

www.aafp.org/nc/delegate

Every year, each state chapter selects one student and one resident delegate to represent the interests of their state 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 National Conference.

1. **What Are the Responsibilities of a Chapter Delegate?**
2. **What Are the Benefits of Being a Chapter Delegate?**
3. **What is the Time Commitment for a Chapter Delegate at National Conference?**
4. **What Are a Chapter Delegate's Responsibilities Before National Conference?**
5. **What Are a Chapter Delegate's Responsibilities During National Conference?**
6. **What are a Chapter Delegate's Responsibilities After National Conference?**
7. **What if a Chapter Delegate Can't Attend National Conference and/or Serve After Being Selected?**
8. **Additional Information**
 - a. **What are the Congresses?**
 - b. **Who Can Participate in Congresses?**
 - c. **Who Can Vote in Congresses?**
 - d. **What is an Alternate Delegate?**
 - e. **What is a Chapter Caucus?**
 - f. **Resources**

What Are the Responsibilities of a Chapter Delegate?

- Promote National Conference attendance 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 National Conference. (See schedule online at <https://www.aafp.org/events/national-conference/schedule.html>).
- Hold a chapter caucus at National Conference (see Tips online at www.aafp.org/nc/delegate) to work on resolutions, review reference committee reports and discuss candidates and other important issues to be brought before the Congress.
- 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 state 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 resolution 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 National Conference?

- Attend all Congress business sessions
 - Thursday, 1:00-2:15 p.m.
 - Friday, 1:00-2:15 p.m.
 - Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - Since congresses will be session all morning, a resident delegate will not be available to staff a residency program booth on Saturday.
- Vote for candidates in elections (only delegates are eligible to vote)
 - Saturday, 8:30 a.m.—Candidates' forum
 - Saturday, 8:30-12:00 p.m.—business session
- Hold a chapter caucus at National Conference
 - Friday, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, 7:30-8:30 a.m., 9:30-9:50 a.m.
- Participate in Resolution Writing
 - Thursday, 2:00-6:00 p.m.
- Attend reference committee hearing
 - Friday afternoon, staggered starts at 2:30 p.m., 3:00 pm. and 3:30 p.m.

What are a Chapter Delegate's Responsibilities Before National Conference?

- Register for National Conference—**do so by July 6 to save \$50 on your registration.** Visit www.aafp.org/nc.
 - While chapters provide the AAFP with names of their delegates, delegates are responsible for registering for National Conference.
 - If you are a resident who will be registered by your residency program as an exhibitor, you do not need to register yourself for National Conference.
- Make travel and hotel arrangements to ensure you will be able to attend the first business session that starts at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday and the last business session that ends at approximately 12:00 p.m. on Saturday.
 - **July 6 is the deadline for reserving a hotel room in our hotel block at the conference rate.** For more information, visit www.aafp.org/nc.
 - **Please note, if you run for and are elected to a leadership position, a new leader orientation is scheduled for 2:30-4:30 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 National Conference! Encourage other residents and students to attend.
- Review information available online at www.aafp.org/nc/delegate
- Participate in the AAFP Resident and Student Leader (RASL) Online Community
 - Delegates will automatically be subscribed to an Online Community where resources and message board are available to assist with preparations for Congress
 - Delegates will receive a welcome email from a National Conference Chair.
 - When asked, you should indicate whether you would like to be contacted for more assistance and/or matched with a Resident or Student Mentor
- Contact the 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: business assistant, parliamentarian, credentialing coordinator, election committee, reference committee.
 - More information will be posted in the RASL Online Community or by contacting Resident Chair Kristina Dakis, MD, at kristina.dakis@gmail.com or Student Chair Victoria Boggiano at victoria.boggiano@gmail.com.
- Become more familiar with elected and appointed AAFP leadership opportunities online at www.aafp.org/getinvolved.
- Read through the Governing Principles and Rules of Order for your congress prior to the first business session on Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
 - First item of business will be to adopt the Rule of Order.
 - This document outlines the role of your congress and the guidelines for conducting business.
 - Find online at www.aafp.org/nc/congresses 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 and click on “About” on the menu across the top right to locate resource information.
 - www.aafp.org/nc/congresses for information about current and past resolutions.
 - www.aafp.org/congress for information about the AAFP Congress of Delegates.

What are a Chapter Delegate’s Responsibilities During National Conference?

- 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 and voting card.
 - Delegate Credentialing Booth will be open in the resident and student congress lobby outside rooms 2502 and 2504) on Thursday, 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. and Friday, 12:00 pm.-2:30 p.m.
 - On Saturday, credentialing will be handled at a table in each congress room
 - *Alternate Delegates: You do NOT need to check in until the case where you would be serving as your chapter’s official delegate.*
 - Delegate credentialing is separate from the National Conference check-in.
 - You will receive your conference badge at the attendee/exhibitor registration area (2500 lobby) upon arrival at National Conference.
 - 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 case where you would be serving as your chapter’s official delegate.*
- Attend Business Sessions
 - **It is important that you have your voter card scanned by the staff or volunteer at the door every time you enter or leave your congress room for a business session.**
 - This check in process is important to record attendance and determine quorum. Attendance records may be shared with the chapter executives after the conference.
 - After being scanned in, locate and site near your chapter (state) sign in your congress room so members of your chapter can meet you.
 - Make sure that you and members of your chapter delegate attend all three business sessions.

- **Delegates should attend all Congress business sessions**
 - **Thursday, 1:00-2:15 p.m.**
 - **Friday, 1:00-2:15 p.m.**
 - **Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**
 - **Attend the candidates' forum starts at 8:30 a.m. at the start of the final business session**
 - **Vote for candidates in elections held during the final business session**
 - **Only delegates are eligible to vote in elections.**
 - **Since congresses will be session all morning, a resident delegate will not be available to staff a residency program booth on Saturday.**
- **Caucus**
 - Organize chapter caucuses (small group discussions with attendees from your chapter).
 - Use these times to talk about resolutions and to solicit input about candidates.
 - Your goal is to accurately represent your constituency.
- **Work with Alternate Delegates**
 - If your chapter appointed an alternate delegate(s)—one or more members may 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 your congress room so they can give to alternate delegate. Without this card, your chapter will not be able to vote.**
- **Participate in Resolution Writing**
 - Learn more about resolution writing during the joint business session on Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
 - Encourage resolutions from your chapter delegation.
 - Take advantage of the Resolution Writing Assistance in Room 2505 where AAFP staff and leaders will be available to assist in drafting resolutions.
 - Make sure you and your chapter delegation attend the discussion groups at 2:15 p.m. on Thursday. These groups will generate many of the resolutions presented to the resident and student congresses.
 - Keep in mind that the resolution deadline is 6:00 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 Reference Committee**
 - Make sure that you and your chapter delegation attend reference committee hearings scheduled for Friday afternoon.
 - Resolutions will be debated and testimony heard during these sessions.
 - The reference committee will present recommendations to the congresses during the Saturday morning business session.
- **Vote in Elections**
 - Take notes during the candidates' forum from 8:30-9:30 a.m. 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
 - Take advantage of the time between the candidates' forum and the start of the final business session to caucus with your delegation about candidates and reference committee reports.
- **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 2505 and online at www.aafp.org/getinvolved.

What are a Chapter Delegate's Responsibilities After National Conference?

- Report back to your chapter on the actions of your congress and other activities of interest.
- Volunteer to help orient next year's chapter delegates.

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

- If a delegate becomes unable attend National Conference or serve as a delegate after being selected, they must contact their chapter staff as soon as possible.
- If a delegate attends National Conference 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 as soon as possible.
 - **It is important that you turn in your voter card to staff in your congress room so they can give to alternate delegate. Without this card, your chapter will not be able to vote.**

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.
- Each congress holds three sessions 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 congresses.

Who Can Participate in the Congresses?

- Congress sessions are open to anyone registered for National Conference. 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 congresses. These delegates attend all congress sessions, poll their state delegations about issues before the congresses, and vote in the elections.

Who Can Vote at National Congress?

- 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 National Conference 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 state is represented at each business session, whether by the delegate or the alternate delegate, making it easier to balance congress involvement with participation in NC programs and Expo Hall activities.

What is a Chapter Caucus?

A chapter caucus is a meeting of residents or students from your chapter to discuss important issues to be brought before the appropriate congress.

- Caucuses provide a forum for the free exchange of opinions and ideas.
- They are used to solicit the input of residents and students from a chapter regarding the resolutions, candidates running for office and other issues of concern to be addressed during the final business session of congress.
- Dedicated time and space is available for caucusing on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m., Saturday morning, 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 9:30-9:50 a.m. in the congress rooms.
 - Delegates are not required to hold caucuses during these times and may plan alternate or additional caucuses as they deem necessary.
- Residents and students from each chapter should sit in the state's section during the congress business sessions.

Resources

- Delegate Information
 - www.aafp.org/nc/delegate
 - NC Mobile App (after June 15)
 - Online Community
 - You will receive instructions after you have been selected as a delegate.
- Congress Information
 - www.aafp.org/nc/congresses
 - NC Mobile App (after June 15)
 - Onsite Congress documents (resolution agendas and reference committee reports/consent agendas)
 - NC Mobile App www.aafp.org/nc/resolutions
- Candidate Information (for elections)
 - Onsite, via the NC Mobile App
 - Located in the Candidates' Forum section of the App on Saturday
 - Onsite, via www.aafp.org/nc/candidates