73rd Annual
Tennessee 4-H
Congress

March 22-25, 2020
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

For more information about Congress activities, check out the 4-H Congress Web site at https://4h.tennessee.edu/Pages/stcong.aspx

If you have a disability that requires special assistance for your participation in Congress, please contact your county Extension 4-H.
Attendance
Congress is designed for Senior Level I (9th and 10th grade). The county 4-H enrollment determines the number of delegates from each county. Each delegate attending Congress must have an essay prepared on the Congress theme, “Tennessee 4-H 2020: A Place to Call Home.”

Activity and Event Acceptance Form
Before coming to state 4-H Congress, you and your parents or guardians must sign the 4-H Activity and Event Acceptance Form (F600A). Signing this form means you are agreeing to follow all rules and guidelines for participation.

Arrival and Departure Time
Congress registration is at the Embassy Suites Nashville SE in Murfreesboro on Sunday, March 22 beginning at 3:00 pm. The opening assembly is Sunday evening. Congress delegates celebrate Tuesday evening with the Citizenship Banquet, followed by the 2020 Inaugural Ball (dance). Delegates return home on Wednesday, March 25.

Rooms and Meals
All delegates will be housed by regions in the Embassy Suites Nashville SE located at 1200 Conference Center Boulevard in Murfreesboro.

Most meals will be special events sponsored by various friends of 4-H. Monday night dinner and Wednesday breakfast (depending on regional schedule) will be on your own.

The official Congress headquarters will be in the Embassy Suites Nashville SE. Should your parents/guardians need to get in touch with you during Congress, they should call the Embassy Suites Nashville SE at (615) 890-4464.

Preparing for 4-H Congress
Tennessee 4-H Congress is an activity that supports the citizenship project and helps 4-H’ers develop the life skill of responsible citizenship.

Responsible citizenship is an individual’s demonstration of love and devotion in response to duties, rights and privileges as a member of a community or country. It includes
- Loyalty to one’s place of residence
- The entitlements and privileges of citizenship, including voting, protection, participation in government
- Obligations of citizenship
- Appreciating and valuing diversity

One way to be a responsible citizen is to understand your government and how you can be involved so that your government represents you and other citizens.

Democratic governments are established to be operated by the people and for the people. Citizen involvement in government is the only way to keep government responsive to the people.

How much do you know about your government? To help you get the most benefit from your participation in 4-H Congress, you should look in books and on the Internet to learn more about how government works, especially in Tennessee.

Who are the leaders in your state government? How are they elected? How does a bill become a law? What happens if the governor vetoes a bill?

If you know the answers to these and other interesting questions about state government, you will be better prepared to serve as a 4-H Congress senator or representative.

Be a Good Delegate
As a Congress delegate, you are serving as a 4-H ambassador. You represent the more than 184,000 other Tennessee 4-H’ers. Represent them well through your active participation, courteous behavior and professional dress throughout Congress. Here are a few reminders:

1. Make it a point to be on time or ahead of time for each session and event.
2. Be a good listener. You will hear some of your most important state officials speak. You can impress them by your attentiveness.
3. Smoking and chewing gum are out of place during any 4-H event.
4. Cell phones are out of place at any meal event or assembly.
5. Show your appreciation by writing thank-you notes to sponsors, leaders, agents and parents.
6. Share your experiences with others when you return home. Take notes and be prepared to give an interesting and worthwhile account of your Congress experience.

Want to know more about Tennessee 4-H Congress? Visit the Congress Web site or talk to your Extension 4-H agent for more details.

https://4h.tennessee.edu/Pages/stcong.aspx

Visit these Web sites to learn more about government and citizenship and to prepare for your trip to Congress:
- http://tennessee.gov
- http://firstgov.gov
- http://kids.gov/k_gov.htm
- http://4h.tennessee.edu/stcong/links.htm