



# Texas 4-H Congress

Texas 4-H Congress is a four-day mock legislative experience for 4-H members in grades 9th to 12th. During this time, 4-H members assume the roles of legislators, lobbyists, and press corps to gain a first-hand understanding of how the legislative process works.

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All participants are required to submit a bill to be utilized at the event. 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.

## *Knowledge and skills gained from participation:*

- Better Understanding of Texas Government and the Legislative process
- Better Understanding of the Roles that Legislators have in the Process
- Bill Writing Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Knowledge and Practice
- Public Speaking and Debate Skills
- Importance of Working Together
- Respecting the Opinions of others
- Many more skills can be obtained through this event



# MORE ABOUT TEXAS 4-H CONGRESS

## *Where:*

- The event is held bi-annually at the Texas Capitol and Sheraton hotel in downtown Austin, TX.

## *When:*

- Held during July of even-numbered years.
- Specific dates change from year to year.

## *Registration information:*

- Spots are limited.
- Youth will need to submit their names to their county office for submission to their district in February/March.
- Each District received a quota, and districts select delegates through their own process.
- Youth can also apply for leadership roles at the event.
  - Fall applicants- Youth Leadership Team (serve in key Legislative Roles)
  - Winter/Spring applicants - Press Corps and Lobbyists
- Registration opens for the event in April after approval from District or selection for leadership roles.

## *Did you know?*

4-H is a club for kids and teens to develop life skills and make friends. Youth can join 4-H in all 254 counties. Everybody ages 8-18 and in 3rd-12th grades can join 4-H. Kids in Kindergarten to 2nd grades can join as Clover Kids. There are 43 different project areas in five project categories: Agriculture & Livestock, Family & Community Health, Leadership & Citizenship, Natural Resources, and STEM.

## *Want to get started?*

First...Contact your County Extension Agent!

- Contact information can be found at [texas4-h.tamu.edu](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu) > contacts information at the bottom of the page > county offices

**Explore more at [texas4-h.tamu.edu](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu)**