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

**Thoughts - Inspiration - Action!**

Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization – “Almost 10,000 volunteers guide 4-H members in becoming productive citizens, outstanding communicators, effective leaders, and successful learners” (“Volunteering with Iowa 4-H”). When reading that statement, who comes to your mind? Have you thanked them for their selflessness? In what ways do you volunteer? Explore those questions and more on December 5th!

**International Volunteer Day** – Volunteers make a huge difference in their acts by infusing their passion, unique talent, and time into the cause – whether that’s helping the homeless, assisting the elderly, or contributing to an organization like 4-H!

You can make an impact on International Volunteer Day:

- Discover small ways you can selflessly give your time and/or talent through your routine daily activities
- Thank and celebrate the volunteers in your home county!
- Host a volunteer event for others to come together and make a difference in your community
- Research volunteer organizations and their values
- Learn about long-term volunteer opportunities
- Incorporate volunteerism in your New Year’s Resolution!

**Upcoming Events**

A list of other monthly events can be found on the Global Citizenship webpage.

November 9th

**World Freedom Day**

A unique chance for all to reflect on what it means to have certain freedoms that you may not have in other areas of the world. For specific ways to take part in this day, see the October issue.

December 5th

**Int’l Volunteer Day**


See article to the left.

"Your life and mine should be valued not by what we take... but by what we give."

– Edgar Allen
Ashley’s Adventures

Ashley Kinkade, Story County Food and Nutrition Program Assistant, was raised in small town Iowa, and yet she has taken hold of opportunities to increase her cultural awareness. She epitomizes the idea that your place of origin doesn’t matter; what matters is where you let your compass lead you. Ashley encourages everyone to travel: “Even if it’s just the neighboring county, you could learn something new!” If you don’t have the opportunity to travel extensively, she suggests you “read a book, join a club, and start saving money!”

Traveling to Jamaica and South Korea, studying abroad in China, service trips to Mexico and Haiti, and homeschooling three children in Niger are among Ashley’s global adventures. Each trip brought new opportunities and different cultural experiences. In China, Ashley was exposed to a variety of food very different than her normal lowan diet. Haitian culture delivered a new perspective in terms of education. School classrooms had only a chalkboard, but no other materials to supplement learning. This differed from what Ashley was used to since 4-H focuses greatly on hands-on learning. Because this was a service trip, her group brought in materials to enrich the educational environment in the Haitian classroom.

Nigerien culture encouraged Ashley to examine a common stereotype about African people: “People say that in Africa everyone is poor because they don’t work—but in reality, they don’t need to spend as much so they don’t need to work as much as us. They don’t need McDonald’s once a week and movie nights with friends. This really helped me think about if the things I own are necessary!” Since then, Ashley has adapted “Africa time” which grants her the freedom to really enjoy her day by not booking one thing after another. If something runs late, she knows she doesn’t have to worry about rushing to the next thing.

Experiencing various cultures has made Ashley change some ways in her own lifestyle. “From the number of clothes in my closet to the way I prepare my food, I’ve made so many changes across my time from each of these trips.” It has also made her more aware of cultural differences and has enriched her life by allowing her to empathize with and understand those with different backgrounds who experience daily cultural barriers. Ultimately, that is the goal of any global experience. Understanding that we are not all alike and that we each possess a different cultural background paves the way and contributes to a greater, more compassionate, livable global society.

“Travel, travel, travel. Even if it’s just the neighboring county, you could learn something new!”

To be featured in our newsletter, share your story! E-mail: youth_rachelw@iastate.edu | Social Media: #Iowa4HGlobal
Any questions, comments, or ideas regarding events, global citizenship or stories: share with me today!