

2017 NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS INFORMATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Thursday, November 23rd through Tuesday, November 28th, National 4-H Congress will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, 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.
- 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 in grades 9-12 at time of event, November 23-28, 2017.
- Youth must still be in high school during the time of the trip.
- Any youth participating in youth development programming which Texas A&M AgriLife Extension or Prairie View Cooperative Extension Program is a partner; (including 4-H clubs, short-term groups, school curriculum enrichment and ENP-Y programs).

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications must be submitted online and certified through 4HCONNECT by April 16. 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, Citizenship/Community Service Activities.
- Personal biography of 4-H member's 4-H career and other extracurricular activities.
- Approval of application by County Extension Agent

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The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

INTERVIEW AND ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS:

Interviews will take place during Texas 4-H Roundup in June via face-to-face for those attending the event. Those applicants not attending Roundup will have a phone interview scheduled. 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. Delegates do 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 \$1,000 - \$1,500. 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. A search for a donor/sponsor is underway. Final registration fee will be available May 1, 2017. Any unfunded portion of the final cost will be the responsibility of the delegate. Local area fund-raising is encouraged.

The following items are included in the registration fee:

- Congress Registration (includes most meals)
- Lodging
- Airline Ticket
- States Lunch
- Shirt
- State Photograph
- Trading Pins
- Evening refreshments/snacks
- Ground transportation in Atlanta
- Educational Tour

Not included in the cost:

- Transportation to and from the airport the delegation will be leaving from.
- Luggage fees; \$25 per bag each way
- Spending money for souvenirs and meals during travel to and from Atlanta, GA.
- Meals during travel to and from Atlanta, GA.

TEXAS TRAVEL AND MEETING LOCATION:

The delegation will travel on Thursday, **Thanksgiving Day** from a centrally located airport and fly to Atlanta, GA. Final schedule and airports will not be determined until the delegation and chaperones are selected. It will be the delegate's responsibility to get to designated airport. All efforts will be made to coordinate connecting flights where possible.

Travel End Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2017

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IMPORTANT DATES:

Online Application Opens: March 1, 2017

Online Application Closes: April 16, 2017

Interviews Announced: April 28, 2017

Interviews during Roundup: TBD

Delegation Announced: June 8, 2017

Deposit (1st Payment) due (\$750.00): June 30, 2017

Final (2nd Payment) due (balance of \$1,000-1,500*): July 31, 2017 (donor/sponsor search underway; final registration amount to be announced by May 1, but will not exceed \$1,500)

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