Congratulations! You have been selected to represent your county on the county 4-H Youth Council. Your positive attitude and leadership qualities will assist in the current 4-H Youth programs in your county.

Role of The 4-H County Youth Council
The county 4-H Youth Council is a committee appointed by the county 4-H Team. The Youth Council consists of active 4-H members between the ages of 10-18 years old who have at least one year of 4-H experience. The county 4-H Youth Council provides members with an opportunity to develop enhanced citizenship and leadership skills, serve as local 4-H ambassadors, function as youth/client advisors, and leverage 4-H programming with their peers.

Functions & Responsibilities of the 4-H Youth Council
- Serve as a local 4-H ambassador.
- Empower other young people to actively get involved in Alabama 4-H.
- Participate in local county 4-H events by taking on leadership opportunities such as leading the American and 4-H Pledges.
- Promote local 4-H programs and events.
- Assist the 4-H County Team by telling your 4-H Story to local 4-H clubs and civic organizations.
- Enhance citizenship and leadership skills by attending/participating in the 4-H Youth Leadership Conference, 4-H Mid-Winter Retreat, State 4-H Ambassadors, and other leadership and citizenship events.
- Help report the successes of the 4-H program to the community.
- Provide advice to the County 4-H Team to create the annual county 4-H plan-of-work.

Leadership Role Opportunities:
- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Reporter
- Responsibilities of the officers are discussed in the 4-H Officer Handbook
**Program Planning and Evaluation**
- Evaluate the 4-H program yearly to help plan future programs and determine activities.
- A variety of program opportunities should be available to all youth.
- Share evaluation results with others who influence continuation of the 4-H program.

**Public Relations**
- Inform people in the community about the benefits of 4-H program participation.
- Serve in an advocacy role with community leaders, government officials, business people, schools, and/or media representatives, and encourage their support of the 4-H program.

**Membership & Selection**
Factors to consider in forming an effective and efficient committee of youth and adults:
- **Age** – Minimum age of 10 years old Maximum age of 18 years old
- **Racial and ethnic diversity** – Youth Council membership should reflect the demographics of the county they are serving.
- **Gender diversity**
- **Geography** – All geographic areas of the county should be represented.
- **Experience** – Each member should have at least one year of 4-H experience
- **Socio-economic status diversity**
- **Interests and affiliations** – It is beneficial to recruit 4-H members from in-school clubs, volunteer led clubs, special interests clubs, etc.

**Effective 4-H Youth Councils:**
- Have clearly defined goals and a purpose that supports the mission of the 4-H Youth Development Program.
- Actively promote openness to and acceptance of a diverse range of people, with the goal to be inclusive, rather than exclusive.
- Enhances the image of the 4-H Program by serving as positive youth role models.
- Provides an opportunity for each member to share and provide input.
- Operates in cooperation, collaboration and partnership with the County 4-H Team
- Sets and follows an agenda for each meeting.
- Capitalizes on the skills, knowledge, talents and resources of all of its members.
- Promotes the 4-H program to all potential youth and adult clientele, as well as other stakeholders.
- Maintains open, frank and honest communication among the membership and with the paid staff.
- Keeps the concern for the physical, social, and emotional well-being of 4-H youth at the forefront of all decisions that are made and actions that are taken.

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