



Resident and Student Chapter Delegate FAQs

Every year, each chapter selects one student and one resident delegate to represent the interests of their chapter at the Resident/Student Congresses, cast the chapter's vote for national resident and student leaders and participate, with others, in writing, debating and voting on resolutions at FUTURE.

What Are the Responsibilities of a Chapter Delegate?

- Promote attendance at FUTURE to other students and residents.
- Working with chapter staff, connect with other students and residents in their state to learn issues important to them.
- Attend all business sessions of the appropriate Congress (student or resident) at FUTURE. (See schedule [online](#).)
- Vote for national resident and student leaders during Saturday morning Congress session.

What Are the Benefits of Being a Chapter Delegate?

- Receive great hands-on leader training.
- Meet current and future AAFP leaders.
- Present issues important to your chapter to the AAFP.
- Learn about the AAFP and how it addresses issues important to residents and students.
- Learn how parliamentary procedure works.
- Engage in resolution writing.
- Serve on a reference committee (if interested).
- Find out about projects and programs of the AMA and other family medicine organizations of special interest to residents and students.
- Debate issues important to education and future practice.

What is the Time Commitment for a Chapter Delegate at FUTURE?

- Attend all Congress business sessions (required)
 - Thursday, 10:15-10:45 a.m.
 - Friday, 8:30-9:15 a.m. - Student; 9:30-10:15 a.m. - Resident
 - Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - Since congresses will be in session all morning, a resident delegate will not be available to staff a residency program booth on Saturday.



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- Participate in Resolution Writing (recommended)
 - Thursday, 11:30-1:00 p.m.
- Attend reference committee hearing (recommended)
 - Friday morning - starting at 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 12:00 p.m.
- Vote for candidates in elections—only delegates are eligible to vote (required)
 - Saturday, 8:00 a.m. (Students) and 10:15 a.m. (Residents)—Candidates' forum
 - Saturday, 8:00-10:15 a.m. (Students); 9:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Residents)—business session

What are a Chapter Delegate's Responsibilities Before FUTURE?

- [Register for FUTURE.](#)
 - While chapters provide the AAFP with names of their delegates, delegates are responsible for registering for FUTURE.
 - If you are a resident who will be registered by your residency program as an exhibitor, you do not need to register yourself for FUTURE.
- Make travel and hotel arrangements to ensure you will be able to attend the first business session that starts at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday and the last business session that ends at approximately 12:00 p.m. on Saturday.
 - For more information, visit www.aafp.org/future.
 - **Please note, if you run for and are elected to a leadership position, a new leader orientation is scheduled for 12:15-2:00 p.m. on Saturday.**
- Contact your chapter staff and leaders to become more knowledgeable about the chapter's priorities, members' concerns and key activities, including advocacy efforts.
 - Consider polling residents and students in your chapter to identify issues important to your constituents that should be addressed by the resident or student congress.
- Promote FUTURE! Encourage other residents and students to attend.
- Contact your chapter's alternate delegate(s).
 - Work out a schedule of assignments to ensure that all congress sessions and related activities are covered.
- Consider serving in a leadership role during the conference to help ensure the smooth operation of your congress.
 - Opportunities include: parliamentarian, credentialing coordinator, election committee, reference committee.
- Become more familiar with elected and appointed AAFP leadership opportunities online at www.aafp.org/getinvolved.



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- Read through the Governing Principles and Rules of Order for your congress prior to the first business session on Thursday at 10:15 a.m.
 - This document outlines the role of your congress and the guidelines for conducting business.
 - Find [online](#) or in the Mobile App
- Become familiar with the current priorities, policies, positions and activities of the AAFP.
 - Find valuable information online
 - www.aafp.org/about to access valuable resource information.
 - www.aafp.org/policies to access AAFP policies
 - www.aafp.org/gic for information about current and past resolutions and AAFP Board actions.
 - www.aafp.org/congress for information about the AAFP Congress of Delegates.

What are a Chapter Delegate's Responsibilities During FUTURE?

- Check in at the Credentialing Booth
 - When you arrive at the first congress session, check in at the Delegate Credentialing Booth to check in and receive your official delegate ribbon.
 - Delegate Credentialing Booth will be open in the resident and student congress lobby outside rooms 2103AB on Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. and Friday, 8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
 - On Saturday, credentialing will be handled at a table in the congress room. Make sure you pick up your voter card for elections.
 - *Alternate Delegates: You do NOT need to check-in unless you will be replacing your chapter's official delegate.*
 - Delegate credentialing is separate from the FUTURE check-in.
 - You will receive your conference badge at the attendee/exhibitor registration area (2500 lobby) upon arrival at FUTURE.
 - You DO NOT need to check in at the Delegate Credentialing Booth to receive your official delegate ribbon until your arrival for the joint business session on Thursday.
 - *Alternate Delegates: You do NOT need to check in until the situation arises where you would be serving as your chapter's official delegate.*
- Attend Business Sessions
 - **Delegates should attend all Congress business sessions**
 - Thursday, 10:15-10:45 a.m.
 - Friday, 8:30-9:15 a.m. (Students); 9:30-10:15 a.m. (Residents)
 - Saturday, 8:00-10:15 a.m. (Students); 9:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Residents)
- Work with Alternate Delegates
 - If your chapter appointed an alternate delegate(s)—one or more members may



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have been designated to serve in this capacity—touch base with them to work out a schedule of assignments to ensure that all congress sessions and related activities are covered if the delegate is unable to participate in all.

- **If you are unable to attend a business session, especially Saturday's session, it is important that you turn in your voter card to staff in the congress room so your alternate delegate can vote.**
- Participate in Resolution Writing
 - Learn more about resolution writing during the joint business session on Thursday at 10:15 a.m.
 - Encourage resolutions from your chapter delegation.
 - Take advantage of the Resolution Writing Assistance in Room 2105 where AAFP staff and leaders will be available to assist in drafting resolutions.
 - Make sure you and your chapter delegation attend the Resolution Development Workshop at 10:45 a.m. on Thursday. (Room 2103AB) Facilitated by AAFP commission staff to assist with resolution writing on key issues impacting medical students and Family Medicine residents.
 - Keep in mind that the resolution deadline is 1:30 p.m. on Thursday (or when the submission cap has been met, whichever comes first).
 - Note: Authors of resolutions must be resident and student members of the AAFP.
- Attend or Serve on a Reference Committee
 - Make sure that you and your chapter delegation attend reference committee hearings scheduled for Friday with starting times of 9:30 a.m. (Students only), 10:45 a.m. (Joint – Students and Residents), and 12:00 p.m. (Residents only)
 - Resolutions will be debated, and testimony heard during these sessions.
 - The reference committee will present recommendations to the congress during the Saturday morning business session.
- Vote in Elections
 - Take notes during the candidates' forum on Saturday.
 - Candidates will give speeches and participate in a Q&A session.
 - Keep in mind that, while all AAFP resident and student members can vote on resolutions only the official **delegate** votes in the elections—one vote per chapter
- Consider running for Leadership Positions
 - Consider running for an election position and encourage members of your chapter to do the same.
 - Information on both elected and appointed positions will be available in Room 2105 and online at www.aafp.org/getinvolved.

What are a Chapter Delegate's Responsibilities After FUTURE?

- Report back to your chapter on the actions of your congress and other activities of interest.



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- Volunteer to help orient next year's chapter delegates.

What if a Chapter Delegate Can't Attend FUTURE and/or Serve After Being Selected?

- If a delegate becomes unable to attend FUTURE or serve as a delegate after being selected, they must contact their chapter staff as soon as possible.
- If a delegate attends FUTURE but is unable to attend Saturday's Congress Business Session (and participate in elections), they must turn in their voter card to a staff member and contact their alternate delegate to turn over delegate responsibilities.

Additional Information

What are the Congresses?

- The official names are the National Congress of Family Medicine Residents (NCFMR) and the National Congress of Student Members (NCSM). These bodies were created more than 35 years ago as the official voices of residents and students in the AAFP.
- Congress sessions are held over three days.
- Through these forums, resident and student members elect their national officers and advocate for a wide variety of issues and causes. Many of the initiatives launched by residents and students are now AAFP policy. Many family medicine leaders got their start in the resident and student congress.

Who Can Participate in the Congress?

- Congress sessions are open to anyone registered for FUTURE. To speak to and vote on recommendations before your congress, you must be a resident or student member of the AAFP. To vote in elections, you must be a chapter delegate.
- AAFP chapters send one student member and one resident member to serve as chapter delegates to the resident and student congress. These delegates attend all congress sessions, poll their state delegations about issues before the congress, and vote in the elections.



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Who Can Vote?

- Only chapter delegates (or alternate delegates if delegate is unavailable) can vote in Saturday's elections for national resident and student leaders. ALL resident and student members of the AAFP are allowed to write, debate and vote on resolutions brought before their respective congresses.

What is an Alternate Delegate?

- One or more alternate delegates are identified by Chapters to serve in the event the Chapter Delegate is unable to attend FUTURE and/or participate.
- Delegates should contact their state's alternate delegates to see how responsibilities can be shared (to work out a schedule of assignments to ensure that all congress sessions and related activities are covered if the delegate is unable to participate in all).
- It's important that each chapter is represented at each business session, whether by the delegate or the alternate delegate, making it easier to balance congress involvement with participation in educational programs and Expo Hall activities.

Resources

- Delegate Information
 - FUTURE Mobile App (mid-July)
 - Additional information will be emailed to you after you have been selected as a delegate.
- [Congress Information](#)
 - FUTURE Mobile App (after mid-July)
- Candidate Information (for elections)
 - Onsite, via the FUTURE Mobile App