



## Maryland 4-H State Council FAQ's

**What is the Maryland 4-H State Council?** It is the premiere leadership opportunity in Maryland that allows youth from across the state to network, learn and practice high level leadership skills as well as promote 4-H and provide service on state level.

**Who is in charge of the State Council?** It is led by a youth officer team and faculty/staff advisors. This group plans, prepares and presents all of the bi-monthly meetings and work with their committee's to support the annual Public Issue.

All State Council members are a part of the decision making process to identify the annual public issue and plan for state council activities. An intentional focus on youth and adult partnerships is at the core of the Maryland 4-H State Council. All adults, advisors and volunteers, work to provide youth opportunity to experience Belonging, Independence, Generosity and Mastery, which are the 4-H Essential Elements!

**What does the State Council do?** They create an annual plan to promote and support 4-H and their selected public issue through the creation and dissemination of information as well as the presentation of activities at state and local events. They serve as a representative of their county on the State Council and are often asked to represent Maryland 4-H at state events or on behalf of the Maryland 4-H Foundation and State 4-H Program Leader.

**What is a Public Issue?** It is an issue that is of significance or importance to 4-H youth, their peers and/or their community. It is a topic or concern that the Council selects during their annual retreat in February and work to advocate for and educate on throughout the year through information and activities developed by the State Council Committees.

**What are the State Council committees?** There are four general membership committees and one executive committee, each has specific task to support the Maryland 4-H State Council.

- **Executive**

President, Secretary, Treasurer and advisor work together to planning and leading each State Council Executive Board and State Council bi-monthly meeting. They provide support to the VP's and the committee work. They help plan, prepare and support State Council fundraisers, events and activities and have specific duties for their officer role.

- **Planning & Outreach**

The Vice President, advisor and committee members work together to plan 4-H promotional activities and create information for statewide and county events. Activities may include educational and social activities for State Council in-person meetings, social and recreational activities at statewide events.

- **Public Issues**

The Vice President, advisor and committee members work together to develop educational activities in support of the annual public issue. Activities may include issue advocacy activities at statewide or county/cluster events.

- **Public Relations**

The Vice President, advisor and committee members work together to create a marketing plan that promotes State Council and 4-H at events and on social media. Activities may include creating a social media campaign supporting the public issue or an online photo album highlighting a specific event.

- **Service**

The Vice President, advisor and committee members work together to develop service projects for State Council members to enhance statewide and county events. Service activities may be incorporated at statewide events or may be facilitated at the local level by council members.

**Who can join the State Council?** Any Maryland 4-H member from any of the 23 county 4-H Programs or the Baltimore City 4-H Program.

**How old do you have to be to join?** Membership is open to any Maryland 4-H member age 14-18. A member must be 13 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of their first service year. A 12 year old may apply in the fall if they will turn 13 before or on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the next year.

**How many members can each local program have on the State Council?**

Youth from all 23 counties and Baltimore city have the same opportunity to apply to serve on the State Council. There is no limit on the number of youth that can be members from any one local 4-H Program. Ideally each county and Baltimore City would have representation, but there is not a requirement to have a representative.

**How do I join?** Members are selected through an application process in the fall prior to the start of the program year (January 1). Interested individuals must complete and submit an application according to the application process outlined on the following website:

<https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/maryland-4-h-state-council>

Applications are also available there. Applications are ONLY accepted online and must have a reference form from the local 4-H Educator to be considered.

Don't know who your 4-H Educator is? Check your local program's website to find them and their contact information:

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations>

**How are applications reviewed?** Complete applications received by the application deadline will be reviewed by the State Council advisors. Selection criteria may include all aspects of their application package and their service participation on State Council if they are a returning member. All applicants will be notified on or around December 15<sup>th</sup> and those offered membership must accept membership by December 31.

**Where can I get more information?** If you have a specific question, feel free to email the State Council Coordinator, Jamie Morris, at [jkenton@umd.edu](mailto:jkenton@umd.edu). If you wish to speak with a State Council member, officer or advisor from your area, also contact the Coordinator and they will put you in contact with a representative.