



Leadership Summit 2026

Boots on the Ground, Eyes on the Horizon

February 6-8, 2026
The Westin Calgary
Calgary, AB

Overview

What is the Leadership Summit?

4-H Canada's Leadership Summit is an opportunity for 4-H volunteer leaders, professionals, and the 4-H Canada Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) to come together and showcase the communities they are building, share innovative program ideas, and hear from experts on emerging topics.

The 2026 Leadership Summit will be held in Calgary, Alberta from February 6 – 8, where it will be co-hosted by 4-H Canada and 4-H Alberta.

The 2026 Leadership Summit theme, **"Boots on the Ground, Eyes on the Horizon,"** reflects Western Canadian culture while aligning with the goals of the event. At the heart of 4-H programming are dedicated, caring adult volunteer leaders who are focused and driven by a desire to support the skill and asset development of 4-H members. These leaders keep their sights set on the future, ensuring youth are ready for the educational, career, and life opportunities ahead—and that they are equipped to thrive.

As we gather in Calgary, we'll focus on refreshing core 4-H knowledge, sharing best practices, and building new skills to strengthen the vital work leaders do in their communities. Together, we'll explore innovative programming, address sector-wide challenges and opportunities, and envision a stronger, growing 4-H movement across Canada.

For over a century, 4-H has been one of the most well-respected youth-serving organizations in Canada, delivering world-class positive youth development programming in the areas relevant to today's youth. To maintain our commitment to excellence and align with industry best practices, we strive to ensure that volunteers and staff are supported with the tools they need to thrive in today's changing world. Leadership Summit helps ensure programming remains relevant and impactful for youth in a fun, safe, and inclusive environment. Through the 4-H motto, "Learn To Do By Doing," volunteer leaders will learn how to effectively use and maintain these strategies in their provinces, regions, and communities.

What's in it for me?

By the end of Leadership Summit, we hope you will:

- Gain a better understanding of positive youth development, experiential education, and youth-adult partnerships.
- Be equipped with new skills, program ideas, facilitation tips, and innovative approaches they can use to strengthen their work with 4-H youth members.
- Know where to access tools, networks, and resources to support their roles within 4-H.
- Feel celebrated, respected, challenged, and inspired.
- Have gained opportunities to enhance their ability to create safe, inclusive, and fun environments where youth "learn to do by doing" within clubs, programs, and communities.
- Feel connected to the larger 4-H community.



What topics will be covered?

The program will be organized around three streams:

1. Program Excellence

Workshops will be held with experts in each of the four [Leadership Development Pillars](#) (sub-themes):



**Sustainable Agriculture
& Food Security**



**The Environment
& Healthy Living**



**Science &
Technology**



**Community Engagement
& Communications**

Additional workshop sub-themes may include program evaluation, project success stories from clubs and 4-H Canada, and provincial sharing.

2. Leadership Excellence

Workshop sub-theme possibilities may include youth-adult partnerships, Positive Youth Development, leadership styles, building communities, community engagement, club operations (finances, retention, and succession), and issues impacting youth.

3. Professional Development

Workshop sub-theme possibilities may include sponsorships and partnerships, brand and communications, risk management, emerging models, and growing 4-H.

Event App

To minimize our environmental impact and reduce printing, the Leadership Summit schedule will be available digitally using an event app. Additional detail about the platform and how to access information will be shared with registered delegates in due course. Delegates should be prepared to access the schedule and other event information electronically through the app on a mobile device. Hard copies will not be provided.

What does the schedule look like?

The following table provides a high-level overview of events. All schedule information is subject to change, and more details will be available soon.

Leadership Summit 2026 includes an optional “Pre-summit” focused on 4-H fundamentals. Delegates attending the Pre-summit build and refresh knowledge in ‘4-H fundamentals’, the areas including Positive Youth Development (PYD), the Leadership Development Pillars, youth-adult partnerships, and more. Delegates attending the Pre-summit will receive additional resources to support their roles as club leaders.

	Thursday February 5	Friday February 6		Saturday February 7	Sunday February 8
Morning				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast (beginning approx. 7:30 am) • Workshop blocks 1 & 2 with break between 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast (beginning approx. 7 am) • Workshop block 4 & Provincial Sharing with break between
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-summit delegates travel and arrive in Calgary in the evening. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Summit conference 10 am -3:30 pm (lunch included) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegates travel and arrive in Calgary by 4pm local time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch (approx. 12pm) • Workshop block 3 • Break. (Prepare to leave the hotel for 4-H Night in the Country.) • Depart for offsite 4-H Night in the Country (approx. 4pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch and closing keynote speaker (approx. 12pm) • Delegate departures beginning at 2pm
Evening		Start of Leadership Summit 2026 - dinner and opening keynote speaker. (Start time approx. 6pm)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offsite 4-H Night in the Country with dinner. • Return to hotel (approx. 9:30pm) 	Final delegate departures

For up-to-date information about Leadership Summit, visit <https://4-h-canada.ca/programs/youth-programs-conferences/leadership-summit>.

How to Attend

Leadership Summit is open to 4-H volunteer leaders from across Canada. Registration to attend is managed through your provincial 4-H. Please contact your [provincial 4-H office](#) for details.

Each province, with the exception of AB, has allotted space for 14 delegates. These 14 spaces include:

- Provincial Supervisor or Executive Director
- One representative of the provincial Council, Foundation, or PLAC.

The remaining provincial delegate spots are intended for volunteer leaders and provincial staff.

Provinces should keep a waiting list of interested leaders and staff once their spaces are filled. Should any vacant spots become available, they will be offered to provinces with waiting lists fairly and equitably.

What's included in the registration fee?

4-H Canada is making changes to what is included in the Leadership Summit registration fee.

Please review the information below carefully.

Dates and Cost	Pre-Summit 2026 (Fri. Feb. 6) \$125.00 (Delegates should be on site Thurs. Feb. 5 in the evening)	Leadership Summit 2026 (Fri. Feb. 6 – Sun. Feb. 8) \$550.00 (Delegates should be on site by 4 pm Fri. Feb. 6)
What is included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to all Pre-summit programming, including all training, workshops (three), materials and resources. • Ground Transportation to/from airport/hotel* (see travel section below for additional details) • Hotel accommodation (double occupancy) Thurs. Feb.5 • Meals: Lunch and break Fri. Feb. 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to full Leadership Summit programming, including all workshops, keynotes, sessions, and activities. • Delegate kit • Ground Transportation to/from airport/hotel* (see travel section below for additional details) • Meals - breakfast, lunch, dinner, and breaks, beginning with dinner on Fri. Feb. 6 and ending with lunch on Sun. Feb. 8. • Double occupancy hotel accommodations Fri. Feb. 6 and Sat. Feb. 7. • Offsite 4-H Night in the Country activity and dinner on Sat. Feb. 7.
What is not included	Return travel from the delegate's home province to Calgary, AB	

Travel

New this year, delegates are responsible for booking their transportation and associated costs to and from the Leadership Summit. Provinces are encouraged to consider supporting delegates with arranging group bussing options when/and where applicable and appropriate.

For delegates arriving by air, ground transportation to and from the airport is guaranteed for those delegates who provide 4-H Canada with their arrival and departure details by November 7, 2025.

Those providing their information after this date will have access to the provided transportation, where capacity allows. If capacity does not allow, ground transportation costs will be the responsibility of the delegate.

Hotel Accommodations

After registering with 4-H Canada, delegates will be provided information on how to secure their room at the Westin Calgary. Delegates are responsible for finding their own roommate. One roommate will then secure the shared room with the Westin Calgary using the information provided by 4-H Canada, and both registered delegates' names will need to be provided for the reservation. Pre-Summit delegates should find a roommate also attending Pre-Summit. Delegates needing assistance finding a roommate should contact their provincial association first.

The Westin Calgary will not secure single rooms. Delegates will be asked to provide a credit card, which will be used for incidentals only. 4-H Canada will cover the cost of accommodations as per the information in the table above. **The deadline for delegates to secure their room with the Westin Calgary is Nov. 28, 2025.** Registered delegates who have not secured their room by this date will be assigned a roommate by 4-H Canada.

4-H Canada will only cover accommodation charges as per the table above. Any additional nights will be at the expense of delegates.

Questions?

Contact Leslie Noble, Program Director, 4-H Canada at lnoble@4-h-canada.ca