

TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

February 25, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: District 8 County Extension Agents

FROM: Jay Kingston
District Extension Administrator

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

SUBJECT: 2025 DISTRICT 8 4-H SURGE

4-H CONNECT REGISTRATION: COUNTY APPROVALS:	4-H Online will be open for registration from May 5-16, 2025 County Extension Agents must certify registrations by Monday, May 19, 2025
PAYMENT & COST:	Cost will be \$250 per youth participant & \$235 per adult. This cost includes all meals, t-shirt, and workshop supplies. Counties will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the Texas 4-H Center and meals while traveling.
DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATES:	Names of the voting delegate(s) from each county are to be marked by the County office on 4-H Online when certifying registrations. <u>Do not overlook this designation when certifying on 4-H Online!</u> Each county may designate three (3) youth to serve as voting delegates. District Officers may be one of these voting delegates but cannot vote in addition to the county's allotted voting delegates. Voting delegates must have at least three (3) years of membership, which may include the current year.
AGENT CHAPERONES:	All agents are welcome to register and attend! No agents are officially being assigned to attend at this time. If you have youth attending from your county, an agent is encouraged to attend as a chaperone. If additional chaperones are needed after youth registration is closed, agents may be assigned to maintain the required male/female ratio. All agents attending will serve as chaperones and will assist with workshops and other duties as needed during SURGE.

Central District 8 | 4-H Youth Development
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
1229 N US Hwy 281 | Stephenville, Texas 76401
megan.shaffer@ag.tamu.edu | <http://d84-h.tamu.edu>
Tel. 254.968.4144 ext. 211 | Fax. 254.965.3759



CHAPERONE COST: Chaperones will need to register via 4-H Online and pay a \$235 registration fee. Agent scholarships may be available if county funds are not available. Please contact the District Office if you have any questions or concerns.

CHAPERONE SCREENING & TRAINING: **All chaperones attending SURGE must be screened and complete the required training.**

Employees of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service: Complete the Child Protection Training through TrainTraq prior to attending SURGE. Training is good for two years from the date of completion.

Volunteers: Have been screened and cleared through Youth Protection Standards. Complete the Child Protection Training through 4-H Online prior to attending SURGE. Training is good for two years from the date of completion.

It is the agents' responsibility to orient participants prior to the event concerning the enclosed guidelines to avoid any misunderstandings.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Megan Shaffer or the District Council advisors: Sidney Atchley, Thomas Boyle, or Cassie Ferguson.

The objective of the SURGE is for delegates to bring back to the county what they have learned and train others in the county. Please recruit youth to attend that will come home and teach!

DISTRICT 8 4-H SURGE

Participant Information

OBJECTIVE:	<p>To prepare teen leaders from the 21 counties in District 8 for leadership roles. These roles might be at the county level, or county committees, or their clubs. The hope is that participants will take information back from SURGE and share it with members back in their counties. SURGE is set up to be enjoyable and fun, but there is work too. Many workshops are set up that will require concentration and serious participation. Speeches are delivered for officer elections. 4-H members in grades 8-12 (of the current 4-H year) are eligible to attend. We work and we play. Play time is set up with activities that build teamwork skills and camaraderie in the district.</p>
4-H CONNECT REGISTRATION:	<p>May 5-16, 2025 at 11:59 pm https://texas.4honline.com/</p>
DATES & TIME:	<p>Tuesday, June 24-Thursday, June 26, 2025 <u>Arrive no earlier than 2:00 pm on Thursday.</u> Adjourn at 11:30 am on Thursday.</p>
LOCATION:	<p>Texas 4-H Conference Center 5600 FM 3021 Brownwood, TX 76801</p>
COST:	<p>\$250 per participant This includes insurance, lodging, meals, and snacks beginning with supper on Tuesday and ending with breakfast on Thursday. Counties will be responsible for their own transportation to and from Brownwood and meals while traveling.</p>
WHO CAN ATTEND:	<p>All District 8 4-H Council officers plus representatives from each county. All participants must have <u>completed the 8th grade</u> to attend SURGE.</p>
HEALTH & RELEASE FORMS:	<p>Every participant, <u>youth and adults</u>, will need to complete a Health and Release form packet. Forms are included in this letter and will be able to be downloaded from 4-H Online.</p> <p><i>The completed, signed forms will need to be <u>scanned as a pdf and uploaded</u> to 4-H Online during the registration process. <u>Please note: The forms require a copy of the participant's insurance card.</u></i></p> <p><u>Each chaperone will be required to have one copy of these forms with them while traveling.</u></p>
SERVICE PROJECT:	<p>We will be making tissue paper floral arrangements. If you have pipe cleaners or tissue paper to share, please bring it with you.</p>

WHAT TO BRING:

- Pillow, sheets, light blanket, towels, wash cloths, personal items
- Swimsuit (for any lake and pool activities at camp)
- Water shoes or old tennis shoes for the lake (must have a strap/back)
- Comfortable, casual clothes for workshops, dances
- No flip flops or other backless sandals are allowed during the dance. They must be close-toed shoes.
- Sturdy shoes for active games
- A light jacket or sweater is also recommended, as the classrooms may be cool
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- The 4-H Swag store will be open at various time. If you would like to purchase 4-H gear, you will need extra money for that.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Fireworks, ropes, roping dummies, water balloons, water guns, silly string, etc.
- Expensive jewelry/accessories
- Excessive food/drinks and gum
- Bad attitude
- Alcohol
- Unnecessary electronics

DRESS CODE:

Please remind 4-H members that the 4-H Dress Code will be in effect:

- Items not allowed: tops with spaghetti straps, halter type tops, shirts that reveal the midriff, excessively loose-fitting pants or jeans, short shorts or skirts, clothing advertising or referencing alcohol, drugs, violence or having sexual content.
- Two-piece swimsuits are allowed but should adequately cover all body parts.
- Campers will be given 1 warning about dress code violations and will then be provided an opportunity to change or have their parent retrieve them from camp.

PARENT HANDBOOK:

Detailed information about dress code, behavior expectations, emergency contact information for parents, etc. can found in the Parent Handbook: *We will follow this dress code for our camp.*

<https://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/services/youth-camps-and-retreats/parent-handbook/>

SCHEDULE:

A tentative schedule is enclosed; however, it is subject to change.

THEME &

This year's theme for SURGE is "4-H Olympics." We invite you to join as we strive for gold!

DANCE THEMES:

Dance themes for each night are as follows:

Tuesday-Medal Night (gold, bronze, silver medals) Dress as your preferred medal
Wednesday-Olympic Podium/Awards Night. Dress in your fanciest awards show attire

OFFICER ELECTIONS:

One of the major events of SURGE will be the election of officers for the District 8 4-H Council. Refer to the standing rules for eligibility. **Council Officer Applications are due on 4-H Online by May 16, 2025.** Refer to the separate officer election letter for further details. That information can be found on the District 8 4-H Council Officer page: