

Conference delegates to plan 4-H future

WASHINGTON — More than 350 young people and adults will come to Washington April 7-13 to exchange views and help chart directions the nation's 4-H program will take in the years ahead.

Delegates taking part in the 54th National 4-H Conference at the National 4-H Center, 7100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, Md., will represent some 5 million youth and about 600,000 4-H volunteer leaders.

"Delegates will meet in consulting groups to discuss a broad range of topics before they make their recommendations on programs 4-H will emphasize in the future," said Allan Smith, director of this year's conference and a national 4-H program leader with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Extension Service.

Smith said the agenda centers around this year's national theme — "4-H: Building on Experience."

Delegates will include teenage 4-H youth, adult volunteer leaders, and Cooperative Extension Service staff members from 48 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Through 4-H's international exchange efforts, 11 delegates from Canada will take part.

William C. Holloway, R11, York, will be among those attending the conference. Holloway will participate as a volunteer leader.

Holloway has been a 4-H leader for 25 years and has been involved in 4-H since he was 10 years old. He has chaperoned winning 4-H livestock teams to the national contest and has received various awards for his projects.

While in Washington, Holloway will be part of the consulting group on fundraising and donor programs and will be a member of the operations committee on hospitality.

Mike Welsh, R1, East Berlin, will also be a delegate. Welsh will be a member of the consulting group called "Keeping Adults High on 4-H," and the operations committee on assemblies.

Welsh has been a 4-H member for nine years, has participated in the club for the handicapped, and has served as an adult 4-H leathercraft leader.

Smith said all delegates will divide into groups to analyze 14 specific 4-H program areas and provide ideas on how to strengthen each. For example, one unique group will take part in intensive training in communications and public relations, as they prepare to serve as national 4-H ambassadors at events across the country. This

will be the first such team of youth to do so.

Another group will consider new food and fitness programs for youth and ways to help expand opportunities for 4-H members in this growing area of interest.

Other topics to be explored are electronic technology and computers; 4-H career awareness; 4-H and international development; peer pressure on alcohol and drugs; and, agriculture and its importance to teens.

Other highlights of this planning

conference week include a Thursday, April 12, visit to the USDA, followed by a "4-H Day on Capitol Hill" when delegates will report about 4-H to members of Congress and watch lawmakers in action.

Cultural events of the week include a theater performance, an evening program by the Maryland 4-H Performing Arts group, and a "night view" bus tour of Washington.

"After the conference ends," Smith 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, and by a policy-setting group of the

Cooperative Extension Service.

The annual conference is conducted by USDA's Extension Service, in cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service of the nation's land-grant universities and colleges, and the National 4-H Council.

Baby beef club meets

The New Holland Baby Beef Club met on Tuesday, March 20, 1984 at the Sperry New Holland building.

The 4-H Leaders gave reports and reminded members to work with their steers as much as possible as the warmer weather approaches.

Mike Phautze gave a slide

presentation of his FFA trip to Japan, where he spent three months living with a Japanese farm family. He talked of culture shock, different foods, and how the Japanese family made their living from a 1½ acre farm lot.

The next meeting will be held on April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sperry New Holland building.

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