

2012 Texas 4-H Congress . . .

**July 15-18, 2012
Austin, Texas**

Congress Headquarters:
Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol
11th Street, Austin, TX

Eligibility

- Be an active 4-H member within the programs of Texas AgriLife Extension, Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View, or Military 4-H.
- Be 15 years of age at time of event.
- Have a willingness to research and prepare a legislative bill for consideration during the event.
- Be willing to meet new friends, have fun, and learn all at the same time!



Deadlines and Timelines

- February 2012: Information released to County Extension Offices
- March-May 2012: County Extension Offices select delegates.
- April 2012: Applications to the Press Corps and Lobbyist accepted.
- May 2012: Notification given to those selected for Press Corps and Lobbyist.
- May-June 2012: Registration and legislative bill submission process.
- July 15-18, 2012: Texas 4-H Congress

For more information . . .

Contact your local County Extension Office on specific deadlines for your county and to know what the selection process is for county delegates.

Visit the Texas 4-H Congress online at:
<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/youth/txcongress>



or scan the QR code using your smartphone.

*Leading . . .
Learning . . .
Involvement . . .*

AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System



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Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Texas 4-H Congress . . .

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One of premiere leadership and citizenship experience that a 4-H member can have during their 4-H career is Texas 4-H Congress. Held on the even years in Austin at the Texas State Capitol, Texas 4-H Congress immerses 4-H members into the law making process. From identifying, researching, writing, presenting, and debating potential legislation which effect the citizens and communities where the 4-H members live.

As a participant of Texas 4-H Congress, each young person is assigned a role in either the House of Representatives, the Senate, Press Corps, or as a Lobbyist. Members of the Texas

4-H Council serve as committee leaders and mentor the other chamber members through the legislative process. Along the way, chamber members experience the influence of the lobbyist and daily rhetoric from the press corps in hopes of determining the outcome of a bill.

From debating on the actual historic House and Senate floors of the Texas State Capitol, delegates vote on the bills and based on

their passage in each chamber they are sent to the Texas 4-H Governor for signing into law or only to be vetoed.

Texas 4-H Congress engage 4-H members to understand the importance of having a voice, sharing your opinions, appreciation of others, speaking in front of others, and compromising. Each 4-H member, regardless of their role leaves Texas 4-H Congress with a greater understanding of the history of Texas, the legislative process, and stronger leadership skills.



Lending a Hand . . .

Texas 4-H Congress delegates also lends a hand to those in need.

A small, but valued, community service project is integrated into the arrival process of the event. Started by the 2010 Texas 4-H Council the first service project collected food and toys for the local pet agency, resulting in over two van loads of dog/cat food, toys, and other pet needs. The 2012 service project will be the collection of new and gentle used children books for the local hospitals.



Congress Is Not All Work . . .
Participating in Texas 4-H Congress is also a cultural experience! It may be reliving the days of King Arthur, traveling down a Venetian canal during the Renaissance period, or having a luau on the beaches of Hawaii, the theme gala brings out the best in everyone! Everyone gets into the act by dressing up, participating in activities and games, and ending the evening with the grandest of 4-H dances.

Other evening events include the Texas 4-H Gala to close out the event, as well as guest speakers throughout the event and evening dances.

