



Date: September 10, 2008
To: Extension Faculty and Staff involved in 4-H Youth Development Programming
From: Kirk A. Astroth, Assistant Director, 4-H Youth Development
Re: National 4-H Conference
Dates: March 28 – April 2, 2009
Location: National 4-H Youth Conference Center, Chevy Chase, MD

The National 4-H Conference is the Secretary of Agriculture's *premier youth development opportunity* to engage youth in developing recommendations for the 4-H Youth Development Program. The National 4-H Conference is a working conference in which youth and adults--at the invitation of the Secretary of Agriculture--assist in the development of recommendations to help guide 4-H Youth Development Programs nationally and in their communities. This event brings together youth, volunteer leaders, and state and county Extension staff members from across the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the Canadian Provinces. I encourage you to identify key 4-H members in your county who could benefit from this high-quality event.

National 4-H Conference is a **working conference** - and the work begins before delegates arrive to the conference. Delegates should be well informed about their local 4-H program, local/state 4-H demographics, 4-H programming within the state, the role of Cooperative Extension and the land-grant university in 4-H, and most importantly, the basic history and structure of 4-H.

Enclosed are copies of application materials for youth and adults to participate in National 4-H Conference. At least 3 and not more than 5 youth will be selected, along with one adult chaperone. The selection of National 4-H Conference delegates will be based on the following application packet list below:

- Letter of Interest (1 page maximum)
- Application (1 page)
- 3-5 minute video presentation addressing the following topic: **"From your perspective, what are the major issues facing young people in your community and what can 4-H do address these issues?"** You must include a CD, DVD, flash drive or you can post a video on YouTube and provide the direct link to the video for viewing. If you choose to post a video on YouTube, it must be posted by December 10, 2008 and must remain until December 24, 2008.
- Letter of recommendation from your county Extension agent.

Criteria for Delegate selection:

- Commitment to work prior to Conference in collecting facts, ideas, etc. of local people regarding concerns of youth
- Experience and involvement in local, county, or state developmental committees, advisory groups, councils, etc.
- Commitment to work following the Conference, applying your new skills and knowledge in your community
- Flexibility to meet changing situations, have growth potential and a curiosity about situations, people and events
- Evident capacity to cope with ambiguity and change
- Concern about issues and involved in deciding to solve the problems and move forward with solutions
- Strong interpersonal skills

DEADLINE for applications to the Arizona 4-H Office Wednesday, December 10, 2008.

Applications may be found at: <http://ag.arizona.edu/4-h/events.html#2>

The total cost of National 4-H Conference is approximately \$1,800, of which there is a travel stipend of \$1,000 from the Arizona 4-H Foundation. Each selected youth delegate must pay a \$ 800 Deposit, in order to attend. In addition each selected youth delegate will need to bring out of pocket expenses of up to \$100 for non-conference meals, local transportation, sightseeing, etc.

Questions about registration: Please call or email Tina Christianson at (520) 621-5316 or tachrist@cals.arizona.edu

Questions about travel, lodging or meals: Please call or email Sandra Saad at (520) 626-4086 or ssaad@ag.arizona.edu

Enc: Applications

Arizona 4-H National Conference Timeline for Arizona 4-H Office

- December 10, 2008 - Youth and Chaperone Arizona application packet due
- January 16, 2009 – National Forms and \$800 deposit due from selected delegates
- January 17 – February 13, 2009 – Partial refund of participant funds
- February 13, 2009 – No refunds available after this date
- March 28 – April 2, 2009 – Delegates attend National 4-H Conference

