

TENNESSEE STATE 4-H CONGRESS *Dress* CODE

Knowing what to wear for 4-H Congress can be a challenge ... especially if this is your first time to the event. Keep in mind that you are representing your county as well as the 4-H program. Thus, it is better to be “over-dressed” than “under-dressed.” The most important and most basic guideline is that your general appearance should be neat and clean. To help you plan, the following dress code has been provided:

	Official Congress Dress	Casual	Semi-formal
Gentlemen	Official 4-H Congress sweaters with a collared shirt (button-up); Ties are required; Dress slacks; Socks to match dress slacks; Black or brown dress shoes; NO athletic shoes, flip-flops or crock-type footwear	Jeans, khakis, t-shirts, athletic shoes, flip-flops and crock-type footwear NO cut-offs or worn jeans with holes.	Slacks with a jacket, shirt, tie (required), and black or brown dress shoes.
Ladies	Official 4-H Congress sweaters with a collared shirt or turtleneck; Skirts or dress slacks; NOTE: all skirts must be no shorter than fingertip length; Dress shoes; NO athletic shoes; flip-flops or crock-type footwear	Jeans, khakis, t-shirts, athletic shoes, flip-flops and crock-type footwear; Shorts are permitted but must be no shorter than fingertip length; NO cut-offs or worn jeans with holes.	Dresses** from knee to floor length or pants suits appropriate for a prom or similar dress up activity.
Specific events in which this dress is appropriate	Assemblies Know Your Government Meals Representative Meetings Project Competition	Registration General Jackson Inaugural Ball Check-Out	Citizenship Banquet

The following clothing items are not appropriate at 4-H Congress:

- Tube tops
- Halter tops
- One-shoulder tops
- Strapless tops
- Casual tops with spaghetti straps
- Camisoles
- Clothing that expose the midriff, navel, back or cleavage.
- See-through clothing
- Muscle shirts
- Clothing that advertises alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or drugs
- Clothing that has vulgar, obscene or offensive messages or images
- Pajamas/sleepwear or outfits with visible undergarments are not to be worn outside of your room
- Cut-offs, ripped jeans or other clothing with holes
- Bare feet are not appropriate for any Congress activity
- Dress and appearance should not present health or safety hazards or cause disruption
- No hats are to be worn of any kind (This pertains to both ladies and gentlemen)

• For security purposes, neckwallets are to worn AROUND THE NECK at all times. However, they may be carried in a pocket or purse to the Citizenship Banquet and Inaugural Ball.

• Tennessee State 4-H Staff, Extension Personnel and adult volunteer leaders may ask any individual to modify their clothing selection if the Congress dress code is not met.

** Special Note for Semi-Formal Dresses: Party and prom dresses may be strapless, but must be appropriate. However, backless, low-cut (front or back) ensembles or those that expose the midriff or navel are not appropriate.