

DISTRICT 8 4-H SURGE

Participant Information

OBJECTIVE: 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.

4-H CONNECT May 1-15, 2026, by 11:59 pm
<https://texas.4honline.com/>

REGISTRATION:

DATES & TIME: Tuesday, June 9-Thursday, June 11, 2026
Arrive no earlier than 2:00 pm on Tuesday.
 Adjourn no later than 11:00 am on Thursday.

LOCATION: Texas 4-H Conference Center
 5600 FM 3021
 Brownwood, TX 76801

COST: \$275 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.

District Council Officers are required to attend a pre-camp session to prepare for camp. Their cost for camp will be \$350.

There will be no refunds made once registration has been approved on 4-H Online. A \$50 late fee will be assessed up to 72 hours after the close of registration. **After that 72-hour period, there will be no further registrations accepted.**

WHO CAN ATTEND: All District 8 4-H Council officers plus representatives from each county. All participants must have **completed the 8th grade** to attend SURGE.

HEALTH & RELEASE FORMS: Every participant, youth and adults, 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.

*The completed, signed forms will need to be **scanned as a pdf and uploaded** to 4-H Online during the registration process. Please note: The forms require a copy of the participant's **insurance card.***

Each chaperone will be required to have one copy of these forms with them while traveling.

- 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, sheer shirts, open back shirts where a brasier can be seen, 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 & DANCE THEMES: This year's theme for SURGE is "Power up your 4-H Game."

Rev up and get ready to level up! This Mario Kart-themed camp is built for senior 4-H members who want to strengthen their leadership,

teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Through fast-paced challenges, interactive activities, and team competition, campers will earn “power-ups” that help them grow as leaders, on and off the track.

Dance themes for each night are as follows:

Tuesday- Mario & Friends Character Night. Get ready to hit the dance floor dressed as your favorite Mario Kart character! Whether you’re rocking Mario, Luigi, Peach, Bowser, or your own creative spin, this dance is all about fun, friends, and showing off your 4-H spirit in style. Come ready to dance, laugh, and celebrate with your crew in a night full of music, color, and Mario-level energy.

Costumes encouraged. Good vibes guaranteed.

Wednesday-Ready, Set, Go Green! Green is the vibe. From head to toe, show up decked out in your best green and rep your 4-H pride in style. This high-energy event is all about school spirit, fun competition, and showing off your creativity—because when the light turns green, it’s time to stand out.

Dress loud, go green, and let the 4-H energy take over

**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 15, 2026.** Refer to the separate officer election letter for further details. That information can be found on the District 8 4-H Council Officer page:



