

Texas 4-H Council



The Texas 4-H Council is a team of 4-H members elected by their peers from across the state of Texas representing the twelve AgriLife Extension districts. Serving as ambassadors for the Texas 4-H program, members represent the organization statewide while collaborating with Extension faculty to plan, coordinate, and facilitate activities and events.



Texas 4-H Council membership is open to all youth, irrespective of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or genetic information. Representation may consist of three delegates from each District 4-H Council selected at the District level according to state/district guidelines. One of the delegates should represent a diverse population.



Texas 4-H Council membership is conferred after participation and completion of the entire Texas 4-H Council Workshop. If an elected district delegate is unable to participate in the entire workshop, they forfeit their space on the Texas 4-H Council to another District delegate. They will still retain their elected district office.



There are specific events/activities/meetings that are required of the elected officers. These same activities are encouraged of all members. Dates for the following events are distributed as soon as they are known to the advisors.



- State Fair of Texas Honor Awards; Dallas
- Fall Meeting; Brownwood
- Junior Leadership Retreat; Brownwood
- January Planning Meeting; Brownwood
- Texas 4-H Roundup; College Station
- Texas 4-H Congress; Austin



Expectations for Texas 4-H Council members

- Be engaged in regularly scheduled business and planning meetings
- Serve as positive role models for other 4-H members
- Uphold the high ideals, values and standards of the Texas 4-H program
- Work with Extension faculty in planning and conducting District and State events and activities
- Seek opportunities to expand and diversify audiences and programs of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program
- Be committed to the Council and work to fulfill the selected goals and responsibilities
- Be dedicated to personal development while having fun and respecting the differences in others



Texas 4-H Council Standing Rules

Youth involvement in program development at all levels is an essential aspect of successful 4-H programming. For this reason, the Texas 4-H Council provides for representative 4-H youth 16-19 years of age:

- the opportunity to provide input to the state Extension staff on programs for 4-H youth,
- to maintain linkage with District 4-H Councils,
- to assist with the development and implementation of state events and activities,
- to provide 4-H youth the opportunity to learn democratic principles and procedures, and
- to interpret the 4-H program to the public through effective and satisfying group organization.

The following standing rules adopted by the Texas 4-H Council members serve as guidelines for group procedures.

1. Name:

- The name of this organization shall be the Texas 4-H Council.

2. Purpose:

The purpose shall be to act as a sounding board to:

- Identify needs and interests of 4-H youth.
- Suggest and explore action programs that will meet the needs and interests of youth.
- Advise in the determination of future 4-H programs.
- Provide a youth voice and leadership team for Junior Leader Retreat, Texas 4-H Roundup, and Texas 4-H Congress.

3. MEMBERSHIP:

- a. The Texas 4-H Council membership is open to all youth irrespective of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or genetic information. It consists of two member delegates from each District 4-H Council and elected delegates-at-large (see Sections 3f and 3g).
- b. Council members must be entering the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades and must be between the ages of 16 and 18 on August 31st of the calendar year in which they are installed on the Texas 4-H Council.
- c. Delegates shall be eligible to attain and hold membership on the Texas 4-H Council for only one year.
- d. District representatives must participate in the total Texas 4-H Council Workshop and training to be an official member of the Texas 4-H Council.
- e. District Councils may select alternates to fulfill responsibilities of regularly elected delegates. Any alternate who attends the Texas 4-H Council Workshop becomes the official recognized delegate on the Council from his/her respective district and will fulfill Council duties throughout the remainder of the year. This alternate shall meet the requirements for the Council membership.

Texas 4-H Council Standing Rules

- f. The twelve (12) District Councils have the opportunity to select a Delegate-at-Large on an annual basis to serve on the Texas 4-H Council.
- g. Delegates-at-Large represent District 4-H Councils as members of the Texas 4-H Council. The same standing rules for membership apply to all delegates. Efforts should be made to assure minority representation on the Texas 4-H Council. If District Councils do not elect at least one minority to fill the offices (usually President and Vice-President) that are representatives to Texas 4-H Council, they will select a minority to fill the position of Delegate-at-Large. If a District Council is unable to fill one of the three positions with a minority member, the District will forfeit its opportunity for the minority delegate representation for that year. Minority status is defined as 1/16th minority nationality.
- h. A Council member enrolling out of state or district of which they were elected/selected shall automatically relinquish his/her position on the Texas 4-H Council pending approval by council advisors.

4. OFFICERS:

- The officers shall be elected annually and shall be: President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Public Relations Officer, and Health and Safety Officer. The Executive Committee shall appoint members as needed to fill vacancies in officer positions.

5. TERM OF OFFICE:

- Council members and officers shall serve from the time of installation until installation of new members and officers the following year. Officers shall be elected annually and shall be eligible for only one term of office. No person shall hold more than one office on the Texas 4-H Council.

6. TEXAS 4-H COUNCIL WORKSHOP AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- Council Workshop shall be held as scheduled. Officers shall be elected at the workshop and will be nominated by ballot. Elections shall be by ballot. A majority constitutes an election. Each candidate may speak on the given topic and will have two (2) minutes total to prepare and offer remarks.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers and council advisors.

8. COMMITTEES:

- Committees may be appointed at any time by the Executive Committee.

9. VOTING BODY:

- The voting body shall consist of the members as defined in Rule 3, except in the election of officers. The two current participating delegate representatives will cast a single vote to be used in the event of a tie. In the event of a tie, each candidate will speak on a new topic. If another tie occurs, the sealed vote of the current council representatives will break the tie.

Texas 4-H Council Standing Rules

10. QUORUM:

- A quorum shall be a simple majority of the membership representing at least seven different districts.

11. AMENDMENTS:

- Suggested/recommended amendments may be made at any regular meeting and approved with a two thirds vote but must have the approval of the state 4-H Program Director before amendments can be made to the by-laws.

12. REPRESENTATION REPORTS:

- Texas 4-H Council members who are designated as representatives of the council at various events will be responsible for submitting a written report of their participation in the event to the Texas 4-H Council Secretary or to the council advisors within two weeks after the event. These reports will become part of the official secretary's notebook.

13. TEXAS 4-H COUNCIL MEMBER BEHAVIOR:

- Texas 4-H Council members are required to follow the stated Texas 4-H and Youth Development Consequences of Misbehavior and Code of Conduct. If a Texas 4-H Council member is suspected of any illegal activity (consuming alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs, etc.) before or during any activity or while representing the Texas 4-H Council, he/she shall be subject to be sent home and/or to dismissal from the Texas 4-H Council at the discretion of the Executive Committee and/or council advisors.

14. COUNCIL DISSOLUTION:

- Upon the dissolution of the Council, all real property, including money, equipment and land, shall become the property of the Texas 4-H Program for care and distribution. The last official duty of the advisors shall be to effect the transfer of council property and to turn over all records to the State 4-H Office.



2018-2019 Texas 4-H Council



Delegate Information

Congratulations!

2018-2019 Texas 4-H Council Training:

The 2018-19 Texas 4-H Council Workshop is scheduled for July 16-19, 2018 at your Texas 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood, Texas. The workshop is for all 2018-2019 Texas 4-H Council delegates. This is a **required** training that delegates must attend to fulfill membership on the Texas 4-H Council.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To strengthen the leadership skills of all Texas 4-H Council members;
- To provide members training in public speaking, leadership development, and public relations;
- To prepare members for leadership roles in conducting district and state 4-H activities; and
- To provide an opportunity for delegates to get acquainted and elect officers.

Participation:

Participation in the Texas 4-H Council Workshop is mandatory for council delegates. If an elected delegate cannot attend the workshop an alternate from the district should be selected to fulfill Texas 4-H Council responsibilities and thus will become the district's recognized delegate on the Council. Delegates will be officially installed as members of the Texas 4-H Council upon completion of Council Workshop.

Expenses – Registration Fee:

Registration will be completed on 4-H Connect. All workshop participants will pay a registration fee of \$350.00. This fee is used to defray expenses for your Texas 4-H Council green blazers, name badges and insurance throughout the year. **Do not** bring the payment to the workshop. The registration fee must be paid directly to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension prior to the workshop.

Mail payment to: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Texas 4-H Program
1470 William D Fitch Parkway
College Station, Texas 77845

If payment has not cleared by July 13, 2018, you will not be able to attend the workshop, and therefore not able to serve on Texas 4-H Council. You will be responsible for travel and meals to and from the workshop.

Registration Process:

Registration will be open on 4-H Connect until midnight July 2nd. It is your responsibility to get registered and make payment. So don't delay; register as early as possible. If you do not get registered by the 2nd, we will know that you are not interested in participating on Texas 4-H Council.

Community Service:

Be prepared with ideas that the Council can promote – and manage – throughout the state. We want to lead by example and service is a great opportunity.

Presentation Expectations:

All council members are expected to give a minimum of three 4-H presentations during the year. The Council experience is designed to help you prepare for the many opportunities you will have within the year.

Texas 4-H Council Officer Positions:

Several questions always come up concerning officer positions. The standing rules state that the officers shall be elected annually and shall be: President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Public Relations Officer, and Health and Safety Officer. The elections will be by secret ballot and will be held on the last day of Workshop. As the ballots are counted and the candidates are narrowed to the final two or three choices (depending on the votes), those candidates will have the opportunity to answer a question that has been prepared for that purpose. There may be time to discuss officer positions but candidate speeches are not a part of the election process. Delegates should do their best at everything they do during Workshop while being real and being themselves. Officer discussions do take place behind the scenes and everyone knows who would like to serve when it comes time to vote.

Advisor Contact Information:

Mrs. Jana Barrett	cell: 979.220.6043
Mrs. Laura Huebinger	cell: 979.229.3986
Dr. Montza Williams	cell: 903.539.7996
Mr. Garry Branham	cell: 325.234.0191

Other:

Sponsorships are always invited and welcome. Each year a new group of young people who have new and different contacts join the team. If you know of someone or a business who would like to be a donor for Texas 4-H Council, please ask them. There are several opportunities available and we will discuss them during Workshop. However, the two that many ask about are Council polos/long sleeve at \$1,000.00/\$1,250.00 and t-shirts at \$800.00. The past couple of years, we have been able to celebrate their donation and provide them recognition by putting their name/logo somewhere on the shirt. Go through your contacts and see if you have anyone who would be willing to be a part of the team.

If you need any type of accommodation to participate in this program or have questions

about the physical access provided, please contact Dr. Montza Williams or the other advisors at the numbers provided within this letter.

More information will be made available to all delegates once they have been elected. You may reach any advisor at the contact information provided. All of the advisors are available to visit with you.

On behalf of the four Texas 4-H Council advisors, we look forward to working with you this year. Again, congratulations!

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Texas 4-H Council Membership Requirements

This internal communication document is to be provided annually to all Texas 4-H members in advance of district officer elections for representation on the Texas 4-H Council.

Membership:

1. Texas 4-H Council membership is open to all youth, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation or gender identity. Representation may consist of three delegates from each District 4-H Council selected at the District level according to the state/district guidelines. One of the delegates should represent a diverse population.
2. Council members must:
 - be at least 16 years old and cannot be older than 18 as of August 31, 2018 and
 - be a student in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade for the year serving on Texas 4-H Council.
3. Delegates shall be eligible to attain and hold membership on the Texas 4-H Council for only one year.
4. Texas 4-H Council membership only occurs after participation and completion of the entire Texas 4-H Council Workshop scheduled for July 16-19, 2018 at the Texas 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood. (\$350 registration fee plus travel) **If an elected district delegate is unable to participate in the entire workshop, they forfeit their spot on the Texas 4-H Council to another District delegate.**

Participation with Texas 4-H Council is an investment in leadership development. However, the investment is not only a time commitment but also requires a monetary investment—about \$1,000. By choosing to participate, you understand the monetary requirements included.

Committed and Dedicated:

The specific events/activities/meetings indicated with a “★” are required of the six elected officers. Those marked with a “◎” are required of everyone.

- Texas 4-H Council Workshop ◎
- State Fair of Texas Honor Awards ★
- Fall Meeting ★
- Texas 4-H Foundation Gala (October 13, 2018)
- Junior Leadership Retreat
- January Planning Meeting ★
- Texas 4-H Roundup ◎
- Texas 4-H Congress ◎ (held in even years)
- WebEx Meetings

I have read and understand this document and commit to a year of service as a Texas 4-H Council member.



2018-19

Officers:

Executive Committee

- President
- First Vice-President
- Second Vice-President
- Secretary
- Public Relations Officer
- Health and Safety Officer

Election Process

Elected at the Texas 4-H Council Workshop

Campaigning is not allowed

Nominations and voting are by ballot

Majority constitutes an election

Candidates in a runoff situation are given a topic and will have two minutes to prepare their thoughts and speak before the group.

4-H Member Signature

Date

County Extension Agent Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

District 4-H Specialist Signature

Date

2018—2019 Texas 4-H Council



The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program provides Texas 4-H Council members a number of opportunities to be ambassadors for the program. Texas 4-H Council members are held to a high standard of excellence which should be demonstrated by their participation in these events and activities.

As listed on the front page, there are opportunities and some requirements that are available for all Texas 4-H Council members beginning July 19, 2018 and ending August 31, 2019. Members should pay close attention to the required events. Officers are held to an even higher set of expectations. Members and officers NOT meeting the requirements will be reviewed and could be removed from Texas 4-H Council by the Advisors and the 4-H Program Director.

It is expected that members will also fulfill responsibilities at the County and District levels. Not completing the requirements at those levels has repercussions that follow to the Texas 4-H Council level. Being removed from the position that elevated you to Texas 4-H Council means that you will also be removed from Texas 4-H Council.

Tentative Dates: *Dates may change but expectations do not.*

- ✧ Texas 4-H Council Workshop - July 16-19, 2018 - Texas 4-H Conference Center - \$350 registration + travel
- ✧ Fall Meeting - October 6-8, 2018/*tentative* - Dallas - \$150 approximate expense + travel
- ✧ State Fair of Texas Honor Awards - October 9, 2018 - Dallas - 1 night lodging expense + travel
- ◆ *Texas 4-H Foundation Gala - October 13, 2018 - San Antonio - cost still to be determined*
- ✧ Junior Leadership Retreat - November 9-11, 2018 - Texas 4-H Conference Center - \$150 approximate expense + travel
- ✧ January Planning Meeting - January 4-6, 2019 - Texas 4-H Conference Center - \$150 approximate expense + travel
- ✧ Texas 4-H Roundup - June 9-14, 2019 - TAMU, College Station - \$250 approximate expense + travel
- ✧ WebEx meetings - dates to be distributed during Workshop - at your computer or mobile device
- ◆ *Other opportunities may/will be offered to members as they are identified throughout the year.*

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

It is most important to communicate ahead of time with advisors if you have a scheduling conflict. We realize you have multiple obligations and we are much more willing to work with you if conflicts are communicated in a professional and timely manner. However, here are some questions we often receive and the answers you will be given.

Q: I have a county show/athletic event (basketball tournament) on the same weekend as the January Planning Meeting/Teen Retreat.

Advisor Answer: Council OFFICERS must attend the entire weekend of the January Planning Meeting/Teen Retreat. All members are expected to attend; however, if individuals cannot it will be handled on a case-by-case basis if it is communicated in advance.

Q: I will be late attending Roundup the day Council is expected to arrive (usually the Sunday prior) because of high school graduation occurring on Sunday afternoon.

Advisor Answer: Please arrive as soon as possible and work with advisors to confirm your schedule.

Q: I will be late attending Roundup the day Council is expected to arrive because of high school graduation parties/project graduations/etc. occurring that weekend.

Advisor Answer: You should arrive as scheduled with the rest of Council or you will not participate with Council.

Q: I will be late attending Roundup the day Council is expected to arrive because I will be practicing with my judging team.

Advisor Answer: You should arrive as scheduled with the rest of Council or you will not participate with Council.

Q: I will be late attending Roundup/Congress the day Council is expected to arrive because I am sick.

Advisor Answer: You will be expected to arrive ASAP after you recover with a doctor's excuse.

Q: Are Council officers automatically selected to hold leadership positions at Texas 4-H Congress (ex. President as Texas Governor)?

Advisor Answer: No; selection for this position is based upon exhibited leadership throughout the year.

Q: What does "removed from Texas 4-H Council" mean?

Advisor Answer: This means that members will not be allowed to participate in events as Texas 4-H Council members. They will also relinquish any leadership roles and responsibilities associated with Texas 4-H Council.

Q: I will be late attending Roundup/Congress the day Council is scheduled to arrive because of (you fill in the blank).

Advisor Answer: Good luck to you with (you fill in the blank). As a Council member you are expected to participate fully in these events; if you cannot, there is no need to register for Roundup/Congress as part of the Leadership Team.