Help us to share the word of the University of Illinois Extension State 4-H program. Assist your local Extension unit with soliciting donations or recruiting volunteers. Report to local county board representations and/or your state and federal legislators on the impact that 4-H youth development programming has in your area.

Give back to the program that has provided you with skills and the opportunities of a lifetime. Continue to build on your leadership and citizenship skills in the process.

**Speak up for Illinois 4-H!**
The purpose of the Speaking for Illinois 4-H (SFI4-H) program is to provide 4-H members with advanced skills in public presentations and etiquette to effectively promote the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Program to various audiences, including elected officials on the local, state, and national level; potential donors; and civic groups. Youth are selected on the local level by Extension staff, and provided training on a regional or state level by the Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team. Illinois will have a cadre of experienced youth speakers available to help promote the Illinois 4-H Youth Development Program throughout the state. In addition, the life skills the members gain through the training and follow-up experiences will include speaking in public, organization, civic involvement, citizenship, and leadership.

**Becoming Involved**

Extension Units may recruit high school and college youth to participate in the training program. Or, teens may individually express interest in the program to their Extension staff. Criteria for the program include:

- Age 14 or older;
- Ability to attend the training in its entirety;
- Commitment to speaking at future events; and
- Ability to secure travel to the training and speaking events.

Youth are required to apply for the program and provide reference evaluations from adults who are familiar with their public presentation abilities. Cost of the training is $10.00 to cover supplies and lunch. Trainings are held on Saturdays, generally from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Once trained, teens are placed on an official SFI4-H roster and the names and contact information distributed to Extension staff in their area. This roster allows counties access to youth to assist in contacts for state legislative purposes or other events.

**Training Focus**

Training will include information on:

- Current Illinois 4-H Program
- Enrollment
- Positive Youth Development
- Success Stories
- Public Presentation Basics
- Business Etiquette
- Talking to Elected Officials

- Seeking Donors

Follow-up sessions will be provided on an annual basis. Youth on the SFI4-H roster will be expected to participate in special programs such as Legislative Connection and assist in evaluation of the program.

**ILLINOIS STATE 4-H YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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