



4-H OUT-OF-STATE EXPERIENCES FOR TEENS

Currently enrolled 4-H teens are eligible to participate in the following regional and national 4-H experiences/competitive events.

National 4-H Congress - Available to any 4-H teen age 14 or older. Process: completes an application/record and interview. Deadline to apply: May 1. National 4-H Congress is a national 4-H event held in Atlanta beginning the day after Thanksgiving. Teens are selected based upon their achievements in project work, leadership and citizenship/community involvement. Ten to fifteen teens are selected to participate annually.

National 4-H Conference – Available to any 4-H teen age 15 or older (high school sophomores and juniors). Process: complete an application. Deadline to apply: December 15. National 4-H Conference is a leadership event called by the Secretary of Agriculture to provide input into the 4-H Youth Development program. Teens participate in a variety of discussion groups and leadership training workshops. Usually held in March or April at the National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, MD. Four teens are usually selected to participate. Participants are expected to be involved with the State 4-H Teen Council during the year following their participation.
http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/comm/4h_conf.htm

National 4-H Engineering Leadership Event – A competitive event to recognize the skills and knowledge of 4-Her enrolled in engineering projects. Available to age 14 or older on January 1 of the current year to participate. Held at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, late in September. Young people are selected as a result of their top placing in the state competitive event usually held during the Delaware State Fair.

- **Computer** – individual computer science demonstration winner at the state contest, Delaware State Fair.
- **Small Engines** – individual small engines demonstration winner at the state contest, Delaware State Fair.
- **Electric** – individual electric demonstration winner at the state contest, Delaware State Fair.
- **Compact Tractor Driving** – winner of the compact tractor driving contest at the state contest, Delaware State Fair.
- **Tractor Driving** – winner of the tractor driving contest at the state contest, Delaware State Fair.

All participants are expected to study project literature and practice for their skill event (driving contest or demonstration) between the state and national contest to be fully prepared to represent Delaware 4-H. <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/naengr/naengr.html>

Out-of-State Judging Contests – Animals Projects – Delaware 4-H will participate in regional and national 4-H judging contests in the areas of horse, dairy, poultry and livestock if a team of at least 4 teens is available to participate in the appropriate contest and team members are willing to commit to practice and prepare to participate in the event. Events usually include oral reasons classes in conjunction with placing six or more classes. Participants must be at least age 14 on January 1. Preference is given to older teens, as participants are usually not eligible to return and participate in the contest a second time. Participants must commit to study and practice between the state fair and out-of-state competitive event.

National Junior Horticulture Association (NJHA) - This is a national organization to promote and sponsor educational programs that foster a better understanding of horticulture; develop good citizens with a basic understanding of nature and an acceptance of responsibility of the environment; to acquaint youth with the many varied career opportunities in the horticultural industry; and to provide young people and their adult leaders with new experiences in group participation, cooperation and leadership at the national level. The site of the conference rotates to major cities throughout the country. A horticulture-judging contest is one of the events held in conjunction with educational workshops and a horticulture photography contest. Delegates are selected from the top 4-H horticulture-judging participants at the Delaware State Fair. Participants must be age 14 or older on January 1 of the current year. Those selected will need to practice in preparation for the national event. <http://www.njha.org/>

National 4-H Technology Leadership Conference - Conference Objectives: Build information technology into 4-H programs nationwide through focused education, networking, outreach, and commitment to continued action. Increase knowledge and understanding of information technology while strengthening the ability to teach those concepts. Cultivate an environment where delegates share ideas, gain information, and develop approaches to strengthen technology programs. Generate team strategies to increase information technology literacy in underserved populations.

A team of Delaware teens and an adult chaperone may participate in this program. Nominations are made by the County 4-H Educator to the State 4-H Office. The 2006 National 4H Technology Leadership Conference will take place July 24-27 at University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska. <http://4hntc.4-h.org/>

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP) is a 4-H natural resource program dedicated to teaching wildlife and fisheries habitat management to junior and senior level (age 8-19) youth in the U.S. Participants learn how to identify common wildlife foods; judge the quality of wildlife habitat from aerial photographs; recommend wildlife management practices; develop a rural wildlife management plan; and develop an urban wildlife management plan. A national competitive event for teens age 14 and older related to wildlife and their habitat is held annually usually in July. Participants are selected from the state WHEP contest held at the Delaware State Fair. The event rotates around the country. The host state determines one category that is especially relevant to the contest site. Participants selected must agree to participate in practices in preparation for the national contest. <http://www.whep.org/>