The Citizenship Courier is a monthly newsletter established by the Global Citizenship Intern, Rachel Wonderlich, at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Check in often to learn more about citizenship and discover the ways you can get involved like your peers!

Citizenship is a 4-H curricula area that teaches youth about their individual role in society and government. Citizenship is divided into four areas: 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 creating awareness and increasing knowledge in the other three areas.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 6th
UNICEF Day for Change
- unicef.org.uk/Get-Involved/Your-organisation/Schools/Day-for-Change/
~ A chance for youth to learn about what children around the world struggle with on a daily basis, choose a cause, raise money or brainstorm on 2015’s UNICEF Day for Change!

February 23rd – March 8th
Fair Trade Fortnight
- fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight
~ Allow Fairtrade Foundation’s 2015 campaign as an opportunity to learn about what Fairtrade is, and how it affects communities around the world.

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**All The Rage and Craze About Citizenship**

On January 19th, America will honor Martin Luther King Jr., whose impact on Civil Rights and Equality left a legacy of hope and inspiration that still continues today. Dr. King once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’” What will you do on this day of service to make an impact in your community? Share your stories and ideas to help 4-H highlight the many ways you will be honoring Dr. King through service, improving lives, and making a difference in your communities.

You may wonder what this has to do with Citizenship. The 4-H Citizenship program has four key components: civic engagement, civic education, service, and personal development. Dr. King’s legacy exemplifies all four! Now, in honor of this great man, YOU have the chance to push for social change and have a powerful influence on those around you on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Don’t forget to share your stories with us! We can’t wait to hear about how Iowa 4-H youth spent their day off from school making a striking difference in our state. February’s Citizenship Courier will feature the stories shared with us!
January’s Iowa 4-H Global story features Brenda Welch, a Youth Program Specialist for Region 5, which covers Monona, Plymouth, and Woodbury counties. Brenda loves to tell about her cultural experience when she studied abroad to Europe from July 1993 to July 1994 while studying at Central College. Her trip began in Prien am Chimsee, Germany where she studied for two months at Goethe Institute, an intensive language institute. Then, from October 1993 to February 1994, she lived in Vienna, Austria and took classes at the Dolmetsch Institute (now called Center for Translation Studies), which is part of the University of Vienna, where she learned how to be a translator. After Vienna, Brenda went to live in Graz, Austria for five months, where she spent her time as an English Language Assistant at Graz Paedagogische Akademie, a teaching college. Brenda attended a church in Vienna where several countries and cultures were represented and traveled to other European countries, as well, which allowed her to experience a variety of people, places, and cultures.

More often than not, when one is immersed in a different culture, the situation can be very uncomfortable. Because individuals can easily travel back and forth throughout all of Europe, having a different culture isn’t as big of a deal because the natives are used to being exposed to different cultures. Brenda thought this helped the American group to feel more at ease, and also allowed the Americans to try and adapt to the natives’ culture. Brenda made the comment that while she and the American group were in the office, they were American, but when they were outside of the office, they were Austrian. Living with Austrians in a dormitory also helped Brenda immerse herself in the Austrian culture, and learn about both Austria and America from their viewpoint. Her exposure to cultures helped her appreciate the American culture, but also helped her realize that the American way has its faults. More than culture being a problem, language was a barrier, especially when Brenda and her friends would travel to the Eastern countries. The natives there spoke Russian, and very little English.

Since her return in 1994, Brenda continues to use her cultural experience on a day-to-day basis. She taught German in Cherokee County before she began to work with 4-H Clover Kids, then moved up the ladder as a County Youth Coordinator and now as a Youth Program Specialist. It was while she was teaching German that Brenda met her husband. Brenda and her husband raise their two kids in a very culturally diverse home. Brenda said that it is very important to infuse different cultures in her family’s day-to-day life, as family and her experience in Europe are two of the most important things in her life.

### To be featured in our monthly newsletter, share your story with me!

**Via E-mail:** youth_rachelw@iastate.edu | **Via Social Media:** #Iowa4HGlobal

Also accepting any questions, comments, or ideas regarding events, global citizenship, or featured stories! Share with me **today!!**