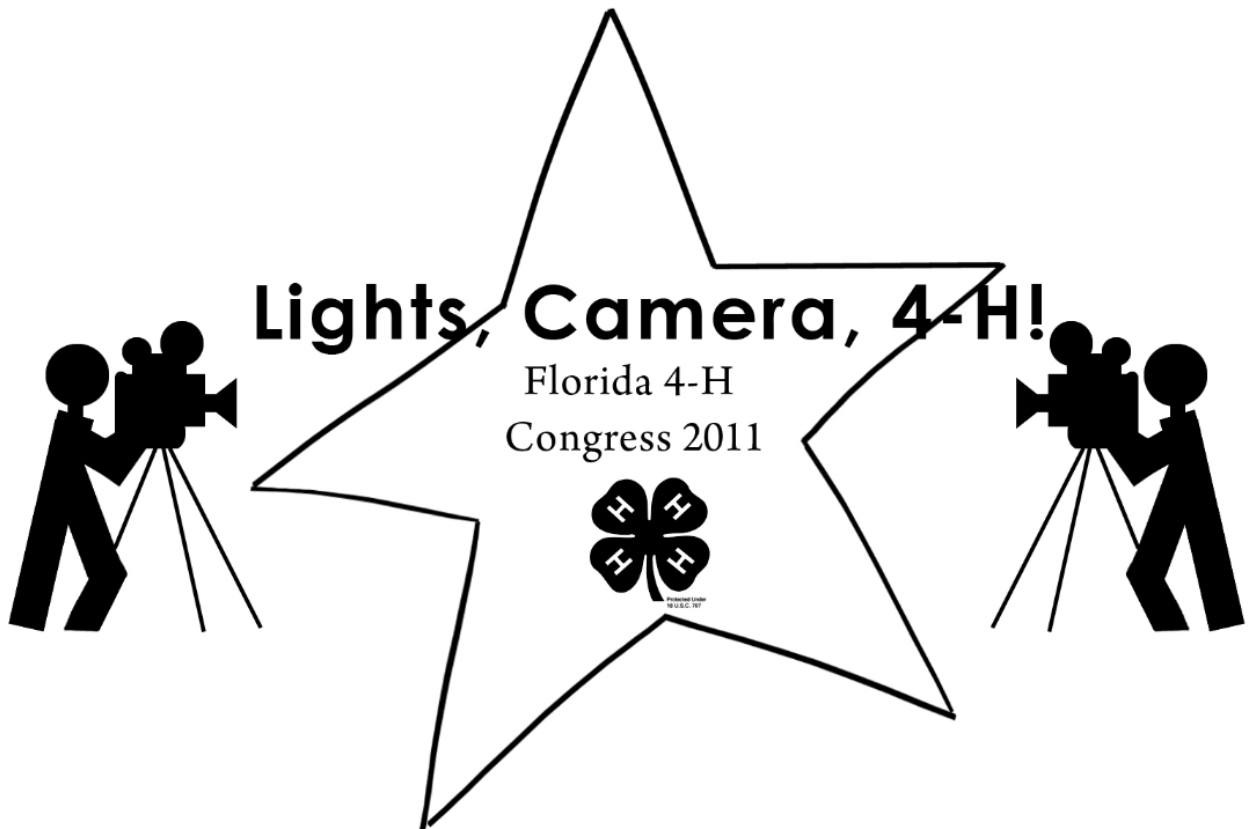


Youth

# 2011 Congress: Script



# Welcome!

So you're going to Congress? You have a super exciting week in store for you when you get to the University of Florida campus the week of July 25 – 29. We will be completing different activities each day that will be filled with exciting competitive events and educational workshops. We want you to have a great time at Florida 4-H Congress, so we have prepared this **Script** so you and your parents will know exactly how to set the stage for Congress week. Your county 4-H agent will be your best resource for information, but this handbook will give you a glimpse of the Congress experience!

Please make sure you review this guide carefully. So, don't put it aside and let it collect dust! Take a few minutes and find out what it has to say and you will be very glad that you did!

Before you leave for Congress, your county 4-H coordinator will have an orientation with you and the other participants from your county. At that time, many of your questions will be answered. If you want to get ahead of the game and find out some details on your own, check out the Congress Web site at:

<http://florida4h.org/events/congress.shtml>

We look forward to seeing you in July!



Jordan Callaham  
State 4-H Events Coordinator

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## Your Stage Presence

The week of 4-H Congress is all about having a good time! But, it is also about getting some very important things accomplished. Many programs happen during Florida 4-H Congress including:

- State Competitive Events
- Awards and Recognition Interviews
- Share the Fun & Fashion Revue
- A night out with Clovers and Company
- Education Workshops
- State Council Officer Elections

Because there is always something going on, it feels like you are always rushing to be somewhere! This can become very tiring (especially with only 4 hours of sleep because you stayed up talking with your roommates!). So, it is very important to remember that everyone (including adults) will get worn out and irritable at some point! Some tips for avoiding this:

- Make sure you are where you need to be when you need to be there!
- Make sure that your adult in charge ALWAYS knows where you are!
- Allow yourself plenty of time to walk to your next activity. You may have to cut your social engagement short, but you will be on time – and that is very important!
- Get plenty of sleep!
- Prepare ahead of time! Before you come to Congress, review the schedule and get a mental idea of how you are going to accomplish your activities. You will be notified ahead of time if your workshop requires advanced preparation so that you have ample time to prepare.
- Ask for help! When you don't know something, find someone who does and ask! You will not get in trouble for not knowing, and you will be directed correctly.

There are other tips for coming to Congress in the resources section of this handbook. Make sure that you check out all of the information so you can enjoy Congress to its full potential.

Remember, it is all about attitude. If you come prepared to have a great time – according to the plans and rules – you will and so will everyone else. Have a contagious attitude throughout the week, and see how many people you can positively influence to do the same!



## Credentials

When you arrive at Congress on Monday, you will be given a nametag and a wristband. You must wear each of these items AT ALL TIMES during Congress. They are your ticket to participate in activities during the week and receive meals. If you lose your nametag or wristband it will cost \$10 to replace it, so be careful to keep close track of these items.

## The Schedule

The Congress schedule, or program, will dictate the times, events and locations for the week. This schedule has been created with you in mind. Although it may look huge, you will find that it is easily navigated when you focus on where you need to be. Your county agent or volunteer will also help you make sure you know where you are going. A condensed schedule is in the resources section. Go there now and review each day. Make notes on events that are specific to you. Remember, you will be walking to all of the activities, so a 5-minute travel allotment is always necessary. (Sometimes a highlighter is helpful so you can easily see where you should be.)

You will be receiving a complete schedule in your nametag at Congress check-in on Monday. Keep it with you all the time (which should be easy because it's in your nametag). There are always extra programs at the Congress Information Desk. If you lose yours check in at the information desk and the folks there will give you another one!

## Congress Evening Events

### **Monday - Opening Assembly**

Monday night's assembly is always a blast! You should be dressed in your district attire (consult with your agent about what this is). The Spirit Rally is also on Monday night. Face and body paint will not be allowed this year. Each district will plan its own special "rally" to compete for the coveted spirit stick! The evening assembly will begin with a spirit rally. Each district will have a sign (made and brought by the district) that will be used during the assembly so you can find your district. Following the district rally, the opening assembly will begin. The planning committee will be introduced, and then a short video outlining rules and places throughout the week will follow. Our keynote speaker will wrap-up the spirit rally and welcome everyone to the event.

### **Tuesday - Fashion Revue and Share the Fun**

Tuesday night the fashion designers and stars of the future will strut their stuff and perform on the Reitz Union Runway. Many different performances and acts will grace the stage! Be sure to applaud for those brave enough and talented enough to entertain us. Look out Paris and Broadway, make way for 4-H! Fashion Revue and Share-the-Fun are always a hit and an evening that you won't forget!



### **Wednesday - Competitive Events Awards Assembly**

On Wednesday afternoon, get ready to recognize all of the state competitive events participants at the Awards Assembly. Afterward, have a great dinner out on the town with your county delegation for County Night Out. Then return to the University Auditorium for a performance and musical stylings of the Georgia 4-H Clovers and Co. performing ensemble.

### **Awards Banquet**

This is the final evening of Congress and is your opportunity to look your very best. You never know who may appear during this special evening. On this very prestigious evening, those youth who have been awarded scholarships and national awards trips will be announced. We will also be recognizing our departing seniors. We will wrap up this very special evening with the passing of the torch from the reigning State Council officers to the newly elected officers. All scholarship and trip awards will be presented during a wonderful banquet!

## **Congress Events**

### **State Competitive Events**

On Tuesday, youth who have progressed to the state level competitive demonstration and illustrated talk will compete. Also on Tuesday, the State Horticulture Identification contest, State Fashion Revue Contest and State Share the Fun will be held. If you are not participating in state events, you will be involved in a very interactive and entertaining session.

### **Educational Workshops**

Tuesday: Those youth not participating in competitive events will be participating in a rotation of workshops reflecting healthy lifestyles.

Thursday: All youth delegates will participate in educational workshops on Thursday. With registration, you should have chosen workshops by Program Area and specific tracks. You will remain in the same track all day on Thursday. Educational workshops are designed to give you an educational experience and are fun, exciting and hands-on. So be prepared to be intellectually challenged and do some really cool things.

### **Awards and Recognition Interviews**

Youth who submit portfolios for Scholarships and Award Trips who were selected for interviews will be interviewing on **Monday**. Interviews begin at 11:30 a.m. and continue throughout the day. If you are selected for an interview, you will receive a letter letting you know what time and where you will be interviewing. If you would like to submit a portfolio next year to be considered for 4-H scholarship (must be a graduating senior) or a national award trip (must be 14 by September 1<sup>st</sup>), let your county 4-H agent know you would like to participate.



## **Community Pride Reception**

Several counties submitted proposals to receive grant funds to do a Community Pride project (ask your agent if you want to do this next year). Counties who were funded must submit reports and pictures of the project by June 1. These reports are judged, and counties receiving honors will present their projects at the Community Pride reception that will be held at **Emerson Alumni Hall** on UF Campus. Also, one youth and one adult from each county and any new agent may attend this event. Your agent will select which youth from your county gets to attend. This program is on **Tuesday** from 2-4pm.

## **Community Service**

On Wednesday morning, all youth and adults will be asked to join in community service. Community Service will take place at multiple locations in the Greater Gainesville Areas. We ask that all participants wear their Congress T-shirt and jeans or shorts (appropriate length) that they can get dirty. Shorts and jeans must adhere to the Congress dress code. It is also asked that participants wear closed toes shoes that can get dirty. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends and experience new activities. Bring work gloves if available.

## **State 4-H Council**

The Florida 4-H State Council meets during the week of Congress to discuss and review their constitution, elect new officers and plan the upcoming 4-H year. Two voting delegates from each county are selected to participate in this program as well as current state officers. If you are a voting delegate for your county, it is very important that you participate at each state council meeting (see your tentative schedule in the resource section). You will be voting on next year's State 4-H Council officers, as well as voting on issues with the council constitution. Your agent will notify you if you are the voting delegate for your county.

## **Dorm Life and the University of Florida**

While at Congress you will be housed in dormitories at the University of Florida. This is an exciting experience, as you will get a feel for what it would be like to be a University student. The University of Florida is a beautiful campus and there are many things to do. There is a pool outside the dorms, and you will be permitted to use it during your free time. The Reitz Union has a game room, food court and outside amphitheater that provide entertainment and social opportunities. Other campus attractions, however, should not be explored without the consent of your county coordinator. Be mindful that there are expectations about the appropriate use of free time (see the next section for more information). You will be expected to stay in designated areas during this time. Safety is very important, and we are concerned about yours. Be smart! You will have a much better time if you are.



# Making the Most of Congress

## Social Opportunities

There will be times during the Congress week when you do not have a scheduled activity. This is time for you to relax and enjoy your friends. Whatever it is that you choose to do during this time, you **MUST** let your agent or county coordinator know where you are at all times. They will let you know what is NOT permitted. Spending time with friends and making memories is one of the best parts of Congress, so respect the rules to ensure that you get to have a good time. During your free-time you should not be in your dorm room. If you need to go back to your room you must check with an adult first.

## Saying Goodbye and Keeping in Touch

You will inevitably make many new friends from other counties that you will want to keep in touch with in the future. That is the great thing about 4-H; you will most assuredly have another opportunity to see your new friends again. Make sure you exchange e-mail and addresses before you leave. Planning for future 4-H events together will be much more fun when you anticipate all of the friends you already know will be there. Thursday evening is always an emotional and exciting time, especially for those 4-H'ers who are graduating and moving on. **Seniors:** Make sure to check your schedule and take the opportunity to participate in "Senior Takes".

**NEW! Senior Takes:** This night will give the Graduating Senior 4-H'ers the opportunity to create a 45 second video that will be played on Thursday night. Please refer to your program to find a time during the week that you can stop by and record your video. This is a great time to witness the positive impact that 4-H has had on many young people. Some of them will continue to college, others will join the workforce and still others may pursue careers in the military. No matter what the future path, all 4-H'ers will be able to attribute their future with their 4-H past!

## Taking Congress Home

Friday is here...you are boarding the bus or van, and you are headed home! But don't let your Congress experience end here. Next year Congress is available for all 4-H youth in Florida, ages 14-18. Make plans to share with your club, other clubs, or even your local newspaper the wonderful experience you had at Florida 4-H Congress. Encourage members to be preparing to come to Congress, either through a state competitive event, interview, or as an educational program participant. All good things must come to an end, but you can help ensure that future Congress is even more fun and exciting than this year's when you spread the word!



# Guidelines for Behavior during Congress

## *Assemblies and Workshops*

- Delegates are expected to attend and actively participate in all scheduled events.
- Arrive on time for all assemblies, take your seat in the designated area (when applicable) and stay in your seat until the assembly adjourns.
- Arrive on time for all workshops and participate fully in sessions.
- Food and drinks are not to be taken into assemblies.
- Give the speaker /presenter your undivided attention.
- Treat speakers with respect. Think about how you would want to be treated if you were on the stage. Stay in your seat, applaud at appropriate times and listen.
- Take your seats quickly so that entrances are not blocked.
- Turn off cell phones. **CELL PHONES WILL BE CONFISCATED IF FOUND IN USE DURING ASSEMBLIES OR WORKSHOPS.**
- Remove hats while in assemblies and workshops.

## *Expectations in dorm rooms*

- Changing room assignments is not allowed. Stay in the room assigned to you at Congress check-in.
- Boys are not allowed in the girls' dorm and girls are not allowed in the boys' dorm for any reason. There are no exceptions.
- Talk quietly in dorm halls and rooms and avoid any conduct that may annoy others.
- Care for your valuables.
- Keep the restrooms clean.
- Be in your own room at curfew. Observe "lights out" at designated times.
- DO NOT throw anything out dormitory windows or tamper with smoke alarms.
- You will be financially responsible for damage to your room.
- Keep your room door locked and your keys with you at all times. If they are lost, you will be charged \$30 for a room key. Please report stolen or lost keys immediately.

## *On-campus behavior*

- As always at 4-H events, no alcoholic beverages, tobacco or illegal drugs are allowed. Violators will be called before the Review Board and subject to the penalties outlined in the Code of Conduct form signed prior to leaving home.
- Respect university property as if it were your own.
- Keep the campus clean.
- Use the buddy system when walking around campus. Never walk alone. "Emergency Blue Lights" are located throughout campus should you need them for immediate emergency service from campus security.
- Permission to leave campus (except for County Night Out and scheduled events) can be granted only by the Deans and Assistant Deans for Congress. An adult must accompany youth leaving campus.
- Represent 4-H proudly by following the dress code. Follow guidelines described in the Congress Dress Code.
- Always wear your Congress nametag and wristband so you can be identified as a registered delegate and admitted to scheduled events and meals. Replacement nametags and wristbands will cost \$10 each.

## **Policies regarding food in the dormitory:**

- Participants can bring food into the dormitory.
- Food deliveries must arrive at the dormitory prior to the announced curfew. **Any deliveries arriving at or after curfew must be paid for by the person ordering but will not be received by the person ordering.** (The person ordering will be required to leave the money for the delivery with the Deans for Congress. When the food arrives, the delivery person will be paid but the food **will not** be brought to the person ordering.) There are no exceptions.
- Participants will be responsible for maintaining cleanliness when food products are consumed in the dorm. Pizza boxes must be thrown out.



# Code of Conduct

Standards of conduct are established and should be reviewed by the “adult in charge” with all participants at the beginning of the week. Participants are expected to understand, respect and act in accord with these standards as they support the goal of maintaining the health, safety and well-being of all Congress participants while also ensuring that all participants can benefit from their planned teaching and learning responsibilities.

## I. Standards

- A. Delegates are expected to participate in all components of the planned program.
- B. Delegates are expected to be responsive to the reasonable requests of the adults in charge.
- C. Delegates will be respectful of their need for personal safety and the safety of others.
- D. The possession or use of alcoholic beverages, drugs, narcotics, firearms and/or other weapons and tobacco or tobacco products is strictly prohibited at all times.
- E. The malicious destruction or theft of personal, University or 4-H property is unacceptable behavior.
- F. Gambling for money is not permitted.
- G. Delegates will remain on the campus at all times unless they have been granted permission to leave by the adult in charge and are accompanied by an adult.
- H. Visitation by non-registered persons is discouraged. Adults in charge should be notified if guests are expected.
- I. Delegates will leave the University campus in as good or better condition as it was upon arrival.

## II. 4-H'ers accused of any of the following will be required to appear before a review board:

- A. Possession or use of illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages.
- B. Theft, misuse or abuse of public or personal property.
- C. Sexual misconduct.
- D. Possession of weapons, firearms or fireworks.
- E. Unauthorized absence from the premises of the event.
- F. Physical assault.

III. If the accused 4-H'er is found in violation of the offenses listed in section II above, his/her parents will be notified, the 4-H'er will be sent home immediately at parent's expense, and be suspended from participation in district, state, national and international 4-H activities for a period of up to 12 months.

## IV. 4-H'ers accused of any of the following may be required to appear before the review board:

- A. Breaking curfew or disturbing the peace.
- B. Unexcused absence from the activities of the event.
- C. Unauthorized use of vehicles during the event.
- D. Use of abusive language.
- E. Violation of the dress code.

V. If the accused 4-H'er is found in violation of the offenses listed in section IV above and receives discipline issued by the review board, his/her parents will be notified and the 4-H'er may be sent home immediately at the parent's expense and may be suspended from participating in district, state, national, and international 4-H activities for up to 6 months.

VI. Realizing these guidelines are not “all inclusive” the Extension Service reserves the right to make adjustments to these policies.



VII. NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES: If a 4-H'er is found in violation of the Code of Conduct and is to be sent home, the person in charge of the event will notify the appropriate County Extension Director.

VII. CONGRESS REVIEW BOARD: Will be appointed at the beginning of Congress by the Congress Deans. See page17 for Review Board Procedures.

VIII. APPEAL PROCEDURES: If a 4-H'er wishes to appeal the decision of the review board, he/she must appeal in writing through their County Extension Office. Appeals must be filed within 30 days following notification of punishment. As necessary, the Assistant Dean of 4-H shall appoint an appeal board no sooner than 30 days following the date of the 4-H'ers request.

The appeal board shall consist of a county extension agent, volunteer leader, three 4-H members and the Assistant Dean, 4-H chairman (or designate).

## Resources

Beginning on the next page, you will find some resources to help you prepare for your trip to Congress. These include:

- **2011 Congress Dress code**
- **Congress Tip sheet**
- **Tentative Schedule**

