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 1 to April 15 on 4-H CONNECT.

November 24 - 29, 2016
Atlanta, Georgia

For More Information Visit:
texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/nationalcongress
2016 NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS INFORMATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

National 4-H Congress will be Thursday, November 24th through Tuesday, November 29th 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 references from two adults 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 in grades 9-12 at time of event, November 24-29, 2016.
• 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 15. 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.
• Letter of reference from two adults 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. Submit letters to Dr. Darlene Locke at the address below; letters may be sent electronically to dlocke@ag.tamu.edu.

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. 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.

The following items are included in the cost:
- 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:**
*Travel Start Date: Thursday, November 24, 2016*
- The delegation will plan to meet at a centrally located airport and fly to Atlanta, GA the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day.

*Travel End Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016*
- 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:**
Online Application Opens: March 1, 2016
Online Application Closes: April 15, 2016
Interviews Announced: April 25, 2016
Interviews during Roundup: TBD
Delegation Announced: June 9, 2016
Deposit (1st Payment) due ($750.00): August 2, 2016
Final (2nd Payment) due ($750.00): September 2, 2016