



National 4-H Conference

Texas 4-H Youth Development will send nine youth delegates to National 4-H Conference April 7-12, 2018. Youth representatives include Haley Fair and Makayla Waiser, Kerr County; Jayna Grove, Nueces County; Asher Miller, Ochiltree County; Erica Masi, Travis County; Killian Grawe, Walker County; Austin Castillo, Wesley Ide and Margaret Wood, Bell County.

National 4-H Conference is the Secretary of Agriculture's premier youth development opportunity focused on civic engagement, civic education, and personal development to engage youth in developing recommendations for the 4-H Youth Development Program. The National 4-H Conference is a working conference in which youth and adults--at the invitation of the Secretary of Agriculture--assist in the development of recommendations to help guide 4-H Youth Development Programs nationally and in their communities. This event brings together youth, volunteer leaders, and state and county Extension staff members from across the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the Canadian Provinces. The National 4-H Headquarters--located within Families, 4-H, and Nutrition at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) --is charged with sharing the recommendations that emerge from the conference with the Secretary of Agriculture, national Extension Program Leaders, and others who determine 4-H programs.

This process is accomplished by self-selecting a round table topic in which delegates identify and develop their perspective on the topic through research and deliberation. By listening and contributing to the round table discussion, they find and share their own voice in the discussions. Following these round table discussions, youth will make recommendations and provide a briefing to federal agencies outlining background information, facts and the group recommendations. Some will visit Homeland Security, or the USDA or meet with the Agriculture Committee, it all depends on their assigned topic.

While participating in National Conference, 4-H members will visit with their legislators on Capitol Hill Day to represent youth from their state and discuss state 4-H programs with congressional members and their staff. And, when all the work is done, the delegates will have the opportunity to visit several national monuments and other landmarks.

National 4-H Conference will be held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center located in a quiet, 12-acre campus-like setting in Maryland, one mile from the nation's capital, making it the perfect gateway to Washington, D.C.'s leaders, monuments and museums. The Conference Center is operated by the National 4-H Council. To read more interesting history on the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, visit http://www.4hcenter.org/center_history.html.