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!

Now that Halloween is over, our minds almost immediately start dreaming of all the holiday happenings that will soon begin. It’s a wondrous time of the year with Thanksgiving and Christmas festivities abounding with joy, family and peace. While the majority of children and families in the United States celebrate Christmas, several families around the world participate in holiday festivities that are much different than what we may be used to. Here are some suggestions to help you get started:

- **Hanukkah** is a Jewish celebration in the winter months that lasts for eight days. On each night, candles on the Hanukkah menorah are lit and gifts are passed around. Many may recognize the game of spinning the dreidel.
- **Kwanzaa** is an African American celebration featuring symbols for each of the seven days to represent the key principles: faith, collectivism, unity, self-determination, cooperative economics, purpose and creativity.
- **Chinese New Year** is typically celebrated by the Asian community and is a time to celebrate the past year’s success and wish for a prosperous year to come.

Check out the Global Citizenship webpage for more ways to get involved as a global citizen!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 19th**

**Family Volunteer Day**

http://www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/family-volunteer-day

Look back at the October 2016 issue to discover ways that you can impact the world as a family on this day.

**December 5th**

**International Volunteer Day**

The November 2015 issue featured International Volunteer Day. Check it out!

“At the end of the day, it’s different cultures that make the world go ‘round.”

~ Samantha Fox
Tiffany Berkenes: It Takes A Village

Tiffany’s cultural lens began to take shape in her earliest years when minds are most susceptible to their surroundings. Though Tiffany’s environment consisted of predominantly white people, her parents consciously exposed her to the world beyond what she could see. They carefully selected children’s books with a global and cultural perspective to read aloud to Tiffany; even her dolls were diverse with various shades of skin color. Her family went to festivals and other cultural events to increase their exposure to diversity. Teaching interconnectedness, conversations in her childhood home often included how current events affected families around the world, including their own. Her parents also hosted and assisted individuals from various parts of the world without hesitation, including a gentleman who fled South Africa after his family was killed, women from Colombia and the Bahamas, and a group from Russia during a Peace March in Des Moines.

A cultural foundation was set in place as a result of the aforementioned experiences and soon after, she had an eye-opening revelation: “I’m part of a larger world than my immediate community.” Tiffany realized there was more to being a white American living in Iowa and, thus, began her journey as a life-long learner on the topic of global citizenship and all of its components. During her senior year at Simpson College, Tiffany sought adventure in a three-week trip to Europe, studying Theatre and Culture in Great Britain. Her passion for art history collided with European history and provided a very educational experience in a different cultural context. Many of the sites one can visit around the world were established hundreds, even thousands, of years before the United States, and therefore have a much more vast history. Tiffany believes this to be one of her favorite things about traveling.

What happens when you lack the resources to travel the world? Tiffany understands the dilemma that traveling may not be accessible to all and has many suggestions, most of which she does herself: you can read about other cultures, visit museums and art shows, take advantage of local events and festivals that celebrate heritage, even travel within the Midwest/United States – there are many cultures represented here too! Whatever you choose to do, live with curiosity and try to get up close and personal with culture: have conversations with others so that you can have a better understanding of their background and the perspective from which they stand.

Today, Tiffany strongly believes that “It Takes a Village to Raise a Child” and utilizes her cultural knowledge to be a part of that village, especially within 4-H. As a Youth Program Specialist, Tiffany hopes to help expand the reach and increase the accessibility of 4-H to all individuals.