One of the components of global citizenship is to recognize your responsibility to positively contribute to our global society. This includes taking good care of our land, water, environment and more so that these natural resources will be available for years to come. On June 5th, be a global citizen and join the people around the globe for World Environment Day! Anyone can take action to make a positive contribution to our beautiful home, Earth.

- Research about issues facing our planet, the wildlife, environment and more: [http://web.unep.org/wed/2016](http://web.unep.org/wed/2016)
- Recycle: [http://recycleacrossamerica.org/recycling-facts](http://recycleacrossamerica.org/recycling-facts)
- Pick up litter around your school and neighborhood
- Create a family plan to reduce electricity and water use. Turn it into a competition to see who can be the best stewards of those two resources
- For more ideas about how to care for the planet and make a difference, visit [http://web.unep.org/wed/get-involved/wed-2](http://web.unep.org/wed/get-involved/wed-2)

Check out the [Global Citizenship webpage](http://web.unep.org/wed/get-involved/wed-2) for more ways to get involved as a global citizen!

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
Chickasaw County 4-H alumna Katelyn Franzen is finishing a semester in Ireland through one of Loras College’s many study abroad programs. Accompanied by a professor from Loras, 13 students arrived in Ireland in January 2016 to study, complete a part-time internship and immerse themselves in the culture for four months. Katelyn took classes at Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design, and Technology and interned in the Language Services office at the Dublin City University. She also found time to travel Europe and visit Northern Ireland, England, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Austria and Spain.

There were many cultural differences that appeared throughout her experience, but two behaviors about the Irish that came as a surprise to Katelyn were ‘Irish time’ and the use of public transportation. Many people choose to not own cars and, therefore, they must walk or utilize the public transportation system. This is just one example of an adjustment Katelyn had to make due to her small town Iowa background. She comments, “Overall, I have realized how little diversity I have experienced because I grew up in a rural Iowa town. I have now met people from all over the world and have learned little bits and pieces about so many cultures.” For the Irish, their culture is laid back; a common occurrence is for people to arrive 15 minutes after the scheduled time. “It’s not that they are always late, it’s just the laid back lifestyle. I have been so relaxed and stress-free this semester. I hope to carry this back with me because life is too short to be stressed out all the time,” notes Katelyn.

Katelyn agrees that there are many ways this experience has impacted her life: being less connected to her cell phone, appreciating the beauty of nature and people, experiencing life as a foreigner in a different country, desiring to travel more and even opening a door for future possibilities, such as teaching abroad. In the future, Katelyn wishes to “seek out more opportunities to learn about different cultures and interact with people different than me.” She encourages everyone to take advantage of any opportunity that may introduce you to a new culture: read books, meet new people, ask questions, participate in cultural festivals and study/travel abroad. She wrapped up by saying, “4-H has always taught me to broaden my perspective of the world and this semester has definitely done that.”