

# Training For a Great Year

As one can imagine, the gathering of 11 newly-appointed Alberta 4-H Ambassadors with four of 2010's Alberta 4-H's Ambassadors makes for a very exceptional weekend. May 7 to 8 afforded just that, where everyone involved excels at communication, is confident in their skills as a leader, is keen to learn and has a strong zeal for the 4-H program.



“Being named an Ambassador is a huge honour, and so in addition, to have the added benefit of getting to work alongside one another for the next two years is pretty amazing,” commented Stacy Woywitka, 2011 Ambassador for the Northwest region. “The 4-H program provides so many opportunities for networking and meeting like-minded people, and the Ambassador program is no exception.”

Bruce Banks, Chief Executive Officer of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta, took to the stage first, versing Ambassadors in the role that 4-H's sponsors play in terms of program creation and support, and the importance of saying “thank you.” Ambassadors were eager to hear that they would be called on to represent the program at various events involving corporate partners so that they could extend their thanks to sponsors in person.

Tori White, Student Enrolment Officer with Olds College, was up next, presenting social networking tips and tricks to the Ambassador group on how to successfully market the 4-H program in various situations. She also outlined etiquette when networking, effective communication, and making yourself approachable.

“What we learned from Tori was useful not only as an Ambassador, but also for our personal lives, as many of us will be moving out next year and attending post-secondary. This type of training helps us to know how to put our best selves forward when interacting with others,” said Ryan Gauthier, second-year Ambassador for the Peace region.

Communications and media was covered next, with Ambassadors being assigned various scenarios where they were being questioned on aspects of 4-H; the challenge was to present back to the group how each scenario would have been handled using appropriate communication techniques. Not even stopping to catch a breath, Ambassadors next launched into planning for the 2012 Senior Members' Conference, a winter program where senior-aged 4-H members are invited for a weekend of learning about finances, survival tips for post secondary, healthy eating and resume and job prep.



After a long day of brainstorming and learning, the Ambassadors broke for dinner, and then headed into Wetaskiwin for bowling, which seemed to be the perfect way to expend all of that energy that was built up from sitting all day. Sunday morning's session mapped out the Ambassadors upcoming year, with all of the provincial and regional events and programs that they would be required at being presented and signed up for, according to what aligns best with Ambassadors' interests and schedules. After paperwork had been addressed and closing remarks had been made, Ambassadors parted ways, anticipating the next time their paths would cross one another's.

4-H Ambassadors exemplify the leadership, communication and personal development skills for which Alberta's 4-H program is recognized. Their role is to promote 4-H to members and non-members.

Presenting Partner for Ambassador Training is Encana; Partner Supporters are Agrium and the Government of Alberta. Partner Host is the Alberta 4-H Centre.

