National 4-H Conference

The Premier Youth Development Opportunity of the Department of Agriculture

Washington, DC – April 9-14, 2016

WHAT IS NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE?

National 4-H Conference is the Secretary of Agriculture's premier youth development opportunity to engage youth in developing recommendations for the 4-H Youth Development Program. If you are wanting to strengthen your leadership and/or citizenship projects, this is an excellent opportunity.

National 4-H Conference is a working conference in which youth and adults--at the invitation of the Secretary of Agriculture--assist in the development of recommendations to help guide 4-H Youth Development Programs nationally and in their communities. This event brings together youth, volunteer leaders, and state and county Extension staff members from across the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the Canadian Provinces.

As the sponsor for this conference, the National 4-H Headquarters--located within Families, 4-H, and Nutrition at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) --is charged with sharing the recommendations that emerge from the conference with the Secretary of Agriculture, national Extension Program Leaders, and others who determine 4-H programs. Each delegate chooses an important societal topic to discuss in a roundtable situation with other delegates. From the roundtable discussion, the groups prepare a briefing to present to federal stakeholders. This experiential approach ensures that the conference is a meaningful experience for the youth and adult participants. Social activities in the evening, tours of Monuments and Museums and cultural entertainment round out the conference.

LOCATION:

The 2016 National 4-H Conference will be held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center. The Center is located in a quiet, 12-acre campus-like setting in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and one mile from the nation's Capitol, making it the perfect gateway to Washington, D.C.'s leaders, monuments and museums. The Conference Center is operated by the National 4-H Council. To read more interesting history on the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, visit http://www.4hcenter.org/center_history.html. Delegates will also have the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill and the offices of Congressman and Federal Offices.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The National 4-H Conference requires youth who are focused and committed to working during the Conference and in their state. The Texas delegation will consist of 10-20 youth delegates, who will be required to engage in pre- and post conference work and participate in all scheduled conference activities. The minimum age requirement for a Texas youth delegate is 15 years old (must be by January 1, 2016). The maximum age for a Texas youth delegate is 18.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications must be submitted online and certified through 4HCONNECT by November 30, 2015. Choose 'National 4-H Conference Application'. County Extension Office personnel will certify the application, so please communicate with your Extension Agent of your intent to apply. Final selection of delegates will be made on the basis of the online application; you may be contacted for a telephone interview. The final selection of delegates will be announced on, or before, December 21, 2015. Please refer to the Application/Nomination for 4-H Recognition Form (4-H 3-2.041) to help you complete the online application. This form is available from the Library Tab of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program website (http://texas4-h.tamu.edu) under Achievement & Recognition Certificates.

COST:

The delegate's share of registration, adult chaperone registration, lodging, airfare, meals, and transportation costs is $2,000.00. This registration fee will be due on February 1, 2016.

TEXAS DELEGATION MEETING LOCATION:

The Texas delegation will travel out of Houston, Austin or Dallas (depending on the cost of airline tickets and the geographical makeup of the delegation). All travel costs to the airport to meet the group is the responsibility of the delegate. All participants are required to travel with the group.