

TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

February 9, 2022

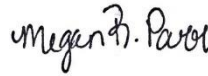
MEMORANDUM

TO: District 8 County Extension Agents

FROM: Donald W. Kelm
District Extension Administrator



Megan R. Parr
Extension Program Specialist
4-H Youth Development



SUBJECT: 2022 TEXAS 4-H CONGRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

Overview

Texas 4-H Congress is a four-day mock legislative experience for 4-H members in grades 9th to 12th for the 2021-2022 school year. 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.

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Calendar of Events

February 1, 2022	Bill submission opens
February 15, 2022	Lobbyist Application opens on 4-H Connect
February 15, 2022	Press Corps Online opens on 4-H Connect
March 17, 2022	Lobbyist Application closes
March 17, 2022	Press Corps Application closes
March 30, 2022	Press Corps and Lobbyist Notification
April 1, 2022	Early Bird Registration opens on 4-H Connect
April 8, 2022	Due: District 8 Prioritized List of Delegates
By April 13, 2022	Release of District 8 Delegate List
April 30, 2022	Early Bird Registration closes on 4-H Connect
May 1, 2022	Registration opens on 4-H Connect
May 30, 2022	Bill submission closes
May 30, 2022	Registration closes on 4-H Connect
July 1, 2022	District Travel Letters
July 1, 2022	Bill Book posted online
July 15, 2022	Texas 4-H Council Arrive
July 15, 2022	Management Team Arrive
July 17, 2022	Adult and Youth Participants Arrive
July 20, 2022	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.

REGISTRATION TYPE	EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (Apr 1 – Apr 30)	REGULAR REGISTRATION (May 1 – May 30)
House/Senate/Press Corps/Lobbyist	\$350.00	\$375.00
Texas 4-H Council	\$350.00	\$375.00
STEM Ambassadors as part of Leadership Team	\$350.00	\$375.00
Chaperones	\$0.00	\$0.00

The registration cost of \$350.00 is due in part to the assistance of more than \$150,000.00 from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, RSMIS Foundation, and 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. District funds will be used to pay for transportation and per diem to and from Texas 4-H Congress for the chaperones.

Travel Information

Start Date: **Sunday, July 17, 2022**

District Capitol Tours are on Sunday afternoon. (More specific details will be sent to selected delegates prior to attendance.)

Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Opening Session.


End Date: **Wednesday, July 20, 2022**

All Participants must depart the hotel by 10:00 am

Travel Costs: Travel costs are not covered in the registration fees.

Parking: Parking is available at the hotel for \$35.00 per day for self-parking. Districts/counties with large vans, pickups, or other vehicles that will not be able to park in the garage will need to communicate with Congress Coordinator by May 1 to secure parking with the City of Austin along the streets.

Submission of Legislative Bills

 **CHANGE FOR 2022:** Any 4-H member may submit a Texas 4-H Congress bill for consideration and debate. Participating in Congress is not a requirement. Writing and submitting a bill provides each 4-H member the opportunity to participate in an exercise in civic engagement.

All participants in Texas 4-H Congress must submit a COMPLETE bill for consideration. "All" includes Texas 4-H Council and Technology Ambassadors. 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 what a quality bill includes, 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.

This information can be found at the following page on the Texas 4-H website:

<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/events/congress/>

Participant Quotas

The District 8 delegate quota will be 20 House/Senate members. Each county needs to submit the **2022 D8 4-H Texas 4-H Congress County Delegate Nomination Form** which is a prioritized list of delegates by **Friday, April 8, 2022** that would like to participate in Texas 4-H Congress.

If a 4-H member is selected to attend Texas 4-H Congress as a Lobbyist or Press Corps member (see additional information below), the state office should notify everyone by March 30. After counties submit the County Nomination Form on April 6, the District Office will make selections for the delegates to participate in Texas 4-H Congress prior to early bird registration closing on 4-H Connect on April 30, 2022. A list of alternate delegates will be kept and they will be notified as soon as an opening comes available.

2022 D8 4-H Texas 4-H Congress County Delegate Nomination Form is a Google sheet (sent in email from Megan 2/9)

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

“License to Lead” has been selected by the Texas 4-H Council as the theme for the Monday night dinner and social. This is your time to say, “The name is 4-H, Texas 4-H...” Delegates are encouraged to dress for a “black tie” affair as you listen to a former member of the CIA. See the attached flyer for more on our theme.

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 affecting Texas and Texas youth. Issues 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 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 members should be prepared and be comfortable approaching others who may have a different opinion on Congressional topics. 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 4HOnline. The online application opens February 15 and closes March 17. Applicants will be notified whether they have been accepted to serve in the Lobbyist role. If not selected and space is available, they could apply to be part of the district delegation.

Lobbyist allotted to participate: 14

Press Corps:

Texas 4-H Congress Press Corps members can be either first time or returning 4-H members. Individuals applying for the Press Corps should have strong skills in writing, word processing, interviewing, photography, and focused on making deadlines. The Press Corps group is responsible for publishing daily articles, videotaping, and helping maintain a Texas 4-H social media presence. Press Corps members may not be able to attend certain activities because of publication deadlines. Two Texas 4-H Council members, select STEM and Photography Ambassadors, and other 4-H members may serve on the press corps.

Applications to be considered for a Press Corp position will be submitted online through 4HOnline. Applications are open February 1 – March 17. Applicants will be notified of their selection to serve in the Press Corps. If not selected and space is available, they could apply to be part of the district delegation.

Press Corps members allotted to participate up to 15

Texas 4-H Council:

Members of Texas 4-H Council will assume leadership positions throughout Texas 4-H Congress. Selected members of Texas 4-H Council members will arrive in Austin on Friday before Congress begins between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM. Texas 4-H Council members will be involved in training and planning the two days prior to 4-H Congress to be able to effectively conduct the necessary business. It is a requirement that the selected Texas 4-H Council members participate fully in Congress to participate in the leadership roles (beginning on Friday and ending on Wednesday).

Texas 4-H Council members allotted to participate: 30

Chaperones:

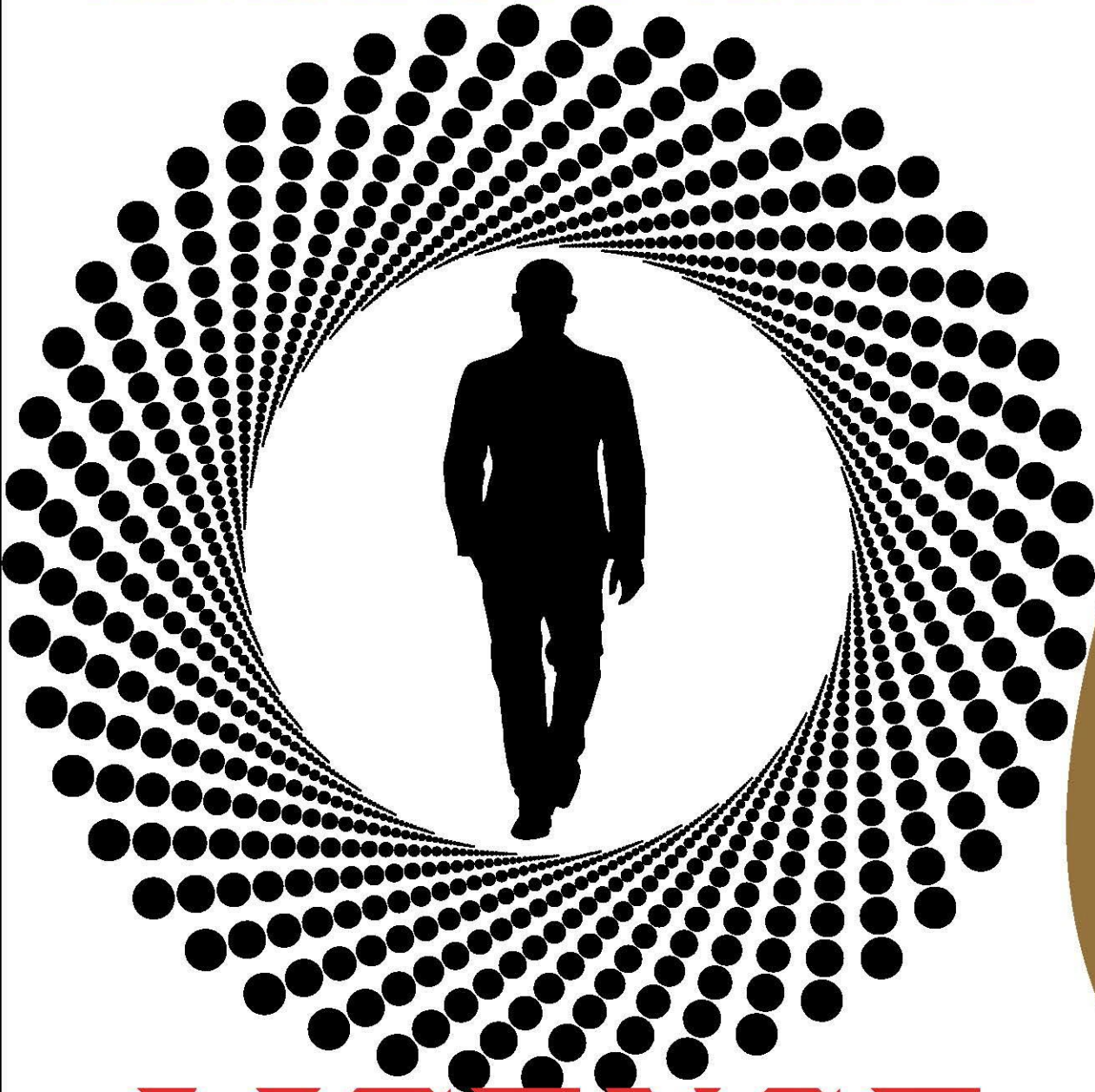
Two adult chaperones from each district and one from PVCEP will be serving in official roles at Texas 4-H Congress. These adults serve as advisors to the legislative committees, chaperone dances, assist with press corps or lobbyist (as assigned), assist with decorating for meals/banquets, and serve as security and transportation monitors. Chaperones are expected to chaperone *ALL* delegates during Texas 4-H Congress while serving as the contact for specific district members in case of an emergency or incident. Additional chaperones are not expected, nor will they 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 specific area of responsibility during Texas 4-H Congress.

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"THE NAME IS 4-H... TEXAS 4-H"



**LICENSE
TO LEAD**



The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal access in its programs, activities, education and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity.