

4-H'ers chosen to attend National 4-H Congress

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Four Dawson County 4-H'ers will be among the Nebraska 4-H delegation to the 2009 National 4-H Youth Congress, Nov. 27-Dec. 1, in Atlanta, GA.

Those attending from Dawson County are Cicely Batie, Lexington; Kristi Block, Cozad; Marcela Lopez, Lexington; and Madi McKeone, Lexington.

National 4-H Congress is the flagship event of the 4-H program. For more than 80 years, youth from the United States and its territories have participated in this youth leadership development conference. It is designed to address the needs and issues of youth while helping to develop capable, competent and caring citizens. This year's congress theme is "Accept The Challenge."

All of the Dawson County representatives were selected based on their 4-H projects and achievements, community service, citizenship and leadership activities, said Andrea Nisley, UN-L Extension educator in Dawson County.

A 4-H member earns the right to attend National 4-H Congress through a series of competitions, starting at the county level, progressing through the state level, she said.

The delegates will represent the following curriculum areas: Cicely Batie—Leadership & Citizenship; Kristi Block—Consumer & Family Science; Marcela Lopez—Consumer & Family Science; and Madi McKeone—Healthy Lifestyles.

They will spend four days attending workshops, seminars, recognition events and educational tours related to the various 4-H programs and current social issues. The congress provides youth, ages 14-19, a quality educational and cross-cultural experience that exceeds what any state independently provides.

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Nebraska's 4-H program is conducted through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, a division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources; county governments; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The congress is conducted by a national committee of Cooperative Extension staff.