

4-H ONTARIO AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Purpose:

- To provide senior 4-H members (17-21 years old before January 1st) with opportunities and experiences to enhance their knowledge, skills, attitudes and aspirations in leadership, citizenship, communications and public relations.
- To provide senior 4-H members the opportunity to be actively involved and valued as partners in expanding 4-H marketing and promotion efforts.

Objectives:

- To empower our youth
- To educate people about 4-H
- To raise awareness of 4-H and increase visibility
- To recruit new 4-H members
- To retain current 4-H members

The Ambassador Program will be provincial in title with a provincial/regional focus. Some local promotion/activity will be required as schedules and timelines permit.

Each ambassador will serve a term of one year commencing in mid-February with a Reception and Orientation Weekend.

Ambassadors may serve a maximum of two terms.

Selection Process:

- Complete and submit an application form
- Submit a resume, cover letter (explaining your ideas and interest in becoming a 4-H Ambassador) and two **typed** reference letters (one from your Local 4-H Association) explaining why you would make a great 4-H Ambassador. Letters should come from sources other than 4-H Ontario staff.

Successful applicants will then move on to:

- An interview by a panel of 3 individuals
- Present a 3-5 minute presentation on one of the following:
 - Presentation promoting 4-H to a class of Grade 6 students
 - Presentation aimed at motivating volunteers
 - Marketing 4-H to potential sponsors
- Parents must read and sign an agreement of understanding with regards to time commitments and travel involved with the ambassador program, should their son/daughter be selected

Note: If you were interviewed in a previous year you must select a different topic for your 2010 presentation

Training and Orientation:

- An orientation weekend together with advisors to plan out the year – roles, responsibilities, expectations, rules and guidelines of expected behaviour, outline of events to attend (or not to), review of completing travel forms, introduction to sponsor representative, training in such areas as communications, public relations, workshop facilitation
- Opportunities for training throughout the year which may include
 - manners, etiquette
 - resumes and interview skills
 - public relations, writing reports and news releases, dealing with the media
 - facilitation techniques
 - public speaking, using visual aids,
 - agricultural awareness, 4-H awareness

- Encouragement to participate in local association training/update sessions, both as a learning experience and perhaps to promote opportunities.

Duties May Include:

- Attending non 4-H events to promote 4-H at schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, community activities
- Assisting with 4-H booths at fairs and community events to increase the visibility of 4-H
- Organizing a community event for youth in conjunction with other youth organizations to raise the image of youth and provide a means of community support and development
- Recruiting delegates for opportunities by attending sign up nights and awards nights
- Recruiting members for 4-H by attending general 4-H information nights and one day Regional Discovery Days.
- Educating people about 4-H and help increase awareness of 4-H by making school presentations
- Working with Regional Specialists/Communications Team to write regional 4-H news releases as a skill builder and 4-H promotional tool
- Attending regional or local 4-H board meetings and workshops to promote the Ambassador Program and as a learning experience
- Attending a maximum of two preplanned engagements or events for the sponsors to thank them for their support and to increase the visibility of 4-H
- Writing articles about 4-H events for publication in local or regional publications

Requirements of each Ambassador (application package will contain a detailed list of all the requirements):

- Sign an agreement indicating commitment to fulfill specific duties and obligations
- Arrange for parents to sign an agreement indicating their understanding of the opportunities for travel and responsibilities involved
- Keep a journal/scrapbook
- Attend orientation and applicable training sessions
- Participate in approximately two group teleconferences
- Attend a minimum of 4 provincial opportunities
- Respond promptly to email and phone correspondence and event attendance requests
- Work cooperatively with the Region 3 Regional Specialist to arrange attendance at various events
- Submitting reports regularly to ensure requirements of the program are being met – if they are not being met removal from the program will occur
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Contact: Region 3 Regional Specialist region3@4-hontario.ca

GROWMARK





4-H ONTARIO AMBASSADOR

GROWMARK



APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING AND FORWARD TO:
4-H ONTARIO AMBASSADOR PROGRAM, 5653 Hwy 6 N RR 5, GUELPH, ON
N1H 6J2 OR EMAIL opportunities@4-hontario.ca

DEADLINE IS JANUARY 8, 2010



Three page 4-H Ambassador Application Form



One page cover letter with an explanation of your interest in becoming a 4-H Ambassador.



Resume



Two reference letters (one which must be from your 4-H Association) which include examples of why you would make a good 4-H Ambassador

NOTE: Cover letter, resume and reference letters are required to be typed.

Successful candidates will be selected to move to the next level:

THESE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED WITH FURTHER DETAILS AND SHOULD BE PREPARED TO:



Attend an interview on January 30, 2010 at the 4-H Ontario office in Guelph



Be interviewed by a panel of 3 individuals at the above conference



Present a 3-5 minute presentation during your interview



Attend, if selected as an Ambassador, a reception on February 12, 2010 and a training session Friday, February 12 to Sunday, February 14, 2010



4-H ONTARIO AMBASSADOR Application Form



Name: _____ Male: _____ Female: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code _____

Email Address: _____ 4-H Association: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Parent or Guardian (if under 18 years old): _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Provincial Membership #: _____ Number of years as a 4-H member: _____

Number of projects completed: _____ Number of Youth Leader Projects Completed: _____

List the last three projects you completed and indicate the year taken:

1. _____ Year _____

2. _____ Year _____

3. _____ Year _____

List special club, local and regional 4-H activities in which you have participated:

List any Provincial, National or International 4-H opportunities that you have attended and the year attended:

List all 4-H awards:

List school activities (committees, clubs etc.) you are currently involved in:

List community activities (sports, clubs, volunteer work etc.) you are currently involved in:

List any school or community based awards you have won:

What makes you proud to be a 4-H member?

Why do you wish to become a 4-H Ambassador?

What skills and interests would you bring to the Ambassador Program that would be an asset?

I certify that the information contained in this application form is a true and correct representation. Personal information on this form is collected and used for the administration and publicity of the 4-H program in Ontario. I allow my name and photograph to be published in media coverage and promotion of the 4-H program. My signature below indicates that I agree to release this information.

Signature of Applicant:_____ Date:_____

Signature of Parent/Guardian (all applicants): _____

PLEASE SEND YOUR 4-H AMBASSADOR APPLICATION PACKAGE TO:

**4-H Ontario Attn: Ambassador Program
5653 Highway 6 North, RR 5
Guelph, Ontario N1H 6J2**

or email opportunities@4-hontario.ca

FAQs of the 4-H Ontario Ambassador Program!

Q. Is the 4-H Ambassador Program a provincial opportunity?

A. Yes! The 4-H Ontario Ambassador Program welcomes applications from all Ontario 4-H members 17-21 years of age as of January 1st of the year in which they are vying for the position. The strongest applicants will be declared ambassadors when all elements of the competition are considered, regardless of home association or region.

Q. What are the responsibilities of the 4-H Ambassadors?

A. The Ambassadors are committed to the promotion of 4-H in Ontario, primarily on a provincial basis, although some national and international opportunities may be available as well. Ambassadors promote 4-H in both traditional and non-traditional 4-H venues. At 4-H events, the presence of Ambassadors sparks enthusiasm amongst participants as Ambassadors encourage members and volunteers to take advantage of opportunities presented to them.

Q. When are the 4-H Ambassadors selected?

A. The final interviews and presentations take place on Saturday, January 30, 2010 at the 4-H Ontario office in Guelph. Successful candidates will be contacted and the 2010 Ambassadors will officially be welcomed at a reception in Guelph on Friday, February 12, 2010.

Q. What is the time commitment for Ambassadors?

A. Typically, each ambassador participates in 2-4 events most months, with a greater concentration of activities during the summer when there are a lot of rural events happening. Some activities, such as the orientation and training weekend are required; however, personal schedules (especially school and jobs) are considered when most events arise.

Q. Is this a beauty pageant, like many other Ambassador titles?

A. No! The role of the Ambassadors is to promote 4-H, and selected 4-H members are chosen for their abilities to fulfill that responsibility. Applications are reviewed and a select group of applicants are chosen for interviews and short presentations to a panel of judges.

Q. Does the position involve traveling?

A. Yes! Ambassadors will be asked to attend events throughout the province. Local events may be attended on an availability basis, but most are regional or provincial in scope. Travel opportunities are spread out amongst the ambassadors. There may also be opportunities to participate in national or international opportunities. Since there is considerable travel involved, access to reliable transportation when required is a must.

Q. If I am a finalist, why are my parents required to approve my participation in this program?

A. The Ambassador program requires significant travel throughout Ontario, with occasional opportunities for travel outside of the province. Your parents' endorsement acknowledges that they are comfortable with you traveling, sometimes long distances, often with no other ambassadors or staff, and that they will support you in your full participation in the program.

Q. How do the Ambassadors benefit from the program?

A. An important goal of the program is to enhance the 4-H experience of the members involved by providing a number of worthwhile opportunities:

- Provincial recognition as an outstanding 4-H member
- Training opportunities in several areas, such as interview skills, public relations, communication, writing reports and news releases, public speaking, using visual aids, agricultural and 4-H awareness, etiquette
- Opportunities to participate in local, regional, and provincial 4-H events
- Networking opportunities and resume building
- New friends, experiences, and much more

Q. If I applied in the past and did not win, is it worth applying again?

A. Absolutely! Every project you complete, and every 4-H event you participate in makes you a stronger ambassador. Every 4-H member is an ambassador in their county or club. Unfortunately only a select group can become ambassadors each year, so reapplication is encouraged. 4-H members are encouraged when reapplying to take note of the comments and recommendations made by the committee during the previous application process. The program offers a maximum of two terms as an ambassador.

Q. Do I receive a project completion for fulfilling the ambassador program requirements?

A. No, as previously stated, this is an opportunity, not a project.

Q. Will I be expected to attend every event that I am invited to?

A. No, you will be assisted by a 4-H staff member in deciding which events fit the mandate of this program. Most requests for Ambassador attendance go through this process; however, you may be asked to attend local events at your discretion.

Q. Do I receive any compensation for representing 4-H?

A. Your expenses, including mileage, are covered for approved attendance at events. Compensation comes in the form of incredible life experiences!

Q. How can I find out more about the Ambassador experience?

A. Ask one of the six 2009 Ambassadors! They will be happy to share their stories.

The 2009 Ambassador Team
Bruce Betzner, Lynden
Olivia Groniger, Carlsbad Springs
Morgan Kluka, Chatham
Ashley Pulver, Carrying Place
Cory Ward, Woodstock
Stephanie Warner, Hastings