



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

Taking It Home

National 4-H Conference is one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences that will provide you with tons of memories. It is known as “The Secretary’s Conference” because it was essentially called by the Secretary of Agriculture to bring youth and adults to the national table to share ideas and techniques to bring information to communities across the country. One of the most important parts of National 4-H Conference is not what happens AT Conference, but what you **MAKE HAPPEN** once you’ve returned home. We want the Youth Voice of our National 4-H Conference delegates to make a difference in their local communities!

As a National 4-H Conference delegate, we encourage you to spend time prior to, during, and after Conference planning, implementing, and evaluating an idea/program that you would like to work on. This document provides some ideas on how you can expand your conference experience by using the conference to assist you in making a difference in your club, your community, your country, or your world. Read on....



Recommendations of Delegates – Prior To Conference

- You may be expected to work with the other members of your state delegation and state coordinator to make plans for a special project that you can start, work on or continue once you’ve returned home. Check with your state 4-H office to learn about any post-conference expectations they will have of you.
- National 4-H Conference delegates are encouraged to take back what they’ve learned and use that information to make an impact on their communities. You may need support to help you carry out this project. Even though you may not know what your project may be, you can start thinking now about someone who might be your local support base. It could be your 4-H leader, an Extension staff member, your parent(s), or even your peers at school. Talk to that individual now about working with you once you return.
- What issues are relevant to young people in your local community or across your state? Talk to others – including the person you’ve selected as a support person – about these issues. Which issue(s) are you most passionate about that you may wish to focus on? Do some advance research on these issues, as well as the Roundtable issue to which you are assigned for Conference.
- Information on the various Roundtable issues will be made available; read that information carefully and do some research on your own. Be prepared when you come to Conference and you’ll get the most out of your experience!

Recommendations of Delegates – At Conference

- Actively participate in your Roundtable discussions! Share your thoughts and ideas, but also be open-minded regarding ideas from your 4-H cohorts from other states across the country. Their experiences and backgrounds will be different from your and can open your ideas to new information and options regarding this issue.
- Talk with the other delegates from your state about their Roundtable discussions, especially if they are involved in other topics that may interest you or focus on an issue that affects your local community. Learn from their experiences and discussions.
- Determine a special event, project or activity that you are passionate about and want to work on over the next year. This may be a group project or an individual project.

Recommendations of Delegates – Post-Conference

- Once you return home, the real work begins! Contact your support person from your pre-Conference work. Share with them the information that you collected at Conference, including what you learned on your Roundtable issue, about other 4-H programs and/or the issue on which you want to focus. Brainstorm ideas with them as to what you would like to do.
- Take action! Get others involved in your project – adults, friends, teachers, other 4-H members, other teens – anyone who is as passionate about your project as you are. Plan together. Utilize the Take It Home resources that are available on the National 4-H Conference website. Reach out to other community groups that may have the same goals and/or are working on similar projects.
- No matter what your final project may be, it is important that you keep track of the impact that you have made. Keep records on the project results – the number of presentations given or the number of pounds of food donated/collected; how many funds were raised for new playgrounds or how many youth committed to not text and drive. Whatever your special project is, collect information on what you did, who you partnered with and funds raised. Prepare an impact report for your community, your local Extension office and your state 4-H office. Share the results with the media.

TAKING IT HOME

Empowering and mobilizing 4-H youth to create positive social change in their communities in a meaningful and genuine way!