National 4-H Congress
Take Your 4-H Career
to the Next Level!

Experience LEADERSHIP & SERVICE LEARNING in a new exciting way with more than 950 4-H members from across the United States.

Applications accepted March 1st to March 31st on 4-H CONNECT.

November 26 - December 1, 2015
Atlanta, Georgia

For More Information Visit: texas4-h.tamu.edu/youth_national_congress
INTRODUCTION:
The 2015 National 4-H Congress will be Thursday, November 26th through Tuesday, December 1st at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta in Georgia.

National 4-H Congress is the flagship event of the National 4-H program. Each year a National Design Team of Extension educators, 4-H youth, and 4-H adult volunteers analyze current youth issues and determine the most effective ways to address them. The program combines a variety of fun and exciting educational, recreational and networking opportunities. The program combines sessions, seminars, discussion groups, and a service learning experience. The nation’s most outstanding community leaders, speakers, and educators present the most current and timely information available.

OBJECTIVES:
• To improve the ability of teen 4-H youth to express themselves in written and verbal forms of communication that are necessary and important “life skills” for today and in the future.
• To increase the awareness of the importance of Leadership, Citizenship, and Community Service in 4-H Youth Development.

WHO SHOULD APPLY:
• Youth with significant leadership accomplishments and potential. This will be verified through two adult references who are not related to the applicant.
• Youth who have demonstrated the ability to perform academically at or above grade level-passing all course work and eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities.
• Youth who possess the maturity to interact with other youth from different regions, cultures, experiences and beliefs.
• Youth between the ages of 14 and 18 on September 1 of the year they are applying. Applicants must have been born during the period beginning September 1, 1995 and ending August 31, 2000.
• Youth must be enrolled in High School and not entered college full time at the time of event.
• Youth must still be in high school during the time of the trip.
• Any youth participating in youth development programming which Extension (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Prairie View Cooperative Extension Program) is a partner (including 4-H clubs, short-term groups, school curriculum enrichment and ENP-Y programs).
• Youth must plan to meet on Thursday, November 26, 2015.

APPLICATION PROCESS:
Applications must be submitted online and certified through 4HCONNECT by March 31, 2015. There is not a fee for this application to be completed online. Interview selection of delegates will be made on the basis of the online application.

The online application will contain the following:
• Summary of Major Leadership Roles.
• Summary of Citizenship/Community Service Activities.
• Personal biography of 4-H member’s 4-H career and other extracurricular activities.
• Two adult references who are not related to the applicant. One adult must be familiar with the applicant’s academic performance. The second adult must be from the County Extension Agent familiar with the applicant’s reputation and involvement in community activities.

INTERVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS:
Interviews will take place during Texas 4-H Roundup in June via face-to-face for those attending the event. For those applicants not attending, a phone interview will scheduled on the same day as the face-to-face interviews. The interview will focus on the application submitted online. The applicant will be asked to expound on how they will use the knowledge gained from National 4-H Congress to strengthen the 4-H Program in their county. The interviews are normally conducted...
by the state coordinator and/or chaperones assigned to go on the trip.

The final delegation will be announced during the general assembly on Thursday night. The accepted delegate does not have to be present for the announcement.

TRIP COST:
The delegate’s share of registration, adult chaperone registration, lodging, airfare, meals, and transportation costs is $1500.00. Every effort will be made to lower the final cost by purchasing advance air fare, reserving rooms well in advance and seeking additional outside support. Any unfunded portion of the final cost will be the responsibility of the delegate. Local area fund-raising is encouraged. Final cost information will be made available after the applicant is accepted.

The following items are included in the cost:
- Congress Registration (includes most meals)
- Lodging
- Airline Ticket
- States Lunch
- Shirt
- State Photograph
- Trading Pins (delegates can bring pins too)
- Evening Refreshments/Snacks
- Ground Transportation in Atlanta
- Educational Tour

The following items are not included in the cost:
- Transportation to and from the airport the delegation will be leaving from.
- Spending money for souvenirs.
- Meals during travel to and from Atlanta, GA.

TEXAS TRAVEL AND MEETING LOCATION:
Travel Start Date: Thursday, November 26, 2015
- The plan is for the delegation to meet at a centrally located airport (possibly Austin) and fly to Atlanta, Georgia the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day. This will allow for the delegation to travel on a slow day, as well as eliminating housing in Austin and requiring excessive unpacking and packing prior to arriving in Georgia.

Travel End Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2015
- Delegation will arrive back at the designated airport by the mid-afternoon. This will allow the delegates to participate completely in the conference.

IMPORTANT DATES:
Application Announcement: February 15, 2015
Online Application Opens: March 1, 2015
Online Application Closes: March 31, 2015
Interviews Announced: April 10, 2015
Interviews during Roundup: TBD
Delegation Announced: June 11, 2015
Deposit (1st Payment) due ($750.00): August 2, 2015
Final (2nd Payment) due ($750.00): September 2, 2015

APPLICATION WORKSHEET:
An application worksheet is available in Microsoft Word format for applicants to use as a guide to copy and paste from when completing the online 4-H CONNECT form. The worksheet can be found at: texas4-h.tamu.edu/youth_national_congress.