

CONSTITUTION OF THE WASHINGTON STATE 4-H AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

I. Name of the Organization

The name of the organization shall be “The Washington State 4-H Ambassador Program”

II. Purpose of the Organization

The purpose of the Washington State 4-H Ambassador Program is to enable teenage youth to develop their full potential and be able to contribute their enthusiasm, knowledge and skills in the development of the total 4-H program. Specifically, the organizational goals of the Washington State 4-H ambassador Program are to:

- A. Provide identity for 4-H teens with their age group.
- B. Offer opportunities and group experiences that fit the more advanced interests of teens.
- C. Increase public awareness and understanding of the total 4-H program.
- D. Develop a positive relationship between teens and adults.
- E. Develop leadership potential through providing teens with experiences in parallel leadership roles and situations with adults
- F. Develop an effective communications network among older 4-H youth.
- G. Provide opportunities for 4-H’ers throughout the state to get together.
- H. Provide direction for the Washington State 4-H program.

III Membership/Nondiscrimination

- A. Membership in the Washington State 4-H Ambassador Program shall consist of those 4-H’ers in the State of Washington:
 - 1. Who are currently as a freshman in school at the beginning of the 4-H year in which they are to enroll in 4-H.
 - 2. Who have not turned Nineteen by January 1 of the last year of their term..
- B. Membership is open to all youth without regard to race, color, religion, gender, creed, marital status, national origin, disability or sexual orientation.

IV. State Ambassadors

- A. Duties
 - 1. With the support of designated county staff and/or volunteers in their district: -plan, organize, and conduct a district event. The district event may include the following activities and/or events.
 - a. Election of the State Ambassadors from that district.
 - b. Classes/workshops of interest to the 4-H members in district to include some of the following: -leadership development, current topics, project enhancement, and careers.
 - c. Motivational speakers.
 - 2. Plan, organize, and conduct the 4-H Summer Teen Conference in association with the planning committee.

3. Support Conference Facilitators and provide help where it is needed at Know Your Government (KYG).
4. Increase communications in each district.
5. Share Ambassador/Teen leadership and County Teen Representative (CTR) program ideas and promote these programs.
6. Each district's State Ambassadors shall cooperate in communicating with Extension 4-H Staff, Ambassador/Teen leadership groups and teens.
7. Promote 4-H in general through radio spots, service club presentations, school assemblies, and posters during 4-H Week, county events and fairs, and at other opportunities.
8. Assist county Extension 4-H Staff and offer services to strengthen the 4-H program.
9. Solicit county input for Washington State 4-H Annual Teen Events.

B. Membership

1. The Washington State 4-H Ambassadors shall consist of five Ambassadors from each district. Two or three ambassadors elected every year from each of the three Extension Districts.
2. The Washington State 4-H Ambassadors shall elect by majority vote at the Fall District Rally. (See section IV, Part D, Elections #3, for the number of votes per county)

C. Application

1. Candidates for Washington State 4-H ambassador office shall file an application by the dead line stated in the bylaws to declare their candidacy in their respective districts.
 - a. There is no limit to the number of district candidates that may apply for each position; however, each county may only have two State Ambassadors at one time. The Districts may, individually, pass a by-law limiting nominations, but it cannot limit to less than (2) candidates per position.
 - b. If more than (4) candidates are nominated per position, there shall first be a primary election.
 - c. Candidates must be enrolled in the Leadership Project to be a State Ambassador.

D. Elections

1. Washington State 4-H Ambassadors shall be elected (after the application process outlined in Article IV, part 1) within their respective districts by secret ballot vote.
2. Candidates receiving a majority of the votes cast by the counties from their district shall be named Washington State 4-H Ambassadors.
3. Each county will have a maximum of four (4) votes or as many votes as participants present at the event, if fewer than four participants, (Example: If two people are present at an event from a county, the county only has two (2) votes.)
4. The Washington State 4-H Ambassadors have the authority to appoint an individual to fill a vacant Washington State 4-H Ambassador position by a two-thirds majority vote of the current State Ambassadors.

E. Terms of Office

1. Each State Ambassador may serve one elected eighteen month term, more or less. The term will begin at the end of the event at which they are elected and end 18 months later (more or less) at the end of the Summer Teen Conference. (They may help at the District Rally after the end of their term). (In any case a teen may not serve more than three years total.)

- F. By-laws
By-laws may be developed for the Washington State 4-H Ambassador Program by a simple majority vote of the State Ambassadors provided they are not contrary to the State Constitution.

V. County Teen Representatives (CTR)

- A. Washington State 4-H Ambassador Duties
Work with the County Teen Representative to help them perform the following functions:
 - a. Help plan and conduct county 4-H events.
 - b. Conduct a 4-H public awareness program.
 - c. Plan and conduct social, educational and community service programs involving youth in their county.
 - d. Represent the county 4-H program.

VI. County Voting Delegate

These delegates may be elected by the county teens to represent their county at the election of the State Ambassadors at the District Rally where elections are held.

VII. Conduct of Business Meetings

Parliamentary Procedure Made Easier (EM4875 an Extension publication) will be used to conduct business meetings, unless there is a two-thirds majority vote in favor of another method.

VII. Amendments

Amendments to this constitution will require a two-thirds majority vote of the current State Ambassadors in attendance at an official State Ambassador meeting. Notices of proposed amendments must be submitted in writing (electronic delivery is acceptable) to the State Ambassadors at least 30 days before the meeting. Proposed amendments may be altered and approved at the meeting only if the alteration does not change the original intent of the amendment.

BY-LAWS

- A. Current Annual State Teen events are Washington State 4-H Summer Teen Conference and Know Your Government.
- B. The roles of the State Ambassador Advisors are defined in a job description developed by the State Ambassadors and kept by the Washington State 4-H Office.
- C. The application for the State Ambassador position shall be due in the state office a minimum of one month before the elections
- D. The elections for State Ambassadors shall be at District Rally and a change in location\time must be announced at least 6 months in advance..
- E. During an election for State Ambassador, a process for asking the candidates questions on their position must be used that is fair to each candidate. The questions may be submitted in writing to a moderator, who is a current State Ambassador, before the election, but after the speeches and the same or similar question asked each candidate right after they have given their speeches when the other applicants are not in the room
- F. Past State Ambassadors may be asked to help with the elections if there is a need for additional help.
- G. A candidate who is running unopposed must receive a majority of the votes available at the event the election is held to be elected to that position
- H. Candidates must be at least in the 9th grade
- I. Inactive participation (i.e. Lack of attendance and effort) by a State Ambassador can lead to disciplinary action to the extent of being terminated from the State Ambassador program. This disciplinary action will be discussed and voted upon by the active Ambassadors at a meeting.
- J. State Ambassadors must attend 75% or more of the scheduled meetings.
- K. The current State Ambassadors may appoint a maximum of two at large positions above the fifteen normal positions, but in no case shall this position be longer that a one year term.
- L. As a result of changing from 4 districts to 3 districts, eight normal positions will be filled one year and seven the next year starting with eight in the fall of 2010. The Western and Southern districts will have openings for three normal positions. The Eastern district will have openings for two normal positions. The Southern district will have an additional one year term to fill. Adapted 4/15/10
- M. For 2011 the Western and Southern districts will have two normal positions open, the Eastern district will have three openings for a total of seven normal positions. The next year would have eight normal positions Adapted 4/15/10