



CITIZENSHIP • LEADERSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS

March 25–29, 2026 V2.4Honline.com

Deadline: October 6, 2025

WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS?

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is a week-long 4-H citizenship program for youth ages 14–18. The Hyatt Regency Bethesda will serve as the home for CWF 2026. Located in downtown Bethesda, Maryland, the Hyatt Regency Bethesda is adjacent to the Bethesda metro station, offering convenient and affordable access to many of Washington DC's landmarks, along with shopping, dining, and outdoor activities all within walking distance.

Every summer, thousands of young people participate in the program, which provides opportunities for them to do the following:

- strengthen their communication, leadership, and citizenship skills on a national level
- understand the importance of civic and social responsibilities as they relate to the development of better citizens and leaders
- exchange ideas, practice respect, and form friendships with other youth from diverse backgrounds
- experience hands-on learning using the historical backdrop of Washington, DC

CWF PARTICIPANTS ENJOY ...

- a behind-the-scenes look at our nation's capital and the chance to meet members of Congress
- motivational speakers, educational workshops, and assemblies that increase individual commitment to citizen involvement and build lifetime skills for success
- activities that encourage new and lasting friendships
- an enthusiastic staff of young adults who work directly with them

Participants are immersed in the culture and history of Washington through on-site workshops at its most spectacular sights. Destinations include, but are not limited to the following:

- The Capitol
- Mount Vernon
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Presidential and war monuments and memorials
- Smithsonian museums

HOW MUCH?

- \$600.00 (total)
 - \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit due with application by October 6, 2025 (if you are not selected, your deposit will be refunded)
 - \$500.00 balance due by February 27, 2026

2025 ALABAMA APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be Senior Level 4-H (14–18 years of age) members.
- The application for the 2026 CWF must be received in its entirety by October 6, 2025, through 4HOnline. The following pieces are part of that application process:

- 4HOnline Application
- My 4-H Story
- One reference letter that should be saved as a PDF and uploaded into 4HOnline. (Please see guidelines below.)

MY 4-H STORY FORMAT GUIDELINES

- Two options are available. You may choose one.
 1. A 3-minute video recording. The video must be uploaded to Box or emailed to maxwesj@aces.edu. The Box link will be provided in 4HOnline.
 2. A 3-minute, self-playing Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. The PowerPoint must be uploaded to Box or emailed to maxwesj@aces.edu. The Box link will be provided in 4HOnline.

MY 4-H STORY CONTENT GUIDELINES

- **Part I, Introduction:** Introduce yourself. Include your interests. Tell why you joined 4-H and about your 4-H Club experience.
- **Part II, Leadership Achievement:** Your 4-H story should give evidence of leadership, growth in your 4-H project, degree of involvement, cooperation, honesty, responsibility, and good judgment. Describe how 4-H helped you become a leader.
- **Part III, Service and Citizenship Achievement:** Your 4-H story should give evidence of you helping others in the community.
- **Part IV, 4-H Project Achievement:** A good 4-H story talks about your triumphs and setbacks, challenges and opportunities, and any obstacles you experienced and how you overcame them. The focus should not be on prizes you have won, but on how your work has affected you as a person.

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS OF REFERENCE

- One letter of reference is required.
 - The letter should be from an Extension staff member (4-H Extension Agent, CED, CEA, or 4-HAA).
 - Letters are not to be from family members.
- A good letter of reference is one that supports your achievements, skills, and service within 4-H. Save the document as a PDF and upload into 4HOnline.

The decision of the selection committee is final. Seven delegates will be selected and announced by the week of October 20, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Joy Scott at maxwesj@aces.edu or at (205) 612-2790.



www.aces.edu | www.alabama4h.com

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or free language access services, contact Joy Scott at maxwesj@aces.edu by February 27, 2026.

© 2025 Alabama Cooperative Extension System. All rights reserved. 4HYD-2267