, etc.
- ✓ No pornography or other sexually oriented materials including nudity in visual or written materials including similar content.
- ✓ Be a responsible cabin counselor and ensure campers are provided guidance towards a safe and fun week.
- ✓ Ensure that all campers are supervised by counselor staff at all times. Be sure that all campers know that they must remain on the camp grounds at all times and are responsible for their behavior at all times.
 - Get to know each of the campers personally and by name.
 - Have all campers, including myself check in any of their medications with the nurse.
 - Make sure each camper uses personal hygiene.
 - Make sure that all of my campers are familiar with camp facilities and camp rules
 - See that all campers are involved in all activities. Make sure no one is excluded.
- ✓ Check for illness or injury, but don't make much of a "fuss" about minor things. Go with hurt or sick campers to the nurse no matter how minor the ailment.
- ✓ Follow guidelines for lights out, and cabin supervision. Be in my cabin with my campers at all times between the hours of "Lights Out" and "Rise and Shine."
- ✓ Never discipline a camper by ridicule or physical punishment; patience and understanding works best.
- ✓ Urge safety at all time. Take time to explain how and why to do something safely.
- ✓ Work as a team to plan, organize and conduct all camp activities.
- ✓ Be flexible with counseling and adult staff.
- ✓ Participate in camp promotion.
- ✓ Follow leadership of camping program through adult advisors/volunteers/staff.

I certify that the all the information being submitted is correct, and understand that failure to comply with these rules could result in probation, or loss of counseling position for the year.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____
Parent/ Guardian Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

REFERENCE FORM

_____ is applying as a camp counselor at 4-H Camp this summer. The camp counselor selection committee would like your input about the qualities and ability to fulfill the responsibilities of a counselor. The information you include will not be shared with the applicant. Please complete this reference form based on *your* knowledge and/or observations. Thank you for your help.

1. Please mark how you would evaluate the applicant's qualities, using this scale:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Known
Responsibility					
Communication skills					
Respect for others					
Dependability					
Enthusiasm					
Flexibility					
Patience					
Initiative					
Resourcefulness					
Ability to work with children (age 5-10)					
Ability to work with children (ages 11-14)					
Ability to work with other teens					
Ability to work with adults					

2. Please write any additional comments here:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please return no later than _____ (date)

OSU Extension, _____ County

Address:

FAX:

E-mail:

Please note: Please submit in a sealed envelope. For questions contact the OSU Extension Office.

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ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS—COUNTY SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR COUNTIES TO CONSIDER

The following are items for counties to consider including in their counselor application:

- Under “Requirements”, add “member must be a 4-H member in good standing.” if this applies to your county.
- Have the counselor applicant give the reference form to the individual. Then the reference can turn in the completed form to the Extension Office. OR have the counselor applicant list name and contact information for the reference form. Then the Extension office would contact the individual to provide information on the applicant.
- Include basic information on the counselor application that may be helpful for you as you plan your camp. Items may include:
 - Photo (to assist you recognizing the applicant)
 - 4-H Club
 - Years in 4-H
 - Number of years as a camper
 - Number of years a counselor/counselor in training
 - Projects completed in previous year
 - School attending
 - School calendar (spring break, last day)
 - Other activities that may require the applicant’s time (such as job, FFA, band, sports, junior fair board, etc.)
 - T-Shirt size
 - List camp programming requests (such as theme, workshops or activities to conduct at camp, guest speaker ideas, etc.)
 - Additional information that may help you get to know the applicant (such as: what 3 words would a friend use to describe you, provide a leadership experience you have had, etc.)
- Include committee selection, camp workshops, camp activities, etc. necessary specific to your camp. Examples include:
 - What are you comfortable leading? (crafts, canoeing, flags, etc.)
 - Rank your planning session preference (water carnival, candle lighting, etc.)
- Include counselor selection process. This may be a pre-determined date/time, how the applicant will be called to set up an interview, etc.
- You may also want to include information on collecting a program fee if you wish to collect that upon individuals applying.