



Tennessee 4-H Junior High Academic Conference

Welcome to the Tennessee 4-H Junior High Academic Conference! As a participant, you will be involved in a STEM educational program on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. You will receive extensive, hands-on training in your project area under the supervision of university scientists and specialists on the UTK campus. The conference will provide a variety of rewarding and fun-filled experiences in classroom, outdoor and laboratory settings, as well as career exploration.

Who May Attend?

Any junior high 4-H member (grades 6-8) enrolled in one of the following 4-H project areas is eligible to attend the conference:

- Beef
- Dairy
- Poultry
- Citizenship
- Dairy Foods*
- Sheep
- Companion Animals
- Forestry
- Swine
- Computers and Technology
- Garden/Home Horticulture
- Wildlife and Fisheries
- Consumer Education
- Goat
- Veterinary Science
- Creative Arts and Design
- Horse

* *4-H'ers with an interest in Food Science and Nutrition, Health and Fitness should consider this project area

Purpose of the Conference

- To recognize outstanding 4-H members and leaders
- To provide academic training related to the participants' 4-H project areas
- To offer special opportunities for career exploration in agriculture and family and consumer sciences
- To meet other 4-H members with similar interests
- To experience campus life and facilities firsthand

Program Staff

The scientists and specialists who will be conducting the program are experienced UT faculty members with national reputations in their areas of specialization. They have been chosen for the conference on the basis of their experience and ability to work with young people.

Program Highlights

Tuesday

- Arrival
- Move into your Room in the Residence Hall
- Registration and Orientation
- Swimming
- Dinner
- Opening Event/Activity

Wednesday

- Breakfast
- 4-H Project Classes with UT Professors and Extension Specialists
- Lunch
- Trip and Dinner at Dollywood

Thursday

- Breakfast
- 4-H Project Classes with UT Professors and Extension Specialists
- Lunch
- STEM and Career Explorations Activity
- Graduation Banquet
- Movie and Pool Party

Friday

- Depart for Home

Housing and Meals

You will live in air-conditioned comfort of the UT Knoxville residence halls -- just like real college students! Most of your meals will be on campus at a university cafeteria.

What to Bring

- Sheets, blanket, pillow and/or sleeping bag for a twin bed
- Towels and washcloth
- Soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste and other toiletries
- Comfortable shoes
- Raincoat or umbrella
- Light jacket
- Appropriate clothing (*sports clothes in good taste will be appropriate for most of the conference. No cut-offs, tank tops, inappropriate words/images on attire or short shorts*)
- Girls -- a “dressy” dress or suit will be appropriate for the graduation banquet
- Boys -- a suit or sport coat with tie will be appropriate for the graduation banquet
- Swimsuit
- Close-toed shoes (*for participants in the animal projects*)
- Consider bringing some work-type clothing for your 4-H Project Classes as many of these will involve hands-on learning experiences with plants and animals

Characteristics of an Exemplary Delegate

As an official delegate of your region, you should be the best representative possible. Be an example of a model 4-H member! Here are a few things that you can do to ensure success:

- Make it a point to be on time or ahead of time for each session and event.
- Be a good listener. you will be receiving instructions from some of the top scientists in the United States. You can impress them with your attentiveness.
- Tobacco products and chewing gum are not allowed at this conference.
- Writing notes of gratitude to sponsors, leaders, agents and parents is appreciated.
- Share your experiences with others when you return home. Take notes and be prepared to give an interesting and worthwhile account of your UT experience.

Sponsors

The program is conducted through a cooperative effort by UT Extension, the University of Tennessee Herbert College of Agriculture, the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine and UT AgResearch. The event is sponsored by gifts from a variety of donors with an interest in giving youth an in-depth project experience on the University of Tennessee Campus including the following:

- Charles Weber
- Ezell/Purity Endowment
- Greever Memorial Fund
- Tennessee Farmers' Cooperative
- Stanfill Memorial Fund
- Tennessee Pork Producers Association
- University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

Cost

The registration fee to attend Academic Conference is \$75. Once you have been notified of your selection as a delegate, send your check to your county UT Extension Office.

More Information

For more information on the 2020 Academic Conference, visit the website at <https://4h.tennessee.edu/academic-conference/>

