**What is Maryland 4-H Congress?**
Maryland 4-H Congress is the state’s premier teen leadership opportunity. 2016 is the first year for this event. "M4HC" gives 4-Hers ages 13-18 the chance to explore career opportunities in a variety of areas and to experience life on a college campus. Youth attending Maryland 4-H Congress live in campus residence halls and eat in dining halls, enjoy campus recreational activities, and attend workshops and tours in classrooms, labs, and facilities. Participants have the chance to meet and make friends with fellow 4-Hers from across the state, discover career opportunities, perform community service, and learn skills that help them prepare for college and the workforce.

**Who can attend Maryland 4-H Congress?**
Maryland 4-H Congress is open to all youth ages 13-18 (as of January 1) who are actively enrolled in Maryland 4-H.

**Do I have to compete or be selected to go to Maryland 4-H Congress?**
No. Any Maryland 4-Her age 13-18 who wants to attend Maryland 4-H Congress can do so. There is no competition or selection process.

**How much does it cost?**
If you register for Maryland 4-H Congress from April 25-May 15, 2016, the cost is $125.00 (Early Bird fee). If register from May 16-31, 2016, the cost is $175.00. Registration will close at 11:59 pm on May 31, 2016.

**What does the registration fee cover?**
Registration covers 4 nights’ lodging in a University of Maryland residence hall, all meals listed on the schedule, transportation to/from events on the Congress schedule, a Maryland 4-H Congress t-shirt, and a ticket to the Washington Nationals baseball game. Registration does not cover transportation to and from the University of Maryland campus. Thanks to generous support of the Maryland 4-H Foundation and other donors we are able to make this an extremely affordable event.

**Where will 4-Hers be staying on campus?**
4-Hers will be housed in one of the University of Maryland student residence halls.

**Will I have a roommate? Can I request to room with my friend?**
Residence hall rooms are double-occupancy. Boys and girls will be housed in separate areas of the residence hall. You may request a roommate when you register for Maryland 4-H Congress. Roommate requests must be mutual – two 4-Hers must BOTH request each other. If you do not request a roommate, one will be assigned. Roommates must be of the same gender.
I’ve never lived in a dorm before! What should I pack?
After registration has closed you will receive a Maryland 4-H Congress Handbook that will answer all your questions, including what to pack.

Where will we eat?
Most Maryland 4-H Congress meals will be served in one of the campus dining halls. Delegates will be given a meal card for use in the dining hall. Meals not served in the dining hall include a Welcome Barbecue, a Celebration Banquet, and dinner at Washington Nationals Park when Delegates attend the Nationals baseball game. The cost of these meals is included in the registration fee.

I have food allergies or special dietary needs. Will there be food I can eat?
Yes. You will be asked to list any food allergies and special dietary needs when you register for Maryland 4-H Congress and on the Delegate Health Form. The Congress staff will work with you to provide for your special needs.

Can I bring or buy snacks?
You are welcome to bring snacks and drinks to keep in your residence hall room, but be mindful that others may have allergies. Residence halls have vending machines for snacks and drinks. There are also many places on campus where you can purchase snacks, drinks, or extra meals, at your own expense.

What is the Youth Media Team?
The Youth Media Team (YMT) is open to any 4-Her who attends Congress and who is interested in helping with multi-media coverage of the event. The YMT will document Maryland 4-H Congress on social media, via written articles on blogs and in a daily digital newsletter, and through photography and videography of Congress events and activities. The YMT will also create a slideshow that will be shared during the Congress Closing Ceremony and a video to document the entire event. The YMT will work with Adult Advisors who are communications and media professionals.

How do I sign up for the Youth Media Team?
When you register for Maryland 4-H Congress check the box next to “I want to apply for the Youth Media Team” then download and follow the instructions for the application process. Applicants will fill out a form and upload a media sample (video or writing) as an audition piece. The Media Team Advisors will choose 10-12 Maryland 4-Hers to work on the YMT. Delegates chosen for the YMT will be notified several weeks prior to Maryland 4-H Congress and may be asked to complete “pre-work” before arriving at Congress. NOTE: You do NOT have to sign up for the Communications & Leadership track to apply for the YMT. The YMT will cover all career tracks.

I want to be in the Talent Show! How do I sign up?
Maryland has TONS of talented 4-Hers! Some of those talents will be showcased on Congress’ last evening, after the Celebration Banquet. If you are interested in performing your talent, you can apply for the talent show when you register for Maryland 4-H Congress. Check the box next to “I want to audition for the Talent Show” then download and follow the instructions for the application process. Applicants will fill out a form and upload an audition video to YouTube. The Talent Show Coordinators will choose approximately 8-12 Maryland 4-Hers to showcase their talents. Delegates chosen for the Talent Show will be notified several weeks prior to Maryland 4-H Congress and may be asked to provide personal profile information for publicity.
I really want to attend Maryland 4-H Congress but I have other activities going on that week. Can I attend part-time or just during the day?

Maryland 4-H Congress is a residential youth leadership program and Delegates are expected to be involved in the entire program. If you cannot stay overnight or would have to miss more than a few hours of scheduled activities, you should not attend. If you have minor conflicts with the Congress schedule such as needing to arrive a couple hours late on the first day or having to leave early on the last day, the Congress staff can work with you to make arrangements. Otherwise, you should consider skipping Congress this year. *Exception: 4-Hers involved in activities at the Maryland State FFA Convention may attend Maryland 4-H Congress on a part-time basis. These Delegates must share their plans with Congress Coordinators prior to the event, are responsible for their own transportation between events, and must pay the full registration fee (no price breaks or pro-rates). Adult Chaperones for dual 4-H/FFA Delegates are responsible for monitoring & supervising Delegate activities.

What type of adult supervision will there be during Maryland 4-H Congress?

Maryland 4-H Congress is an official activity, and will be staffed with University of Maryland Extension (UME) and 4-H program faculty and staff. Adult UME and 4-H Volunteers will also be required to chaperone 4-Hers for Congress activities, downtime, and in residence halls.

Do I need a chaperone?

Yes. When you register to attend Maryland 4-H Congress you must list the name of your Adult Chaperone. Contact your club leader or county 4-H Office if you need to find a chaperone. There must be at least one Adult Chaperone for every 10 4-Hers who attend Maryland 4-H Congress from your county. Your county may work with another county to provide Adult Chaperones, if necessary.

Who can serve as an Adult Chaperone?

Due to University of Maryland and State policies regarding camps and child care, ONLY active, approved UME Volunteers or UME/4-H employees may serve as Adult Chaperones for Maryland 4-H Congress. Approved UME Volunteers must be certified and active in 4-H Online.

I want to be an Adult Chaperone but I’m not a UME Volunteer. Can I get certified so I can attend Maryland 4-H Congress with my 4-Her?

Yes! Contact your county 4-H Office ASAP to complete the UME Volunteer certification process. You will need to complete an application, provide references, and be interviewed. Once you are an approved UME Volunteer you can register as an Adult Chaperone for Maryland 4-H Congress. NOTE: The interview & approval process can take a couple weeks, so start NOW to be certified before the Early-Bird registration price expires.

If I serve as an Adult Chaperone, what will my duties be?

First and foremost you will be responsible for the 4-Hers you are designated to chaperone. This includes ensuring they attend Congress events, follow rules and schedules, observe Maryland 4-H Behavior Expectations, and contribute to a positive experience for all. You will also be asked to fulfill one or two roles for the Congress staff, such as checking name tags at events, serving as a “bus captain” for an off-campus tour or trip, leading a group performing a community service project, etc. You will have the opportunity to volunteer for roles you might enjoy.

Do Adult Chaperones sign up for Career Tracks?

No, but you might be asked to attend or assist with certain workshops or tours within Career Tracks.
How do I register for Maryland 4-H Congress?
You must register for Maryland 4-H Congress via the 4-H Online system. Log into your family profile and look for the link and information on the homepage, then follow the prompts. If you want a step-by-step tutorial, download the “How to Register” document from 4-H Online or the Maryland 4-H Website. **Registration will open April 25, 2016 and close at 11:59 pm on May 31, 2016.** No late registrations will be accepted.

How do I pay the registration fee? Can I do it online?
Online payment is not available for Maryland 4-H Congress. When you register via 4-H Online you will need to download and complete several forms, then mail the original, signed forms to the State 4-H Office. One of those forms is a payment form. You may pay by check or money order payable to the **Maryland 4-H Foundation**, or you may complete the Credit Card authorization portion of the form and charge the fee to your account. **NOTE:** The Early Bird fee will be granted based on the time/date stamp when the Event Registration was submitted in 4-H Online. If you submit your registration prior to 11:59 pm on May 15, 2016 you will receive the Early Bird rate.

Help! I can’t access my 4-H Online profile, or my status is not “active.”
Contact your county 4-H Office for assistance with 4-H Online. They can help you with accessing and understanding your 4-H Online profile, and can help you make any necessary changes.