The Citizenship Courier is a monthly newsletter established by the Global Citizenship Intern at ISU Extension and Outreach.

Citizenship is a 4-H curricula area that teaches youth about their individual role in society and government, and is divided into four topics: civic engagement, civic education, service, and personal development. The Global Citizenship Intern aspires to empower the area of civic education, primarily focusing on global and cultural competence, while also highlighting the other three topics.

Check in often to learn more about citizenship and discover the ways you can get involved like your peers!

Rachel Wonderlich, Global Citizenship Intern | youth_rachelw@iastate.edu | #iowa4Hglobal

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**THOUGHTS - INSPIRATION - ACTION!**

As if the repetitive and continuous political commercials weren’t enough of a reminder, it’s Presidential election season! Sometimes we can get burned out with the constant media surrounding the election, but it should be important to us as citizens of a free nation. We the people are fortunate to have the power to influence politics and make decisions about who we want in office – whether it is city, county, state or national officials. Regarding the Presidential election, the people of Iowa have even more power than other states due to the Iowa Caucuses.

**The Iowa Caucus** is the first in the nation! Candidates make an extraordinary effort to win over the voters in Iowa. Why? The Iowa caucuses are the first real test of who the citizens are in favor of and which political campaigns are making an impression on the American people. See [http://2016iowacaucus.com/](http://2016iowacaucus.com/) for more info.

You can make an impact in the Presidential election season:

- Research candidates’ positions on certain topics that are important to you, your family and/or your local community
- Discover how the Iowa caucus works for both parties
- Discuss pertinent issues with others in your community
- Participate in your local caucus if you are or will be 18 by Election Day: Tuesday, November 8, 2016

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

A list of other monthly events can be found on the [Global Citizenship webpage](http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/about.html).

**February African American History Month**

Reflect on the progression of the African American race throughout history. Need ideas? Check out the [January issue](http://2016iowacaucus.com/).

**February 1st Iowa Caucus**

See article to the left.

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“As citizens of this democracy, you are the rulers and the ruled, the law-givers and the law-abiding, the beginning and the end.” – Adlai Stevenson

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Iowa State University Extension and Outreach programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. CER.13.01 April 2013
Borlaug-Ruan Internship: The World’s Largest 4-H Project

Benton County 4-H alumna Natalie Hanson landed an internship unlike any other as she finished her freshman year at Iowa State University. Having attended the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute as a high schooler, she was eligible to apply for a Borlaug-Ruan Internship. In the summer of 2014, Natalie was one of the prestigious 23 interns that would impact the lives of many through their projects around the world. Natalie was sent to work at AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center in Taiwan, a small country near China.

Taiwan is a country full of diverse groups of people, much like the United States. They are all very friendly which reminded Natalie of the people in Iowa. However, the small country is very urbanized with hardly any land remaining untouched by civilization. Most people live in apartment buildings and rely on trains, bicycles and walking for transportation.

While in Taiwan, Natalie collected data about the nutritional value that vegetables provide and then shared this information in educational materials created for school garden programs in developing countries – a project deemed by her mom as “The World’s Largest 4-H Project.” Aside from working, Natalie was able to travel throughout the country which included visits to a nearby city, adventuring to Liuqiu Island, and climbing a mountain. Natalie enjoyed going to the vendors at the night markets which reminded her of a festival and were held two to three times every week. All of these cultural experiences collectively broadened her worldview perspective.

Because of 4-H, Natalie could work independently, collaborate with adults and other students, and adjust to her new surroundings. “4-H equipped me with many of the skills I needed to overcome the initial adjustment and then make the most of my time in Taiwan.” She wishes she would have conversed more with foreign exchange students in high school and encourages everyone to respectfully seek out people from other places to learn about various cultures!