



TEXAS 4-H CONGRESS 2018 PACKET

MEMORANDUM

TO: District 2 County Extension Agents and County Extension Offices

FROM: Andy Hart
Extension 4-H Youth Development Specialist

SUBJECT: 2018 Texas 4-H Congress Announcement

Texas 4-H Congress is a four-day mock legislative experience for 4-H members in grades 9th to 12th (at the time of the event). During this time, 4-H members assume the roles of senators, representatives, lobbyists, press corps, and special interest groups to gain a first-hand understanding of how the legislative process works. Bills that are written and sponsored by 4-H members focus on issues concerning Texas and Texas youth. These bills are assigned to the appropriate committee, debated in committee meetings, and then on the floor of the House or Senate. If a bill is successful in negotiation and the legislative debate in all three stages, it is delivered to the Governor of Texas 4-H Congress for his or her signature or veto. Copies of all the bills that are signed into law during Texas 4-H Congress are provided to the Office of the Governor for review.

Age Eligibility

Official grades for Texas 4-H Congress are 9th grade to 12th grade (at the time of event). This is a prestigious event reserved for older 4-H members. Because of the number of 4-H members allowed to attend, counties should make it a priority to select older 4-H members for the House and Senate that have never attended prior.

Location

Headquarters for Texas 4-H Congress will be at the Sheraton Hotel, 707 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Calendar of Events for Event

February 12, 2018	Bill submission opens
February 12, 2018	Lobbyist Application Open on 4HConnect
February 12, 2018	Press Corps Online Opens on 4HConnect
March 23, 2018	Lobbyist Application closes
March 23, 2018	Press Corps Application closes
March 30, 2018	Lobbyist and Press Corps Notification
April 1, 2018	Early Bird Registration Opens on 4HConnect
April 30, 2018	Early Bird Registration Closes on 4HConnect
May 1, 2018	Registration Opens on 4HConnect
May 15, 2018	Bill submission closes
May 31, 2018	Registration Closes on 4HConnect
June 1, 2018	Late Registration Opens on 4HConnect
June 15, 2018	Late Registration Closes on 4HConnect
July 10, 2018	District Travel Letters
July 10, 2018	Bill Book posted online
July 20, 2018	Texas 4-H Council Arrive
July 20, 2018	Management Team Arrive
July 22, 2018	Adult and Youth Participants Arrive
July 25, 2018	All Participants Depart

Participation Costs

Registration costs include: hotel, meals & snacks, and registration fee. Other costs that delegates may have include transportation to and from Austin, meals in route to and from Austin, three (3) breakfast meals while in Austin, and incidental spending money.

House/Senate/Press Corps/Lobbyist	\$475 Transportation included
Texas 4-H Council	\$415 Trip home transportation included
Technology Team Members	\$475 Transportation included
Chaperones	\$ 0.00

The registration cost of \$475.00 (including transportation) is due in part to the assistance of more than \$150,000.00 from such donors as the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, RSMIS Foundation, Ed Rachal Foundation to name a few. Without these gracious donors, the registration cost would be more than \$600.00 per person.

Chaperone expenses for hotel, Congress meals, and registration will be paid by Texas 4-H Congress for one male/one female chaperone from delegate fees. ***No transportation, parking, mileage, toll fees, per diem or out-of-pocket expenses will be paid to chaperones by Texas 4-H Congress.*** It is requested that county or district funds be used to pay for transportation and per diem to and from Texas 4-H Congress.

Travel Information

Start Date: Sunday, July 22, 2018

Travel Days, Times and Costs:

Travel Start Date: Sunday, July 22, 2018. A more detailed agenda will be sent to all District 2 participants after delegates are selected. Note- Districts 1, 2 and 3 will travel in Chartered bus to Austin. D-2 pick-up point will be at the District 2 Research and Extension Office located at 1102 E. FM 1294, Lubbock, TX 79403. Delegates will tour the Capital as soon as they arrive in Austin. Delegates will arrive at the Sheraton Hotel by 5:00 p.m. to ensure all luggage is in lodging rooms prior to the dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. followed immediately by the Opening Session.

Travel End Date: Wednesday, July 25, 2016. All delegates must be departed from the event by 10:00 a.m. D-2 drop off will be in Lubbock at the same pick up location in the afternoon. Again, a more detailed travel agenda will be sent once we have completed registration.

Parking is available at the hotel for \$16.00 per day for self-parking (estimated total of \$48.00 per vehicle). Districts/counties with large vans, pickups, or other vehicles that will not be able to park in the garage will need to communicate with Toby Lepley by May 1 to secure parking with the City of Austin along the streets.

Chaperones:

Two adult chaperones from each district and one from PVCEP will be serving in an official role at Texas 4-H Congress. ***Chaperones from District 2 will be Audra Graves, Mitchell County CEA-FCH, and Wade Howard, Lynn CEA-AG.*** Chaperones serve as advisors to the legislative committees, chaperone dances, assist with press corps or lobbyist (as assigned), assist with decorating for meals/banquets, and serve as security and transportation monitors. Chaperones are expected to chaperone ALL delegates during Texas 4-H Congress, but be the contact for their district members in case of an emergency or incident.

Submission of Legislative Bills

CHANGE FOR 2018: A requirement for a 4-H member to participate in Texas 4-H Congress is that they submit a COMPLETE bill for consideration. This includes Texas 4-H Council and Tech Team members. Any 4-H member can submit a bill regardless if they are attending Texas 4-H Congress or not in order for them to be engaged in the legislative process and the 4-H citizenship project. This will give all 4-H members the opportunity to participate in an exercise in civic engagement. To accomplish the writing and submission of legislative bills it is recommended that the County Extension Agent, or a volunteer, assist the youth in learning about what a quality bill is, how to write one, and then submitting the bill on-line. Refer to the Texas 4-H publication entitled "Understanding the Texas Legislative Process, A Guide for Participating in Texas 4-H Congress." This publication is located on the Texas 4-H website. 4-H members from the same county, or other counties, are not allowed to submit the same bill for meeting this requirement.

District Tours

Each district is responsible for organizing and scheduling Texas State Capitol tours. The District office and/or district chaperones are encouraged to work with a House of Representative or Senator Office to schedule a tour of the capitol for Sunday from 12 noon to 3:30 p.m. All groups should be back at the Sheraton Hotel by 5 pm to ensure all luggage is in lodging rooms prior to the dinner starting at 6:00 p.m.

District 2 Selection Process:

Quotas above are for House of Representatives and Senate members. The quota does not include Texas 4-H Council, Texas 4-H Technology Team, Press Crops, and/or Lobbyist members selected through other manners.

Quotas are limited this year to 20 youth from District 2 for the positions in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Lobbyists, Press Corps, and Tech Team members are not included in the quotas you see on the next page. Youth from across the State will apply for these positions through 4-H Connect and will be selected before House of Representatives and the Senate registration opens on 4-H Connect. Counties will know if 4-H'ers from your county who apply are not selected as Lobbyists, Press Corp, or Tech Team members so that they can then be eligible for the House of Representatives or Senate.

It is up to each County to determine the process by which you will select your delegate for the quota and prioritize their list of alternates, if more youth express interest. There will be counties in District 2 who will not fill their quotas and we will be able to move alternates up. Should we have representation from all 20 counties in District 2, we will hold a drawing to fill the House of Representatives and the Senate slots. Please encourage youth that have attended Congress in the past to register for Lobbyist, Press Corp and Tech Team positions as they will not count against our quota. Also, those representing District 2 on State Council will not count against our district quota.

Participant Quotas

Quotas are set for 4-H House and Senate members. The quota does not include adults, Texas 4-H Council, Texas 4-H Technology Team, Press Crops, and/or Lobbyist member selections. Texas 4-H Congress strives to increase and provide greater opportunity for minority representation. If the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program is able to accomplish the stated district quota system, this will provide an additional challenge for our youth to pass legislation that is to affect just a rural or urban area.

Area	House/Senate Delegates	Area	House/Senate Delegates	Area	House/Senate Delegates
District 1	20	District 8	20	El Paso County	2
District 2	20	District 9	20	Fort Bend County	2
District 3	20	District 10	20	Harris County	2
District 4	20	District 11	20	Tarrant County	2
District 5	20	District 12	20	Travis County	2
District 6	20	Bexar County	2	4-H Military	2
District 7	20	Dallas County	2	PVCEP	4

*Urban county delegates are strongly encouraged to represent the minority community and to be delegates from not only the "community club" but also representatives of special interest, community partnerships, and other "non-traditional" 4-H delivery methods. Districts are encouraged to maintain an alternate list of delegates if their quota is filled. Alternates will be allowed after all districts, urban counties, and the Prairie View Cooperative Extension 4-H Program have submitted applications and delegate spots are still available. Please do not request exceptions to this quota system.

Participant Communication, Dress and Forms

All necessary forms for Texas 4-H Congress will be posted on the Texas 4-H Congress website, as well as sent electronically to each participant in the Texas 4-H Congress participant packet. Copies of all communications will be sent via e-mail to county and district offices.

Suggested attire for the event will also be emailed. Since this is such a prestigious event and the 4-H members will be on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives and Senate, a coat and tie are to be worn by all males and professional style dresses are to be worn by females at all official legislative events. Dress for the theme party must be in line with the theme and presented in a non-offensive manner.

Theme Party

The Texas 4-H Council has selected the theme of “Jump Into Character” A night of 4-H members dressing like their favorite movie, book, comic, hero, or TV character. The evening will include various games, contests, and interactive activities for the delegates. See the attached flyer for additional information on the theme night.

Texas 4-H Congress Participant Roles

House or Senate Members

These roles are primarily for 4-H members that have never participated in Texas 4-H Congress. Members serving in the House or Senate should be prepared and able to speak about issues effecting Texas and Texas youth. The issues that the 4-H member will be speaking about may or may not be related to the subject matter of the bill they submitted. House and Senate members will be participating in a variety of professional settings such as committee meetings, chamber sessions, and may be lobbied or questioned on different issues by the Lobbyist group and/or the Press Corps. Assignments are made by the State 4-H Office.

House and Senate members allotted to participate: 260

Lobbyists:

The Lobbyist group is designed for 4-H members who have attended Texas 4-H Congress previously. The responsibility of the Lobbyist group is to identify certain bills and then lobby members of the House and Senate to either pass or defeat the bill. Lobbyist should be knowledgeable about Texas 4-H Congress and the schedule that it follows. Lobbyist members should be prepared to and have the ability to approach other 4-H members and persuade House and Senate members for support. The Lobbyist group will hold a private reception for certain House and Senate Members, along with Congress Leadership.

Applications to be considered for a Lobbyist position will be submitted online through 4-H CONNECT. Online application is open March 1 – 23. This time frame allows time for youth to complete the application and then be notified if they will serve in the Lobbyist role or be considered for another role in Texas 4-H Congress.

Lobbyist allotted to participate: up to 25

Press Corps:

Texas 4-H Congress Press Corps members can be either first time or returning 4-H members. Individuals applying for the Press Corp should have strong skills in writing, word processing, interviewing, photography, and focused on making deadlines. The Press Corps is responsible for publishing a daily newspaper and helping maintain a web page/electronic communication. Press Corps members not be able to attend certain events because of print deadlines. Two Texas 4-H Council members and up to 15 4-H members may serve on the press corp.

Applications to be considered for a Press Corp position will be submitted online through 4-H CONNECT. Online application is open March 1 – 23. This time frame allows time for youth to complete the application and then be notified if they will serve in a Press Corp role, or be considered for another role in Texas 4-H Congress.

Press Corps members allotted to participate: up to 15

Technology Team:

Up to four (4) members from the Texas 4-H Technology Team will be selected by the group’s adult leadership to participate in Texas 4-H Congress. These individuals will be responsible for assisting with webpage publication, videotaping, streaming video, podcasting, and other technology-based tasks.

Technology Team members allotted to participate: 4

Texas 4-H Council Member:

Texas 4-H Council Members will assume leadership positions throughout Texas 4-H Congress. All Texas 4-H Council members are required to arrive in Austin on the Friday before between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Texas 4-H Council members will be involved in training and planning the two days prior to 4-H Congress in order to be able to effectively conduct the necessary business. It is a requirement that ALL Texas 4-H Council members participate fully in Texas 4-H Congress in order to attend. (beginning on Friday and ending on Wednesday)

Texas 4-H Council Members allotted to participate: 32

Chaperones:

Two adult chaperones from each district and one from PVCEP will be serving in an official role at Texas 4-H Congress. These adults serve as advisors to the legislative committees, chaperone dances, assist with press corps or lobbyist (as assigned), assist with decorating for meals/banquets, and serve as security and transportation monitors. Chaperones are expected to chaperone ALL delegates during Texas 4-H Congress, but be the contact for their district members in case of an emergency or incident. Additional chaperones will not be accepted for this event.

Texas 4-H Congress Management Team:

This team consists of Texas 4-H Faculty, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Adjunct faculty, and Volunteers. Each member of the management team has a certain area of responsibility during Texas 4-H Congress.

1ST
AWESOME
ISSUE

Monday
July 23

2018 **1**

JUMP INTO CHARACTER



Texas 4-H Congress
Theme Dinner & Party
*COME AS YOUR FAVORITE
CHARACTER FROM TV,
THE MOVIES, OR
A BOOK!*

- MUST BE
APPROPRIATE
AND ADHERE
TO DRESS CODE
- Super Man
 - Mickey Mouse
 - Smurfs
 - Harry Potter
 - Paddington Bear
 - Pippi Longstocking
 - Katniss Everdeen
 - Willy Wonka

CONTESTS AND PRIZES FOR THE BEST DRESSED!