

## **4-H Opportunities Beyond the County**

### **State 4-H activities**

#### **4-H Youth Conference**

Each summer, Iowa 4-H Youth Conference is held for youth in grades 8 through 12. This three-day conference is planned by the State 4-H Council for high school teens. Special programming will address issues of high school freshmen. Activities include speakers, workshops, mixers, dances, a banquet, community service opportunities, 4-H Animal Science ROUNDUP, and CSI: Crops. Information is made available for all youth in the spring. Ask your county Extension staff for a copy of the latest Iowa 4-H Youth Conference program. (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/StateConference/index.htm>)

#### **4-H Legislative Day**

Do you have young people in grades 7-12 who are interested in learning more about Iowa's government? Every other year, in March, counties are invited to send seven representatives to 4 H Legislative Day. The youth participate in educational seminars focusing on current events and topics, meet with their legislators, tour the Capitol or Supreme Court, and share information about their community service projects with displays in the Capitol. Contact your County Extension Office for more information about this event.

#### **State Fair**

At the Iowa State Fair held annually in Des Moines, youth can participate in several ways. They can give educational presentations, working exhibits, extemporaneous speaking, or Share-the-Fun performances. Youth also can exhibit in the 4-H building if the exhibit was selected from a county fair or county achievement show. Clothing selection and fashion revue programs are held for selected county representatives. 4-H livestock shows are held for beef, dairy, dairy goat, rabbit, sheep, swine, horses, dogs, and other small animals. Volunteer opportunities are also available for youth and adults to assist with State Fair 4-H events and activities. Contact your county Extension staff for information on participating in 4-H events at the Iowa State Fair. (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/StateFair/StateFairInfo.htm>)

#### **Technology Team**

Tech team members will gain leadership skills, learn marketable technology skills, develop a community service project using technology, experience cutting edge technology at Iowa State University including virtual reality, help develop technology training, and be a delegate to the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference. Members are selected at the same time as State Council and cannot serve on both at the same time. (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/techteam/index.html>)

### **State 4-H Council**

The State 4-H Council is a group of approximately 42 4-H members in their junior or senior year of high school. The State 4-H Council includes 8 members selected from each Extension area and two representatives from one campus 4-H Group. Duties of the State 4-H Council include: perform as an ambassador for Iowa 4-H programs; provide input regarding state 4-H and youth program issues; help plan and execute state events such as Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and State Fair; and generate enthusiasm and involvement of 4-H'ers in leadership opportunities at the state level. Members of the State 4-H Council have received special training to serve as ambassadors for the Iowa 4-H program, complementing efforts at the area, county, and local level. The purpose of the ambassador program is to stimulate interest in current 4-H opportunities plus increase awareness of Iowa 4-H programs to groups and persons outside our organization. The Iowa 4-H ambassadors are available to organize and support National 4-H Week promotional efforts, for speaking engagements at local or county 4-H events, as well as civic organizations, club and county officer training workshops and to promote 4-H via radio, TV, and newspaper.

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/statecouncil/index.htm>

### **Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)**

Citizenship Washington Focus is a 4-H leadership program for high school youth. For seven weeks of the summer, delegations of 14-19 year-olds from across the country attend this 6 day program at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, located just outside Washington, D.C. The program is aimed at enriching young people's lives by broadening their appreciation and respect for themselves and others in the world. Participants attend workshops, committees, field trips and social events, giving them hands-on opportunities to learn and grow. They learn and practice skills that will make them better citizens and more successful individuals. This program supplements the ongoing 4-H citizenship education programs and stimulates youth to search for solutions to contemporary issues, practice leadership skills, and become more meaningfully involved with 4-H and community programs when they return home. Youth will meet with Iowa legislators on Capitol Hill to expand their understanding of government issues. Participants are selected on the county level. To learn more about CWF, go to

<http://www.4hcwf.org/>

### **National 4-H Conference**

The purpose of this conference is to give 4-H'ers a meaningful involvement in program development. Through discussions and sharing of ideas, delegates develop recommendations on pre-selected topics. It is held during the spring at the National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, Maryland. From our state, 4 youth and 2 adults go each year. They are selected from an area application and interview process held in March. Anyone in grades 9-11 may apply. *A person may attend only once.*

### **National 4-H Congress**

Participants have an opportunity to interact with 4-H'ers from other states and develop leadership skills. Recreational, social, and cultural activities add to the fun trip: 22-26 Iowa delegates are selected from an area application and interview process held in March. Anyone in grades 10-11 at the time of application may participate. *A person may attend only once.*

### **National 4-H Dairy Conference**

*High school age youth enrolled in the 4-H dairy project are eligible to apply for this award trip* held in early October in Madison, Wisconsin. Highlights include World Dairy Expo, ABS, Dairy Shrine Museum, Hoard's Dairy Farm, and Hoard's Dairyman tours. Delegates participate from all over the U.S. and Canada.

### **Scholarships**

Some counties offer financial assistance to 4-H members applying to attend 4-H camps, Iowa 4-H Youth Conference, or special workshops. Contact your county office of ISU Extension to find out what's available. The 4-H Foundation also offers scholarships.

As you can see, there are lots of activities for 4-H members, in project areas as well as in citizenship and leadership development. The more you can encourage your members to participate in these activities, the more they will gain from their 4-H experience.