

Call for Presentations

2027 4-H Regional Youth Leadership Workshops

Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU)

Minnesota 4-H invites workshop presentations for **Building Leadership and Understanding (BLU)**, the **2027 4-H Regional Youth Leadership Workshops**. Extension staff, volunteers, youth leaders, university faculty & staff, and/or community and organizational leaders are invited to apply!

When and where? BLU is scheduled for the following dates and locations:

- **Feb. 6-7, 2027:** Concordia Language Villages, Bemidji
- **Feb. 6-7, 2027:** Camp Victory, Zumbro Falls
- **Feb. 13-14, 2027:** Camp Courage, Maple Lake
- **Feb. 20-21, 2027:** Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade
- **Feb. 20, 2027:** Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

Presentations are scheduled on the Saturday of the event (Feb 6, Feb 23, and Feb 20).



Who typically attends? BLU workshops are open to youth in grades 6-10, and youth in grades 11+ serve as event leaders and may attend workshops as well. Most attendees have at least some experience in 4-H.

Who plans the event? This event is planned by the Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors in partnership with other 4-H teen leadership groups and UMN Extension Department of Youth Development staff.

General information

- Presentations are scheduled on Saturdays. For the overnight events, the sessions are scheduled from 3:00 pm to 5:15 pm. For the one-day event, from 12:45pm to 3:00pm.
- **Youth presenters/co-presenters are preferred and encouraged!** We want to highlight pathways to youth leadership throughout all 4-H programmatic areas.
- All presentations will occur on site at the facilities/locations listed above. Due to scheduling constraints, there will not be an opportunity for field trips or visits to off-site locations.
- Presentations are welcome to use technology and some materials will be provided. You may be asked to bring your own equipment if specialized items are needed.
- You may submit a proposal for one or multiple of the workshop locations listed above.
- **Youth will register for presentation sessions when they arrive at their respective BLU workshops.** Presentations must be able to accommodate between 10-20 youth. Final numbers and a roster of participants will be provided after on-site check-in has concluded, during the event.

Presentation opportunity overview

We are seeking proposals for hour-long workshops that will blend project-based learning with leadership and life skills. Sessions must be able to accommodate between 10-20 youth and may be taught twice.

Required session elements:

- One hour of educational content appropriate for youth from grade 6-10. Content should include:
 - Interactive elements that are fun and engaging for a pre-teen and teenage audience
 - Intentional connection to building leadership skills and/or awareness
 - Intentional connection to developing skills that support youth in being **Beyond Ready** (ready for work, ready for life)
 - Content that reflects and incorporates diverse viewpoints, identities, and ways of knowing
- Connection to one of Minnesota 4-H's "Major" areas of focus
 - Animal science/science of animals
 - Beyond Ready (ready for work, ready for life)
 - Civic Engagement and Global Citizenship
 - Health & well-being
 - Communication & the Arts
 - Outdoor education
 - STEM & Plant Science
 - Other

All proposed educational components will be reviewed by Minnesota 4-H staff and youth leaders. We may engage in conversations with proposal writers to offer suggestions on session content to meet the expectations of the leadership learning experience, or to adapt to the physical spaces of the events.

Selection information and timeline

Anticipated communication dates are as follows. We may need to adjust some dates based on event needs, but will do our best to broadly communicate significant changes.

- **Nov. 13: Priority application deadline, initial review of proposals begins**
- Dec. 1: Applicants notified of status
- Dec. 15 - Jan. 17: Consultations with CEL staff on session content (as needed)
- Jan. 8 - BLU Registration closes
- Jan. 13 - Workshop presenters notified of possible session #s
- 1st day of BLU - Workshop presenters notified of session attendees (during the event)

How to submit a proposal

Proposals can be submitted online via [this online submission form](#). Proposals must be submitted by 11:59 PM CST on November 13, 2026, to be included in the priority review. Additional proposals will be accepted on a space available basis. Besides basic demographic & logistical information, the submission includes:

- Short workshop description (for youth to choose sessions from)
- Longer workshop description (for review team consultation)
- Defining the session's connection to leadership skill development and/or awareness (related to the [MN 4-H Leadership Tree](#))
- Defining the session's connection to **Beyond Ready** skills:

Ready for Work

- **Teaching 4-H Project Content**
(STEM, agriculture, health, etc)
- **Building Work Readiness Skills**
(professionalism, work ethic, organization skills)
- **Supporting College & Career Readiness**
(academics, college exploration, career exploration)
- **Fostering Leadership Development**
(navigating networks, leading others, decision making, communication, collaboration)
- **Offering Real-Life Experiences**
(internships, apprenticeships, summer employment)
- **Providing Post-Secondary Pathway Development Support**
(mentoring, pathway planning, creating & navigating)

Ready for Life

- **Promoting Personal Integrity**
(ethical decision making, honesty, reliability)
- **Supporting Responsibility**
(self-discipline, personal accountability, perseverance)
- **Fostering Purpose**
(direction, motivation, sense of meaning)
- **Promoting Caring & Connection**
(concern, compassion, generosity, consideration)
- **Promoting Goal Setting & Management**
(persistence, critical thinking, problem-solving)
- **Encouraging a Growth Mindset**
(originality, creativity, curiosity)

Questions or want to chat through an idea?

For questions about presentation proposals or in general about BLU, please contact Jacquie Lonning & Meg Clark: mn4h-StateAmbieAdvisors@umn.edu