

78th Annual Tennessee 4-H Congress

2025 Guidelines and Expectations for Volunteers

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Tennessee 4-H Congress

4-H Congress is one of our premier events.

We appreciate your participation! You are a vital part of the 4-H Congress team. You will have many opportunities to positively engage with the 4-H youth delegates during this event.

The purpose of this presentation is to inform and prepare you for your role as a volunteer leader at Tennessee 4-H Congress.

Let's start with...

What, When and Where

What: State 4-H Congress is a unique experience in state government, citizenship and leadership for all attending. It is also the culmination for youth achievement in citizenship & leadership projects, public speaking, history bowl, poster artwork, and essay writing.

When: March 9-12, 2025

Where: Embassy Suites Nashville SE
1200 Conference Center Blvd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

The 2025 Theme and Logo...





Service Project

The State 4-H Congress officers have selected [The Store in Nashville, TN](#), as the "Hands to Larger Service" state-wide service project for the 2025 Tennessee 4-H Congress. The Store's mission is to provide families in need with access to free, high-quality clothing and essentials, empowering them to build a better future. Partnering with local schools, churches, and community organizations, The Store works to meet the basic needs of families facing financial hardship while promoting dignity and respect. Through these partnerships, The Store helps ensure every child and family has the resources to thrive.

We strongly encourage counties to promote this service project countywide, not just with county 4-H Congress delegations.

Main activities that will take place...

Know Your Government is a mock legislative session where delegates experience presenting, debating, and voting on bills.

Citizenship and Leadership Competitions: delegates who have submitted a project portfolio and are regional winners will complete the competition with an interview

Public Speaking Competition: 9th – 12th grade regional winners will present their prepared speech.

More main activities...

History Bowl: each region will have a team on stage competing. All other delegates will have the opportunity to cheer on their regional representatives.

B.I.L.L.S.: All delegates attending 4-H Congress will be able to do this activity. Contact your County Office for more information.

Service Project: All state 4-H events include a service project as part of creating community awareness and giving to those in need within our communities.

Elections: Take place as part of the mock legislative process. Non-competing delegates are divided as Senators and Representatives. The Senators vote and elect the Speaker of the Senate, while the Representatives vote and elect the Speaker of the House. All delegates vote to elect the Congress Governor.

Additional activities ...

Opening ceremony

Regional meetings

Legislative visits

Assemblies (speakers and presentations)

Campaign process

Visit to the General Jackson

Delegation time (dinner on the town)

Citizenship Banquet

Awards program

Inaugural Ball

Poster art exhibit

For specific 4-H Congress information

Visit our Tennessee 4-H Website:

<https://4h.tennessee.edu/state-4-h-congress/>

The website contains a great deal of information you will need to know as a volunteer. Please visit this site and spend time reading about the different aspects of this event.

As you can see...

There are a lot of things going on during 4-H Congress. Your role as a volunteer is important. Understanding the different events that take place during Congress enables you to assist the 4-H agent in preparing youth delegates, providing support, encouraging participation and mentoring youth delegates at Congress as needed.

To properly prepare for this event...

Please take the time to read the information provided by your county agent, in this presentation, on the Tennessee 4-H web site and attend your Regional Congress Readiness Day!

As a volunteer attending 4-H Congress, what else do I need to know?

There will be people from all over the state participating in this event.

Your skills and time are appreciated and indispensable to the successful implementation of this event.

A prepared volunteer can encourage and mentor youth, contributing to an overall positive experience.

Regional and state 4-H personnel will make assignments accordingly.

We want you to enjoy the activities along with the delegates. Being where you are assigned and fulfilling your tasks contributes to a positive learning environment.

Ask questions; all questions are good questions!

Overall responsibilities...

Before 4-H Congress....

Please refer to a document titled, "Volunteer Leaders At Out-Of-County 4-H Events."

After reading this document, if you have questions call your county agent for more information

Visit Tennessee 4-H Congress web site and study information.

Prepare for the legislative visit.

Attend Congress Readiness Day! This is the perfect place to get a lot of questions answered, meet regional staff and agents, meet youth and other volunteers that will be attending 4-H Congress.

At 4-H Congress...

Attend the orientation for volunteers at **5:00 p.m. Sunday evening.**

Be on time for all events and activities.

Attend regional meetings.

Support and encourage delegates, including delegates from other counties.

Know your regional and state assignments.

Concerns or questions should be taken to your regional staff first.

State Assignments...

Caring and nurturing adults are required for a positive 4-H Congress experience. There are a variety of opportunities to encourage, support and mentor youth. Assignments ensure a safe and positive environment for everyone attending - youth and adults.

State assignments will be sent to you by email through your county office. If you do not receive a copy, there will be a copy at Congress. Region assignments are given during regional meetings.

State Assignments...

The assignment sheets will have a brief explanation of what is needed for that task to be carried out successfully.

Assignments will require that you be at your designated location about 15 minutes earlier than the starting time of the event/activity.

Inform youth of your assignments, and what they need to do when you are away accomplishing your assigned tasks. You will join them once your tasks are completed; they can reserve a seat for you.

Contact person for state assignments...

Daniel Sarver, Extension Specialist, is responsible for making state assignments.

Assignments are made with consideration to information provided on the SUPER registration site.

If you have questions regarding state assignments, contact Daniel by calling (865)974-2128 or by sending an e-mail to dsarver@utk.edu

Thank You

*Looking forward
to seeing you at Congress!*

