



Youth Stepping **FOURWARD**

A pilot program to prepare youth for community leadership and service

Application Packet Deadline *FEBRUARY 12, 2021* by 5 p.m.

Youth Stepping *FOURWARD* is a program designed to create rural and urban youth opportunities to enhance their leadership development and public decision-making skills. This program pilot is being provided to our 4-H community with support from the National 4-H Council's **FOURWARD** Fund. **FOURWARD** Fund supports 4-H's capacity to connect communities and close the opportunity gap through hands-on learning and leadership opportunities for all young people. Now, as communities around our state and elsewhere grapple with the impacts of COVID-19 and other social ills, 4-H is well-positioned to offer youth hands-on leadership experiences proven to develop their skills and ability to lead.

We will be modifying our existing Community Voices program to emphasize the essential skills and strategies they need to become influential leaders and understand their role in civic affairs. Similarly, to Community Voices, the program will follow a shared-group leadership approach in which the organization (in this case, 4-H) can partner with others, share programming initiatives, and use resources to meet the wider community's specific needs, involving youth and adults.

The training sessions will spread out over 7-8 weeks – generally meeting once a week, and as we continue to observe safety protocols for COVID-19, the program will be conducted virtually.

The program will be carried out in these three steps:

- **Build capacity within NC Cooperative Extension** by training a cohort of Extension professionals, youth leaders and 4-H volunteers to serve as facilitators of the program
- **Convene the training sessions for youth participants** (between the desired age of 14-18)
- **Execute a service-learning or community project** spearheaded by youth participants



Youth Stepping **FOURWARD** Youth Participant Application

4-H'er (or YOUTH PARTICIPANT) INFORMATION

(Please print or type)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Name You Prefer to be Called: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Gender: Male Female Race/Ethnicity: _____

School: _____

Grade during 2020-2021: _____

4-H Agent or Leader: _____

HOME ADDRESS:

Street Address (Do Not Give P.O. Box): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Student E-mail Address: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street Address (if different from student): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian E-mail Address: _____

Relationship to Student: _____



In 250 words or less (typed), please tell us who you are and why you are interested in this program? What do you hope to gain from it?

As an alternative to responding to this question in writing, youth can choose to submit a two-minute video introduction instead. The option of submitting a video can give those who wish to do so a different platform to develop their ideas. The focus will be on the video's content. If you submit a video, please record in a quiet space that limits outside distractions (background noise, music, pet or sibling interference, etc.). Please sure to all respond to all three questions and submit your video entry to your local 4-H agent or leader.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____



Youth Stepping **FOURWARD**

Consent Form

As a North Carolina 4-H member, your 4-H'er will be exposed to a multitude of experiences enabling them to participate in statewide as well as National traveling opportunities. We here at N.C. A&T State University understand that your 4-H'ers work hard to achieve these educational yet fun experiences and are excited to embark upon them with their peers and others which is why it's essential that you have a clear understanding of the opportunity and the expectations of the program. By consenting below, you are stating that you are fully aware of all obligation's and responsibilities of your 4-H'er as they participate in the Youth Stepping **FOURWARD** pilot initiative. Please carefully review and initial the following list of expectations and sign below indicating that you agree to the related terms.

I am the parent/legal guardian of _____

Youth Participant Expectations:

_____ Submit ALL related forms with parent/legal guardian signatures for the Youth Stepping **FOURWARD** pilot program.

_____ Collaborate with your 4-H Agent or 4-H Leader to plan and implement project initiatives within your County related to the work associated with this programming effort.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Youth Participant Signature _____ Date _____