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MEMO TO: Georgia Delegation~National 4-H Congress

FROM: Jenny Jordan, Extension 4-H Specialist
Volunteer & Teen Programs

RE: National 4-H Congress November 25-29,2011

Congratulations! You should be very proud of your achievements at State 4-H Congress this year and eager for one of your best 4-H trips ever, National 4-H Congress. The theme for the 2011 National 4-H Congress is "Become a Catalyst for Change". The conference will focus on acting locally, standing up & speaking out, creating positive change, thinking globally & establishing friendships. A tentative program is included for you to see all that is planned.

Please read all of this, and future information, carefully. Deadlines for Congress are of the utmost importance. Often we can not accept late or incomplete information. Don't let yourself miss out on a moment of the fun because you haven't read your information carefully. We also post all of the forms and letters on our Georgia delegation webpage. The page is on the public side of the Georgia 4-H webpage under Activities & Events/Project Achievement.

- Enclosed is your Congress registration form. This form is very important and confirms your participation in Congress. Regardless of who you've told, other forms you've submitted, we **need this form from everyone by Sept 23rd.**
- The registration form includes choices for full, part time or not attending. We want you to be part of the entire Congress experience but know that other commitments may make it impossible for you to attend the entire function. Please let us know your plans now and if your plans change, let your county extension agent and me know as soon as possible. Several hundred dollars have been donated for EACH delegate to attend Congress. Please don't leave us in the unfortunate situation of reserving your spot and then your not attending.
- **\$50 deposit is due with each form.** This is your only "fee" required with Congress and will be returned to you at cash at National 4-H Congress. This will add to your spending money. If you drop from Congress after the National 4-H Congress deadline, your \$50 may not be refunded.

- Congress Leadership Team and Teen Entertainer Opportunities are selected from throughout the nation. If you are interested, please complete and return this form. Forms must be in my office by Sept 6th for consideration.
- This year we have a Facebook group open to National Congress Delegates from Georgia. If you are not already member, simply send me a request to join. We will post all letters on both the website <http://www.georgia4h.org/public/coreprograms/projectachievement/NationalCongress/default.htm> and on facebook and most you will get snail mail and email
- You will need to talk with your teachers now concerning your class absence on November 28-29. Congress does not close until lunch time on the 29th. If you would like to have a note sent to your school administrator concerning your absence, please let me know. I will use the information on the registration form if you request an excuse letter unless you provide a different name and address. This can be very important for those of you in college who may need multiple letters.
- Trading is a Congress tradition. Delegates swap stickers, pins and other items to commemorate their states. Dr Bo told you a little about this during our State Congress winners' meeting. You'll want to begin securing items to trade. You may look for pins, stickers, key chains, etc about your county or Georgia that you'd like to swap. We will give you a few items to use in the swap, too. Please do not contact state associations such as the Georgia Cotton Commission. We will make that call. If you have a local chapter in your county, calling on the local chapter is okay; it's just the state groups we ask you not to contact.
- You will want to plan on having some spending money for a handful of meals and souvenirs. We will send you a note with more details concerning the amounts to consider but begin planning for these expenses. We will return your \$50 deposit in cash so this can serve as a portion of that money
- Clothes for Congress are varied. You will wear primarily better school clothes but will have free time for your more comfortable wear. Additionally, there is at least one dressy event you'll attend.

We are looking forward to a super trip. Please contact me if you or your parents have any questions.

cc
 Arch Smith
 Program Development Coordinators/4-H
 County Extension Agents Concerned

