4-H EVENT/OPPORTUNITY: 2027 4-H Camp Counselor

DATE / DEADLINE: Applications are due to the OSU Extension Office no later than November 30, 2026 at 4:30pm for both new and returning counselors. They can also be scanned and emailed to jackson.2818@osu.edu or hoverman.22@osu.edu.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The 4-H Camp Counselors are a group of 4-H teens selected to assist in being responsible for campers ages 9-14 during 4-H camp. As a result of participation, counselors will develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and aspirations needed for adult success, and the Van Wert 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., showering, 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 15 years old by the start of camp and entering their freshman year of high school.
- Must be able to get transportation to meetings and events as needed.
- 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.
- Member must be a 4-H member in good standing

SELECTION PROCESS:

- Individuals who complete the application and fulfill application requirements will be invited for an interview on December 7, 2026.

MEETING DATES/TIME/FREQUENCY

4-H Camp Counselors meetings will start in January. For 2027, meetings will be on Mondays from 6:00-8:00PM. Counselors are expected to notify the Extension Office if an absence is unavoidable.

TO APPLY:

- ❑ Complete the application in its entirety.
- ❑ Turn in reference forms from two non-family members (for new applicants only)
- ❑ Read and sign (parents and counselors) the Standards of Behavior and Camp Counselor Code of Conduct forms.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.

Last Updated by H.K. Epley, 12/2016

4-H CAMP COUNSELOR APPLICATION

Name _____

4-H Club_____ Years in Club_____ Number of years as a camper_____
Age _____ Date of Birth _____ (00/00/0000)
Home Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)
Email_____ Home Phone_____
Cell Phone _____ Is texting an option? (circle) Yes No
T shirt size_____
In case of injury or accident, notify:
Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

For new counselor applicants only:
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. _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

What other activities do you participate in beside 4-H? _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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 and uphold high standards for the group and accept consequences for inappropriate behavior
- Support and abide by the group's designated leader
- Practice good citizenship, leadership and self-control
- Follow the direction of activity or program staff and/or leaders
- Demonstrate positive sportsmanship and attitudes at all times which is becoming of a leader
- Show respect to others, be courteous and respectful
- Use appropriate language at all times

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

- Unsportsmanlike conduct, 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
- Boys in girls' rooms/restrooms and vice versa
- Destruction of property
- Violation of established curfew, when applicable
- Disrespect of adults, other participants, volunteers, staff and/or those in leadership positions
- Belittling others/putting others down and being disrespectful of individuals' differences
- Aggressive physical behavior, e.g., fighting
- Taking property that belongs to others
- Other conduct determined to be inappropriate for youth development by the event chair or designated Ohio State faculty/staff

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.

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.

Ohio 4-H

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 others, 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, horseplay, 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.
- ✓ Stay on Campgrounds. Ensure that all campers are always supervised by counselor staff. 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 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 always 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 times. 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 November 30, 2026
OSU Extension, Van Wert County
Address: 1055 South Washington St. Van Wert, Ohio 45891
E-mail: hoverman.22@osu.edu

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

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 November 30, 2026
OSU Extension, Van Wert County
Address: 1055 South Washington St. Van Wert, Ohio 45891
E-mail: hoverman.22@osu.edu

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

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:
    - 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.