

June 17, 2009

Dear 2009 National Congress Delegates,

Congratulations! You have been selected to represent Missouri 4-H at National 4-H Congress!

As a National Congress delegate you, will be an exceptional representative for the Missouri 4-H program. I know that you will continue to represent Missouri 4-H with positive character qualities. I look forward to getting to know you better on our trip to Atlanta. We will have a wonderful time!

The emphasis of National Congress will be leadership – helping 4-H youth to maximize their leadership potential. Delegates will also have the opportunity to be involved in venues throughout the city including Centennial Olympic Park, The World of Coca-Cola, CNN Center, The Carter Presidential Library and the Martin Luther King Center. The National 4-H Congress website is at <http://www.national4-hcongress.com/>.

With the honor of being a National Congress delegate also comes high expectations. Forms need to be received on time, therefore, **due dates are very important**. Be punctual. You will be receiving several letters up to our departure in November. Please respond quickly and communicate with me if you have problems or questions. I will do my best to assist you.

Please put these dates on your calendar.

➤ **August 15 Deadline**

The following forms and registration fee need to be returned by **August 15**. The forms are enclosed and will also be available for download on the Missouri 4-H website at <http://4h.missouri.edu/events/nationalcongress/>.

- Delegate Registration Form with \$390 registration fee
Make check payable to Missouri 4-H Foundation.
Check with your local 4-H youth staff to see if your local 4-H Council helps with this fee. Please indicate on your registration form if there will be a separate check from your county.
- Code of Conduct Acceptance Form
- Congress Teen Entertainer Form (if interested)
- Youth Leadership Team Application (if interested)

Mail forms to: National 4-H Congress, 830B Clark Hall MU, Columbia, MO 65211

➤ **November 13 Deadline**

Health Form (must be filled out after November 1)

➤ **November 27 to December 1**

National 4-H Congress is from November 27 to December 1 at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia. Travel days will be the night of the November 26 and into the early hours of December 2.

The Missouri 4-H Foundation underwrites two-thirds of the total cost per delegate. The registration fee covers delegate registration for the conference. Your family may have some disruption of celebration plans for Thanksgiving. On November 27 we have stops at Higginsville around 9:00 p.m. in the evening, Columbia about 10:30 p.m. and St. Louis at 12:00 a.m. More specific information on travel will be sent by early August.

If you need to cancel your participation to National 4-H Congress, I need to know by September 15th in order for you to receive your registration refund of \$390. It is not uncommon for our college freshman to find it hard to miss class, juggle mid-terms, etc. to attend. If you are unable to attend, we want to provide ample time for our alternates to make preparations to join the delegation.

If you are interested in being on the **Youth Leadership Team** or auditioning for **Congress Teen Entertainer**, you need to create a VHS, CD or DVD (with both video and audio). For the Youth Leadership Team, you introduce yourself, give some back ground information (be creative) and perform the attached script. For Congress Teen Entertainer, you need to create an audition tape that is less than 10 minutes. Vocals, instrumental and dance performers have been selected in the past. For either the team or entertainer, complete the form and **return by August 15**. Please include a letter of recommendation prior to submitting the information to me. The forms are available electronically at <http://4h.missouri.edu/events/congress/>.

My heartfelt congratulations to you, your families, and the wonderful 4-H staff and volunteers who help support your goals and aspirations. Please remember to thank those who helped you achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana Duncan".

Diana Duncan
Interim State 4-H Youth Specialist