

# Youth Learn About Legislation At Citizen Washington Focus

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**BOILING SPRINGS** (Cumberland Co.) — This past summer, Diane Myers of Boiling Springs had a wonderful opportunity to learn more about legislation and government at the national level. She represented Cumberland County at Citizen Washington Focus in Washington, D.C. Youth ages 15-18 from all across the nation stayed at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, to participate in the program.

The week of July 12 to 18 was filled with experiences simulating that of government. They experienced a political campaign in "Dotville," a fictitious city which they represented. Three leaders represented one dot in the government here. They were divided into three groups: blue, green, and red.

The "green dots" tried to pass a bill on the topic of The Environment at Risk. They tried to pass a bill using ethanol instead of gasoline. Their bill didn't pass. The team that did win was proposing to build a park. They voted on these issues and bills that were presented at a city meeting. Much time was spent to prepare the bills and debates.

Part of their experience was to try to meet with a legislator. Diane met with Kimberly Strycharz, a legislative assistant. Diane was impressed with the fact that they had six college students working there.

Diane's favorite part of the experience was voting night. She was on the voting committee. She enjoyed registering about 30 people and taught them to use a voting machine.

The youth from across the

country who attended this also had quite a sampling of culture. Delegates from Pennsylvania stayed in Gettysburg the first day to get to know each other and to tour the battlefield and see the electric map.

In her two days of free time, Diane visited the Hard Rock Cafe in Washington, as well as the Smithsonian. Another day was spent at the Washington Zoo which she defined as "pretty fun." She was mainly impressed with the white tiger at the zoo.

The amount of sight-seeing and culture they saw for one week was impressive. They listened to a jazz band while lunching at the Kennedy Center. They saw a night-time view of Washington D.C., including the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials. Union Station was another favorite with its big mall and old train station. They had opportunities to create their own culture. The group had an "Expressive Arts Show," which gave the youth a chance to share their talents. Damon Fisher from Pennsylvania played an impressive "Fast Blues in B Flat" with his trombone.

Back at home, Diane is a senior at Boiling Springs High School. She is the daughter of Richard and Ethel Myers. Diane has a brother Mark, age 13, and two sisters, Diane enjoys 4-H and is active with three clubs. She is a member of the Conodoguinet Sheep Club where she has had the opportunity to breed and show sheep at the Farm Show.

She's also a member of the Flying Fingers 4-H Club and a quilt



Diane Myers reviews pictures of her trip to Citizen Washington Focus.

club. She's a news reporter for County Council and plays tenor sax for the band. She's the alternate dairy princess for Cumberland County.

Diane is looking at a two-year college after high school. Her main impression of government

— as a result of her experience this past summer — is that she doesn't want to be involved at the national level. She understands now why it takes so long for something to happen. Overall, she thinks it's a "really great thing to do in 4-H!"

## Estate Planning Workshop

**WEST CHESTER** (Chester Co.) — Estate planning is not a simple process. A death is a traumatic event for most families. Most people need an adjustment period prior to coping with the reality of death. While this period runs its course, surviving family members may be distracted and have difficulty dealing with business and personal problems. The Estate Planning Workshop, sponsored by Chester County Coopera-

tive Extension will be held on Mondays, November 16, 23 and 30, 7:00-10:00 p.m., West Chester Borough Hall, 401 E. Gay Street, West Chester.

The registration fee of \$25 (individual or couple) is due before the deadline date of November 8. For further information, contact the Chester County Cooperative Extension, 235 W. Market Street, West Chester, 19382; 215-696-3500.

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