

# Youths to help plan 4-H's future

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 300 youths and adults will come to Washington, April 9-15, to exchange views and help chart directions the nation's 4-H program will take in the years ahead.

Delegates participating in the 53rd National 4-H Conference at the National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, Md., will represent 5 million youths and some 600,000 4-H volunteer leaders.

"Delegates will meet in groups to discuss a broad range of topics before they make their recommendations on programs 4-H will emphasize in the future," said Eugene Williams, deputy administrator for 4-H youth programs in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Extension Service.

Williams said the agenda centers around this year's national theme—"4-H Pathways to the Future."

Allen A. Schmieder will make the keynote address on the first full day of the conference. He is the director for National Teachers Center Programs at the U. S. Department of Education.

Delegates will include teenage 4-H youths, adult volunteer leaders and Cooperative Extension Service staff members from 46 states,

Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. As part of 4-H's international exchange efforts, delegates from Canada will participate.

Williams said the delegates will divide into 10 groups to analyze specific 4-H program areas and provide ideas on how to strengthen each. For example, one group will consider ways that 4-H can help create a greater awareness of agriculture in our country.

Another group will consider programs for teens which help them reinforce both their coping and communications skills.

Other topics to be explored are how to attract and use 4-H alumni in the program, 4-H and the family, intercultural programs, 4-H in urban areas, 4-H record keeping and awards, volunteer leadership

and teaching roles, 4-H camping and the development of a strong corps of 4-H ambassadors to help tell the 4-H story.

Other highlights of the week include a Thursday visit to the USDA, followed by a "4-H Day on Capitol Hill" when delegates will report on 4-H to members of Congress and watch lawmakers in action.

Cultural events of the week include theater and dance performances and a "night bus" view of Washington.

"After the conference ends," Williams said, "the 4-H members and leaders will return to their communities and tell the people back home about the work they did and what it can mean to local groups." Their recommendations will be studied closely at USDA.

# Physician deficiencies

(Continued from Page B26)

## Doctor Deprived

Various medical universities have recognized the need to place physicians in what has been termed "doctor deprived" areas. Temple Medical University in Philadelphia, for instance, has a list of 22 counties from which they have enrollment of only two or less medical students. According to Dr. Moses Williams, director of admissions, students applying to medical school from these counties get two extra points on their applications (Temple's entire application is based on a point system).

According to the Economic Research Service report, a physician requires about 8,250 patient visits per year at an average fee of \$18 to cover such

overhead as facilities, equipment, labor, insurance and supplies, as well as a reasonable income. This "reasonable" income, as reported by the communications division of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, is a national average annual net of \$93,000 while practice expenses averaged \$74,000 annually.

## Nonphysician Counties

USDA's Farmlines reports that most of the nonphysician counties mentioned earlier are located in 27 states. Most are found in a narrow band from Texas through western Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota. Texas leads with 22 nonphysician counties, but South Dakota has the highest percentage — 30 percent of its counties are without a doctor.



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