

Camp Counselor Application

Applications are due **Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, by 4:30 p.m.

Name _____ Age _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ County _____

Applicant Cell # _____ Applicant Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ Emergency Phone # _____

Are you a 4-H member this year? Yes No Year of 4-H Club Membership: _____

Were you a counselor at 4-H Camp last year? Yes No How many years of 4-H Camp Counselor experience: _____

Were you a CIT at 4-H Camp? Yes No If you have CIT experience, what year did you participate? _____

What **skills, certifications, and/or personality traits** do you have that you believe will make you a strong member of our 4-H camp counselor team? List and explain.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

What **leadership experiences** have you had that will assist you in being a successful camp counselor? Explain. (These may be 4-H or non-4-H experiences.)

Why should we select you to be a part of the camp counselor team?

Do you have any meeting conflicts? If yes, please explain.

Yes No **January 7** 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. @ Stephenson County, Freeport

Yes No **February 9** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **(ZOOM at County Offices)**

Yes No **March 11** 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. @ Ogle County, Oregon

Yes No **April 22** 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. @ Whiteside County, Sterling

Yes No **June 2-3** 7:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. @ RRCC, Polo- overnight- **MANDATORY**

Attach two reference forms to your application if you are a **NEW** applicant. (Teachers/Counselors, 4-H Leaders, and other organization volunteers may be used. **Relatives, peers/friends, and Extension Staff will not be accepted.** Please see the directions on the reference form.

Name

Phone

Position

What age groups would you most like to be a **cabin counselor** for in 2023? Rank your 1st, 2nd, & 3rd choices.

Age: _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____ 13 _____ No preference

Statement of Application

I understand that completing this form does NOT guarantee that I will be selected as a 4-H Camp counselor in 2023. I realize the camp counselor selection process is competitive and only those candidates with the best qualifications will be chosen. I understand that to qualify for a position, I must be at least 15 years old, but not older than 20, by 06/11/2023. Further, I am aware that 4-H Camp Counselor positions are volunteer roles. With this in mind, I submit my application for consideration.

Signatures

Counselor Candidate

Date

Parent

Date

Please submit this application by **November 30, 2022**, to:
University of Illinois Extension - Ogle County, 421 W. Pines Road, #10, Oregon, IL 61061
University of Illinois Extension - Stephenson County, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport, IL 61032
University of Illinois Extension- Whiteside County, 12923 Lawrence Rd., Sterling, IL 61028
University of Illinois Extension- Jo Daviess County, 204 Vine St., PO Box 600, Elizabeth, IL 61036



Illinois Extension
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4-H Camp Counselor Team Reference Form

Applicant's Name: _____

Reference Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____
City/State/Zip

The applicant listed above is applying to be a part of the 4-H Camp Counselor Team and would like you to serve as a reference for his/her application. The mission of the Illinois 4-H Youth Development program is to help youth learn skills for life. The program develops youth by providing an informal learning structure through which they can set goals, learn at their own pace, practice skills, develop new attitudes, and apply what they have learned. Please provide your honest comments and thoughts regarding the applicant's current abilities and character. The 4-H Camp Counselor program goals include developing both abilities and character in its participants. The only way to help them improve/grow is to know their true abilities. Your comments will be kept confidential.

Please enclose this reference form in a **sealed envelope with your signature across the seal** and return it to the applicant for their submission with their application.

Indicate how long and in what capacity or position you have known the applicant:

Please use this checklist to evaluate the applicant's leadership qualities. Use the following marking system:

E = Excellent G = Good F = Fair N = Needs Improvement U = Unknown

Understanding of Self	_____	Decision Making Ability	_____
Dependability	_____	Initiative	_____
Flexibility	_____	Respect for Others	_____
Communication Skills	_____	Enthusiasm	_____
Sense of Humor	_____	Independence	_____
Resourcefulness	_____	Ability to Lead	_____
Ability to Problem Solve	_____	Ability to Follow	_____
Exhibits Character	_____	Understanding of Others	_____

Please share your impression and knowledge of the applicant's qualifications for the position of 4-H Camp Counselor Team member by using specific examples where possible.

1. Does the applicant have the ability to work in a leadership role? Yes No
Does the applicant have the ability to step back and follow? Yes No
Give examples.

2. What additional skills, abilities, and attributes does the applicant have that would be helpful as a part of this team?

3. How would you describe the applicant's willingness to work with others and learn from others?

4. Do you know any reason why this person should **NOT** be considered for this position?
 Yes No Why?

Signature _____ Date _____

Thank you for supplying critical information regarding this applicant!
If you have any questions, please contact Angela Miller at 815-858-2273 or amillr11@illinois.edu.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE APPLICANT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR SIGNATURE ACROSS THE SEAL.

The applicant's packet (including your reference form and their application) is due to the University of Illinois Extension Office by **Wednesday, November 30, 2022.**



University of Illinois * U.S. Department of Agriculture * Local Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.
*The 4-H name and emblem are protected under 18 U.S.C. 707.



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4-H CAMP COUNSELOR NEWS



Coordinated by University of Illinois Extension staff located in:
Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Winnebago, and Whiteside Counties

Dear 2022-2023 Counselor Candidates,

We are very excited to be back to our OVERNIGHT 4-H Camp Week for 2023 and we hope you are too! The dates have been set for **Sunday, June 11- Thursday, June 15, 2023**. We will be attending Rock River Christian Camp in Polo, IL this year!

It's time to begin planning and preparing for the **AWESOME** week we're sure to have. One major piece of this planning process is finding a spectacular team of young adults to turn camp week into a polished and fine-tuned operation! We're thinking **YOU** may be able to help in this effort.

We are now accepting applications to fill 27 counselor positions. 4-H Camp Counselors are classified as 4-H Teen Leaders; therefore, any counselor not currently enrolled in the 4-H program will be expected to register via the ZSuites enrollment system. More details on that process will be forwarded after counselor selections have been made. Candidates should be reliable, energetic, and enthusiastic young adults between the ages of 15 and 20 by the first day of camp (06/11/2023). **Counselors do not register for camp; they attend camp for free; however, you will be charged a fee of \$50 for training expenses.** Being a camp counselor is serious business, a lot of hard work, and a TON of fun!

So, if you think you are up for the challenge, fill out the enclosed application and **two (2) reference forms** and return them to one of the offices listed on the back page of the application. **The deadline for applications is Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. –This is not a postmarked date; it must be in our hands by this time!** The competition is getting tough, so do your best and take the application process seriously!

The Extension Staff will be meeting shortly after the deadline to select the 2023 Counselor Team. Be aware that filling out the application does NOT guarantee you a place on the team. Some things that will be considered in the selection process are effort put into your application, camping experience (4-H or other), references, camp-related skills, childcare experience, leadership experience, 4-H membership, county of residence, age, CIT experience, etc. Letters of acceptance and denial will be mailed to candidates after December 12, 2022.

Counselor Team Members will be expected to participate actively in training between January and June and may be cut from the team if their progress in training is of concern to the Extension Staff. Please see the back page for more information on our counselor training attendance policy.

It is our goal to provide a safe, fun, and educational program for the 150+ campers who participate. We want to feel comfortable that you are ready to help us make this happen before camp starts. We also want you to feel confident enough about your role that camp week is just as fun for you as it will be for the kids you are serving!

We look forward to receiving your counselor application and we are very excited about this year's plans! Please get your application in soon. If you have a friend that you think would be a great counselor, please call us so that we can send him or her the application packet too!

COUNSELOR TRAINING SCHEDULE:

If you decide to pursue the application process for the 4-H Camp Counselor position, you will be expected to **actively** participate in counselor training. Please put the following dates on your calendar now! **Missing counselor training IS a big deal...**and the lack of attendance can mean counselors being cut.

Training #1: Saturday, January 7 9:30- 3:30 pm- @ Stephenson County Extension Office- Freeport

Training #2: Thursday, February 9 7:00- 9:00 pm- ZOOM @ your nearest participating County Extension Office

Training #3: Saturday, March 11 1:00- 6:00 pm- @ Ogle County Farm Bureau- Oregon

Training #4: Saturday, April 22 9:30-3:30 pm - @ Whiteside County Extension Office- Sterling

Training #5: Friday, June 2- Saturday, June 3 7:00 pm-3:30 pm @ Rock River Christian Camp- Polo (Overnight)

Additionally, counselors may be required to communicate/meet with fellow committee members outside of the regular training schedule to discuss evening program planning.

COUNSELOR TRAINING ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Counselors should make every accommodation to attend **ALL** camp counselor meetings. However, we realize that school and sports events do occur on our training dates, we have the following attendance policy for ALL counselors:

- *One free absence is permitted (**with staff approval**) for 4-H Camp Counselors.* Each absence must be pre-approved by Extension staff prior to the training date. Any other potential absences **must** be approved on a case-by-case basis prior to the training date.

It is your responsibility to make every effort to attend trainings. Keep in mind that the counselor team will be stronger if everyone involved helps to build it. Please realize that if you do not follow through on your counselor training commitment, you may be dismissed from the 2023 4-H Camp Counselor Team.

REMEMBER THE COUNSELOR APPLICATION DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022. Counselor and camp applications are available online at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo>. Call us if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding the upcoming camp year!

Sincerely Your 4-H Camp Staff Team:

Kelly Lafferty, Youth Development Educator, 815-235-4125, klaffert@illinois.edu

Johnna Jennings, Youth Development Educator, 815-758-8194, jbjennin@illinois.edu

Jodi Baumgartner, 4-H Program Coordinator, 815-732-2191, jbmgrtnr@illinois.edu

Allie Johnston, 4-H Program Coordinator, 815-632-3611, lancast@illinois.edu

Angela Miller, 4-H Program Coordinator, 815-858-2273, amillr11@illinois.edu

Brenda Heimann, 4-H Program Coordinator, 815-235-4125, bheimann@illinois.edu

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