



To: Flathead County 4-H youth, volunteers, and parents / guardians

From: MSU Extension Office, Flathead County

Date: March 4, 2025

RE: 2025 Flathead County 4-H Camp Counselor Application

Camp Dates: We are excited to begin planning the 2025 Flathead County 4-H Camp! Attached is the camp counselor application for this year's camp, which will be held Tues, July 22 to Fri, July 25, 2025 at the Darrel E. Fenner 4-H Camp at Loon Lake (Ferndale, east of Bigfork). Camp counselors and MSU Extension Agents will set up camp and conduct rehearsals on Mon, July 21st, 2025

Application: Please be sure to complete all 4 sections: Part 1 Information Form, Part 2 Question and Answer Form, Part 3 4-H Counselor **Code of Conduct**, and Part 4 My Camp Plan. Typed or handwritten applications are accepted. Use additional paper as needed. Submit completed and signed applications **by 5pm on April 25th** in the MSU Extension Office located at 1108 S. Main Street Ste 4 in Kalispell, MT.

Counselor Training Sessions:

- 1) Sat, May 17 Camp Counselor Meet and Greet time / location: TBD
- 2) Sat, June 7 Camp Counselor Training (All Day) Location: Loon Lake 4-H Camp in Ferndale (east of Bigfork)
- 3) July – possible CPR Training

The primary Flathead 4-H camp counselor training session will occur at the Darrell E. Fenner Flathead 4-H Camp at Loon Lake (in Ferndale, east of Bigfork) on Saturday June 7th. The counselors will complete team building, camp brainstorming, and mandatory rules instruction during this training session. **Also, counselors will be encouraged to attend another county's camp (at the Flathead 4-H camp) between June 19th through 20th and June 26th through 28th to observe.** It is incredibly important for everyone, regardless of previous counselor experience, to attend all the camp counselor training sessions. If an interested counselor applicant is not able to attend all the above sessions, they may still apply and the MSU Extension Agents will contact them to discuss potential alternatives. There is no charge for counselors to attend the Flathead 4-H Camp or training sessions. Counselors will receive training in the areas of leadership, youth development, public speaking, and CPR.

Counselor Selection: Twelve cabin pairs of counselors (24 total counselors) will be selected for this year's camp. We will pair first-year counselors with experienced counselors whenever possible.

Arrival times/dates for Counselors vs. Campers: counselors will arrive after 10am on Monday, July 21st for a pre-camp set-up day; campers will arrive on Tuesday, July 22nd. Counselors and campers depart camp at a time to be determined in the early afternoon on Friday, July 25th.

We look forward to working with all of you as Flathead 4-H continues the overnight camp experience. It is your leadership, enthusiasm and spirit that make this such a positive, often life-changing experience for the campers.

Feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Rick Balestri, 4H and Youth Development Extension Agent
Contact 406-758-5552 or richard.balestri@montana.edu

Ashli Darrach, Flathead County 4-H and FCS MSU Extension Agent
Contact: 406-758-2448/ashli.darrach@montana.edu



2025 Flathead County 4-H Camp Counselor Application

Application Due April 25, 2025 by 5pm in MSU Extension Office



Please complete and sign your application and deliver it to the MSU Extension Office located at 1108 S. Main Street Ste 4 in Kalispell, MT no later than **5pm on Friday, April 25th**. Counselors must be 14-18 years old as of October 1, 2024. 13-year-olds as of October 1, 2024 may apply as a Junior Counselor. If you apply to be a junior counselor and are not selected, you may still attend camp as a camper. There will be **two** mandatory counselor training/planning workshops throughout the year leading up to camp. Counselors must commit to assisting with camp planning and attend all training sessions.

Part 1: Information Form

Position: Counselor (14-18 yrs as of Oct. 1, 2024) Junior Counselor (13 yrs as of Oct. 1, 2024)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Club: _____ E-Mail: _____

The best way to contact me is by: Email Phone Text

Age as of October 1, 2024: _____ Birthdate: _____

Current 4-H Projects: _____

Past 4-H Projects: _____

MEDICAL HISTORY: Do you have any physical conditions or allergies which prevent you from performing certain kinds of work or activities? *check one* Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Briefly describe leadership experiences you've had, especially those with children:

Have you attended a 4-H camp in Flathead County? Yes No Other counties

If Yes, list year(s): _____ If Other, list county and year: _____

Have you been a counselor for 4-H or other summer camps and received camp counselor training? *check one*

Yes No If yes, please list name of camp(s), year, and responsibilities: _____



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Part 2: Question and Answer Form: Please respond to the following questions.

1. Why do you want to be a camp counselor? _____

2. List 3 of your strongest qualities and why it makes you a good candidate:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

3. List 3 personal challenges/areas of weakness and how you envision overcoming them:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

4. List any special training or experiences (i.e. first aid certification, CPR certification, leadership training, etc.) you have: _____

5. What do you think the role of a Counselor should be? _____

6. Would your parents be willing to chaperone for a night or two? ____yes ____no
 If yes, list dates/times: _____

7. Provide three references, including your 4-H leader, who are over 21 yrs old and are not related to you.

- 1. Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
- 2. Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
- 3. Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Can you attend the Flathead 4-H planning/training?

May 17 th Counselor Meet and Greet Time: TBD	Yes	No		
June 7 th Camp Counselor Training at Loon Lake 4-H Camp in Bigfork <i>Tentative Time: 9am to 5pm</i>	Yes	No		
Can you fully attend 4-H Camp July 21-25 (including pre-Camp setup)?	Yes	No		

If No to any question, please explain:



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Part 3: Flathead 4-H Camp Counselor Code of Conduct

I will be expected to:

1. Attend all training, planning, and social activities in their entirety unless excused beforehand by the camp director or 4-H Extension Agent.
2. Monitor email, phone, and text for important camp information. Respond accordingly when asked. Keep communication channels open.
3. Set a good example by not using profanity or telling off-color jokes and stories both at meetings and during camp week.
4. Not have in my possession or use tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs while I am participating in the 4-H Camp Counselor Program and at 4-H camp. Possession and/or use of these substances will result in immediate dismissal from the Camp Counselor Program.
5. Abide by the no "Inappropriate Behavior" policy at camp. No public displays of affection.
6. Abide by the NO CELL PHONE policy at camp (Note: unless otherwise authorized by the Camp Director or Extension Staff).
7. Be a responsible counselor.
 - a) Get to know campers personally and by name.
 - b) Have all campers, including myself, check in any of their medications with the camp nurse / medical staff.
 - c) Make sure each camper maintains their personal hygiene.
 - d) Make sure that all my campers are familiar with camp facilities and camp rules.
 - e) Check for illness or injury, but don't make much of a "fuss" about minor things.
8. Be in my cabin with my campers always between the hours of "Lights Out" and "Rise and Shine" unless allowed by the Camp Director(s) or 4-H Extension Agent(s).
9. Treat everyone with dignity and respect. Never punish a camper by ridicule or physical punishment – patience and understanding works wonders. Seek Extension Agent or adult chaperone assistance with misbehaving campers.
10. Enforce safety at all times. Take time to explain how and why to do something safely.
11. Escort hurt / sick campers to the nurse, Ext. Agent or adult chaperone regardless how minor the injury / illness.
12. Organize, plan, and conduct special activities. I will follow through and be prepared for all assigned activities, workshops, and additional responsibilities.
13. Work as a team with other counselors, adult chaperones, and staff to provide a safe and enjoyable camp experience.
14. Ensure all campers are involved in all activities. Make sure no one is excluded.
15. Guide, suggest, and develop a cooperative, team spirit within my cabin at camp. Successful organizations reflect on their performance, identify their shortcomings, and commit to continual improvement.
16. Make sure campers understand they are responsible for their own behavior.
17. Be sure that all campers know that they must always remain within the camp property.
18. Be on-time at all camp activities.
19. Be flexible – plans do change.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by the above responsibilities as a camp counselor. I understand and agree that I will be asked to call my parents/guardian immediately to pick me up if I conduct myself in an irresponsible manner, which includes being out of my cabin after hours and/or the possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons, or fireworks.

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/ Guardian _____ Date: _____



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Part 4: My Camp Plan

Each year the counselors and adult staff select a timely and fun camp theme and plan all the camp activities and programs around the theme. After giving this important topic of “theme” some thought, please complete this **My Camp Plan** form. Please keep copyright and trademark considerations in mind when suggesting your camp theme and other ideas.

Camp Theme: _____

Group/Counselor Name Ideas: _____

Special Program(s): (doesn't have to be related to the camp theme: _____

Guest Speaker Ideas: _____

Recreation Ideas: _____

All Camp Activity Ideas: _____

Other Suggestions:
