

National 4-H Congress

For over 75 years, National 4-H Congress has served as the premiere educational and recognition event for senior 4-H members. It is held each year in Atlanta, Georgia, in late November or early December. National 4-H Congress offers participants an exciting opportunity to explore careers, engage in a variety of quality learning experiences, and have great fun by getting to know other 4-H members from across the country.

Outstanding 4-H members will be selected to represent Virginia at National 4-H Congress. Candidates for selection must be current-year senior 4-H members who are able to demonstrate outstanding achievement as a 4-H members in the areas of leadership, citizenship, and personal development.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Virginia 4-H values the life skills that members develop through personal record keeping. The 4-H portfolio, which replaced the 4-H Achievement Record, will serve as the foundation for a 4-H member's application to participate in National 4-H Congress.

The formal process includes two steps, which are intended to provide the 4-H member learning exercises that reflect an employment application and interview procedure:

- 1) The submission of a written personal resume and
- 2) An interview and a presentation of a personal portfolio.

Personal Resume:

The personal resume is intended to give the 4-H member the opportunity to succinctly communicate his or her participation in the 4-H program, as well as to demonstrate service and involvement outside of 4-H. The 4-H member should utilize the portfolio as the source of the information for the resume and should creatively organize the resume to demonstrate outstanding achievement.

The resume, which should be accompanied by a candidate's letter stating why he or she wishes to represent Virginia at National 4-H Congress, must include (but need not be limited to) the following information:

- I. Personal:** Name, address, telephone number, and birthdate.
- II. Education:** Chronological list of the schools attended and diplomas and honors/recognition received.
- III. 4-H Participation:** List of club membership(s), projects, conferences, camps, and special activities (demonstrations, talks, judging event(s) in which the member participated). Include dates of each project/activity and, when appropriate, what was gained from participation.
- IV. 4-H Citizenship/Leadership:** List significant leadership and citizenship/community service experiences carried out as a 4-H member. Activities that should be included are: offices held at the club, county, district, or state level; activities or events for which the member provided leadership; and any 4-H community service projects. Be sure to include dates, the role played, and what was accomplished.

V. Leadership, Citizenship, Scholarship Outside 4-H: List, in chronological order, other significant citizenship or leadership experiences had outside of 4-H such as school, church, or other organization. Again, include date, the role played, and what was accomplished.

VI. Letters of Reference: Attach three letters of reference from individuals who can attest to the member's personal attributes. One must be either a 4-H agent or a 4-H adult volunteer leader.

Resumes must be received at the State 4-H Office by April 1.

Application Review:

The Associate 4-H Director will appoint an application review committee, which will evaluate personal resumes on the following weighted criteria:

Growth through 4-H participation:	25 percent
Growth through 4-H leadership/citizenship:	50 percent
Growth through leadership, citizenship, and scholarship outside 4-H:	10 percent
Letters of Reference:	5 percent
Organization and presentation:	10 percent

The committee will consist of two agents, two volunteers, two 4-H members, one Extension specialist, and one state 4-H faculty member. The committee will meet during the month of April and announce the candidates for interviews by May 1.

Interview Selection:

Finalists will be interviewed the week of State 4-H Congress. The interview process will afford the candidates the opportunity to gain additional presentation skills and orally communicate their 4-H experiences. Candidates will be encouraged to creatively utilize the resources they have included in their 4-H portfolio to enhance their presentations.

The interview teams will include: the Associate 4-H Director and representatives from VAE4-HA, VA4-HAVL, the State 4-H Cabinet; and the Virginia 4-H Foundation.

Timeline:

April 1	Personal Resumes Due at the State 4-H Office
April	Resumes Reviewed
May 1 or before	Finalists Announced
State Congress Week	Interviews and Announcement of Virginia delegation
late November/early December	National 4-H Congress

Mailing Instructions:

All resumes should be mailed to

Billie Cline
State 4-H Office
107 Hutcheson Hall (0419)
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

for receipt by April 1.