



4-H Ambassadors Structure and Purpose

What are 4-H Ambassadors?

4-H ambassadors represent and promote 4-H, as well as assist with county-wide or statewide 4-H activities. A 4-H Ambassador is a motivated individual who seeks to become a leader, mentor and teacher, inspiring positive change in their community.

What's the difference between 4-H Ambassadors and 4-H advisory groups (e.g. 4-H Council)?

Generally, 4-H advisory groups are comprised of both youth and adults, and while this is an excellent opportunity for youth and adult partnerships through decision-making, the adult influence tends to be very high. While both entities may assist with similar types of outreach and events, ambassadors are primarily youth-focused with incorporated training geared toward youth to assist them in their roles. Additionally, advisory group members tend to be elected, while 4-H ambassadors tend to be selected through an application and interview process.

How are 4-H Ambassador efforts funded?

4-H Ambassador groups can always self-fund through fundraisers, however, because of the service they provide to 4-H programs, staff/volunteers are encouraged to identify funding support for these groups that isn't reliant on member fundraising. Consider these ideas:

- Many 4-H advisory groups provide funding to support local ambassador programs.
- Funds may also be allocated Tractor Supply Company (TSC) Funds. TSC funds should be used for scholarships for 4-H camp or leadership programs, and the ambassador program counts.
- JOANN funds are unrestricted, however the National 4-H Council does recommend that they be used to support JOANN-type projects (arts, crafts, sewing, etc.) and programs, but that's a recommendation, not a requirement.

Who advises 4-H Ambassador groups?

Extension professionals and 4-H volunteers can serve as advisors for 4-H ambassador groups. All volunteers must be screened through the [MSUE Volunteer Selection Process](#), achieving gold level certification. Older youth might also be interested in serving as peer advisors in conjunction with adult advisors, which may be recruited from recent Ambassador alumni.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you are interested in starting a local 4-H Ambassador group, reach out to your local 4-H Program Coordinator. In addition, several staff provide support to statewide ambassador efforts and may be able to assist. You can learn more about these opportunities [on our webpage](#).

To contact an expert in your area, visit extension.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.