



TEXAS 4-H CONGRESS

2022 District 1 Information



Texas 4-H Congress is a four-day mock legislative experience for 4-H members. 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. 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). **Graduating seniors will also be able to apply. All youth wanting to participate as a D1 delegate must submit this application to be considered** <https://forms.gle/Z3smZ1snJniggE2Y6> (those applying for press corps or lobbyist do not have to do this, however if they are not selected for those positions, they will probably want to come back and complete the District Delegate application).

Location

Headquarters for Texas 4-H Congress will be at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol, 707 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Dates to Remember for Texas 4-H Congress Participation

February 1, 2022	Bill submission opens
February 15, 2022	Lobbyist application opens on 4HConnect
February 15, 2022	Press Corps application opens on 4HConnect
March 17, 2022	Lobbyist application closes
March 17, 2022	Press Corps application closes
March 30, 2022	Lobbyist and Press Corps notification
April 1, 2022	Early Bird Registration opens on 4HConnect
April 5, 2022	District 1 delegate applications due https://forms.gle/Z3smZ1snJniggE2Y6
April 7, 2022	District 1 delegates will be notified of selection
April 30, 2022	Early Bird Registration closes on 4HConnect
May 1, 2022	Registration continues on 4HConnect at an increased fee
May 30, 2022	Bill submission closes
May 30, 2022	LATE Registration closes on 4HConnect
July 1, 2022	Delegate Letters distributed & Bill Book posted online
July 15, 2022	Texas 4-H Council arrive
July 15, 2022	Management Team arrive

July 17, 2022
July 20, 2022

Congress Delegates and Chaperones arrive
All Participants depart

Participation Costs

Registration costs include hotel, meals, snacks, and production fees. Other costs that delegates may incur 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

The registration cost of approximately \$350.00 is due in part to the assistance of more than \$100,000.00 from such donors as the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and Ed Rachal Foundation to name a few. Without these gracious donors, the registration cost would be more than \$600.00 per person.

Travel Information

Start Date: Sunday, July 17, 2022

District 1 delegates must arrive at the hotel by 5:00 pm

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 are not covered in the registration fees. District 1 will not arrange transportation for any delegates. Parking is available at the hotel for approximately \$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.

Submitting Legislative Bills

CHANGES 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.

2022 Committees

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| Agriculture and Livestock | Education |
| Energy and Environment | Government, Finance and Appropriations |
| Homeland Security and Public Safety | Judiciary and Juvenile Justice |
| Public Health and Welfare | |

Participant Quotas

Quotas are set for 4-H House and Senate members. The quota does not include adults, Texas 4-H Council, STEM Ambassadors (as part of leadership team), Press Crops, and/or Lobbyist member selections. Texas 4-H Congress strives to provide equal opportunity for all Texas 4-H members. If the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program is able to accomplish the stated district quota system, an additional educational challenge will be provided for participants as they work to pass legislation that affects just a rural or urban area.

Area	House / Senate Delegates	Area	House / Senate Delegates	Area	House / Senate Delegates
District 1	20	District 8	20	El Paso County	2
District 2	20	District 9	20	Fort Bend County	2
District 3	20	District 10	20	Harris County	2
District 4	20	District 11	20	Tarrant County	2
District 5	20	District 12	20	Travis County	2
District 6	20	Bexar County	2	4-H Military	2
District 7	20	Dallas County	2	PVCEP	4

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 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 effecting 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. **District 1 Chaperones will be Cari Snider & Mason Carter, their contact information will be shared with D1 participants & parents. D1 participants will be put into a GroupMe with Cari & Mason for communication during the event. District 1 4-H Specialist, Bailee Wright, will also be in attendance and her contact information will be shared as well.**

- **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.