The theme for this year’s conference is “Dare to Discover.” What is the importance of this theme?

Everyone has different talents and interests, and each person needs to explore and discover his/her own strengths and share them with others. At the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference each delegate will have the chance to discover what excites them, whether learning more about themselves in a workshop to become more prepared for the future or serving the community to create success locally. They will also learn skills to take back to their own communities in discussion groups and activities improving leadership.

When is the 2015 conference being held?

It will be June 30-July 2 on the ISU campus. It will be three days and two nights of fun, excitement, meeting new friends, learning from college faculty in hands-on experiences, working in community service projects, and learning new ideas that they can take back and share with their community and clubs later on.

Who organizes the Conference?

The conference is organized by the State 4-H Council in cooperation with the State 4-H Youth Development staff. This council is comprised of high school 4-H members from various counties throughout Iowa. The Council organizes every aspect of the conference and our goal is to provide conference delegates with a fun and worthwhile experience.

Who can be involved in the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference?

All Iowa teens that have completed 8th through 12th grades are eligible to attend. The conference is open to all youth, not only 4-H’ers. The State 4-H Council felt that the workshops offered would be of interest to all teens in Iowa, so that is the reason for the open invitation. If someone is not a 4-H member and wants to attend, they should contact their county extension office for registration materials or go to the conference website, http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/iowa4hyouthconference for registration materials.

Can I go if I’m not in 4-H?

Everyone is welcome at the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference who is between entering and exiting high school. So, bring a friend! But all who attend need to notify and pay through the local county extension office so that the appropriate number of chaperones are provided. The goal is 1,000 delegates.

As an Iowa teen, what will I gain by going to Conference?

You will learn a lot about everything...including yourself! You will meet people from all over the state who have the common interest of 4-H but have approached their projects in all different ways. The delegation will also be involved in community-wide service projects to give them ideas of similar projects they could do back in their home counties. But all work and no play is not fun, so we make sure to include plenty of fun activities! You will dance, bowl, play games, and have a great time learning new ideas to take back to your community.

Where do participants stay?

The Iowa State University campus becomes the delegates’ home for three days. They will be staying in the old RCA residence halls, eating in the Conversations dining center in Oak-Elm and having sessions in C.Y. Stephens Auditorium, workshops in the various buildings on campus and finally the banquet, dance, and game night in Hilton Coliseum. The conference really becomes a great opportunity for Iowa teens to become familiar with the ISU campus and some of the faculty to help them in making college choice decisions.