

To: Eligible Youth Grades 11 and 12



From: Sherrie Peterson
4-H Program Assistant

Date: March 13, 2019

Subject: National 4-H Congress 2019

Plans for National 4-H Congress 2019 are underway. The 2019 event is scheduled for November 29-December 3 in Atlanta, Georgia. This letter will review the application procedure and provide you with the specific information you need to participate as a county. If you have any questions, please contact me at (908) 788-1341.

What is National 4-H Congress?

National 4-H Congress is the flagship event of the 4-H program. It is a national leadership conference held each year over the Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend (Friday - Tuesday), currently held at the Hyatt in Atlanta, Georgia. For over 95 years, youth from the United States and its territories have participated in this youth leadership development conference. Congress provides youth with a quality educational and cross-cultural experience.

The program is built upon the Cooperative Extension System's belief that young people can be significant partners in addressing the issues that face our nation, especially those affecting youth. Each year a National Design Team of Extension Educators, 4-H youth and 4-H adult volunteers analyze current youth issues and determine the most effective ways to address them. The program combines special presentations, seminars, discussion groups and a service learning experience. The nation's most outstanding community leaders, speakers, and educators present current and timely information. New Jersey sends a delegation of approximately twelve-fifteen (12-15) 4-H members plus chaperones.

Funding

National 4-H Congress is one of the highest honors in Hunterdon County 4-H. The 4-H Association will cover \$1,150 per delegate. The only cost to delegates is the cost of their tour (\$42.00 - \$52.00), baggage (approximately \$25 each way) and spending money.

Delegate Selection

Each applicant must complete the National 4-H Congress Application (which can be found at www.nj4h.rutgers.edu/leadership/nat4hcongress) and submit it to the Hunterdon County 4-H Office no later than 4:00 PM on April 1st, (also see Delegate requirements on the next page). After the applications are reviewed up to three applicants will be selected and sent on for the State Selection Process.

All applicants will be sent a letter from the Hunterdon County 4-H regarding the application status after the Awards Committee Review the week of April 8th.

Each candidate whose application moved forward for state review will need to attend a personal interview on May 8th, at Rutgers between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM. After the interviews, one delegate per county will be selected by May 30th, to represent NJ at National 4-H Congress. The State selection committee may also select alternates by May 30th if there is room on the trip for additional attendees.

Delegate Requirements

All 4-H members who they feel they excel in community service, leadership and public speaking are encouraged to apply. Applicants need to follow the following application requirements:

- Applicants must be in Grade 11 or 12 at the time of the application to apply
- Applicants must be active in county and state programs
- Applicants must have presented a state presentation
- Applicants must submit 3 years summary sheets
- Applications must be submitted on or before 4:00 PM on April 1
- The Application can be found at: www.nj4h.rutgers.edu/leadership/nat4hcongress
- A recommendation form must be submitted by club leader (emailed to leaders by 4-H Staff)

Questions

Please contact Sherrie Peterson, (908) 788-1341 with any questions regarding the application or application process.