

TEXAS 4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

2012 NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS INFORMATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Introduction

The 2012 National 4-H Congress will be Thursday, November 29 through Tuesday, December 4 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 plenary 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, 1992 and ending August 31, 1997.
- 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 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 29, 2012.

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Application Process:

Applications must be submitted online and certified through 4HCONNECT by **April 16, 2012**. 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:

Potential interviews will take place via phone at a specified time. 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 chaperones assigned to go on the trip.

The final delegation will be announced during the general assembly on Tuesday 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 \$1600.00. 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.
- Any meals on Thursday, November 29, 2012

Texas Travel and Meeting Location:

Travel Start Date: Thursday, November 29, 2012

Travel End Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2012

The Texas delegates will leave from either the Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston or the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in Dallas (depending on the cost of airline tickets and the geographical makeup of the delegation).

Important Dates:

Application Announcement:	February 13, 2012
Online Application Opens:	February 13, 2012
Online Application Closes:	April 16, 2012
Interviews Announced if Needed:	May 2, 2012
Interviews during Roundup if Needed:	TBD
Delegation Announced:	June 12, 2012
Deposit due (\$800.00):	August 1, 2012

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