



Leadership Summit 2026

Presenter Application Information

Boots on the Ground, Eyes on the Horizon

February 6-8, 2026
The Westin Calgary

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 is travelling to 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.

Apply to be a Presenter

We are looking for proposals from 4-H leaders and professional staff who would like to share their experience and expertise at Leadership Summit as a presenter. We will also be reaching out directly to external experts in a variety of fields. **Presenter submissions will be reviewed and must be received by Wed. Aug. 13, 2025.**

What topics will be covered at Leadership Summit?

This year's theme is ***Boots on the Ground, Eyes on the Horizon***. The programming will be organized around three sub-themes:

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.

4-H Canada is particularly interested in receiving proposals on the following topics and subject areas:

- Biosecurity/farm safety
- DEI – specifically inclusion & working with neurodivergent youth
- Volunteer leader mental health and wellbeing
- Youth mental health and wellbeing
- Activity planning (with 4-H Canada's Leadership Development Pillars in mind)
- Conflict resolution (with a focus on resolution)
- Member & volunteer leader recruitment
- Club management
- Intentional community engagement
- STEM
- Bringing the fun back to 4-H
- Succession planning for clubs and boards
- Fundraising

What should applicants and presenters expect?

- All applicants will be notified about the outcome of the review process by August 26, 2025.
- Workshops will be held Sat. Feb. 7 between 8:30 am – 3:30 pm and Sun. Feb. 8 between 8:30 am – 11:30am. Please see the tentative schedule below. (Note: all times are currently tentative.)
- Workshops should be between 75 and 90 minutes in length, including time for Q&A.
- Workshops should be participatory, hands-on where possible, engaging and use a “Learn To Do By Doing” approach.
- Rooms vary in size and will either be in a classroom layout or with participants seated at round tables. Presenters should be prepared to deliver their session to an audience of between 20 and 150 individuals.
- Please specify all technology and material needs in your submission.
- Each presenter will be given access to our digital schedule and Leadership Summit information using our event app. 4-H Canada staff will upload the presenter session and bio information, as well as any presentation materials, to this platform.

How will the presentations be selected?

All submissions will be reviewed by our 4-H Canada Leadership Summit program team. The selection criteria will include:

- Quality and clarity of the proposal: i.e., clear, concise writing, practical application, topic relevance to 4-H, Leadership Summit streams, and summit theme.

- Workshop approach: i.e., whether it is engaging, participatory and interactive, offers discussion time, or a 'Learn To Do By Doing' opportunity.
- Whether it addresses a unique or emerging issue, need, or approach.
- Whether it presents a model or practice that can be replicated within 4-H and/or a Positive Youth Development approach.

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.

	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 2024 - 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

How to Apply

Please complete the proposal form by **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**, at

Questions?

Please contact Leslie Noble, Program Director at lnoble@4-h-canada.ca