

# e4: The Volunteer Retreat FAQ

## 1. Is “The Volunteer Retreat” the same conference as the California State Leaders Forum (SLF)?

Yes! The Volunteer Retreat is an expanded and evolved version of the California State Leaders Forum (SLF). The conference will renew its annual presence in California starting in November 2019.

## 2. Why was the name changed?

Volunteers across California and the other 13 states included in 4-H’s western region were surveyed by the Western Region Volunteer Specialists (WRVS) about events like the Western Region Leaders Forum (WRLF) regarding their desires, experiences, and opportunities. The results of the survey indicated a gap in state-sponsored forums with travel and cost as a prohibiting factor for attendance at the WRLF conference. One recommendation from the WRVS group was for states who offer a yearly leaders forum to extend participation to neighboring states who cannot host their own. As a result, California 4-H accepted this recommendation and changed their name to be more inclusive of our new reach and focus.

## 3. What does the e4 stand for?

e4 stands for the four focus areas of the retreat which are to engage, energize, equip, and empower. Engagement speaks to providing opportunities for volunteers to network, exchange ideas, and build relationships with other volunteers. Energize relates to providing a setting where participants can renew and rejuvenate their spirits. Equip focuses on the educational components of the conference designed to increase knowledge and skills in specific areas. Empower refers to increased confidence to implement new learning in the everyday context of the volunteer.

## 4. What are the major changes to the conference?

The primary changes to the conference include extending our reach to other states, the introduction of a Project Skill Showcase, and more flexible attendance formats. The move back to a retreat/conference center facility from the hotel-style setting has shown to improve opportunities to engage with others. Additionally, the cost is all inclusive, which was a desirable factor for many previous conference attendees.

## 5. When and where will the conference be held?

The conference will be held on November 8-10, 2019 at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, CA.

## 6. When will registration open?

Registration is scheduled to open in March 2019 with an early bird registration rate followed by the regular conference rate.

## 7. Who is running the conference now?

The Volunteer Retreat has a planning committee comprised primarily of California 4-H volunteers from across the state with some county-based and state office-based staff. The committee reports to the State Volunteer Advisory Committee and the California 4-H State Office.

## 8. How can I receive updates about the conference?

You can subscribe to The Volunteer Retreat Mailing List by clicking on the following link:

<https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=ijdnjczab&p=oi&m=1126432148776&sit=yp9r47blb&f=50ede82d-8010-488b-a1e0-b54d58385b02>

## 9. Who do I contact for questions?

You can contact [thevolunteerretreat@ucanr.edu](mailto:thevolunteerretreat@ucanr.edu).