

Key Members find their Destination at Training Program

BY Ted Andrew, *Summer Communications and Marketing Assistant*

Alberta 4-H prides itself on creating leaders out of driven, knowledgeable and energetic youth. One of the ways that 4-H does this is with the Key Member program.



Key Members are senior 4-H members who want to give back to 4-H at the club and district level. Their skills obtained through 4-H are now going to be utilized through helping their local members in the year to come. Workshops, planning fun activities, and helping out wherever needed are some of the things Key Members can expect to do this year.

“I wanted to be a Key Member because I really love 4-H,” says Jenna Crown, Lethbridge 4-H District Key Member, when asked about why she took on the Key Member role.

To help prepare for their busy year ahead, Key Members headed to Vermilion for the annual training workshop, held on August 20-22 at Lakeland College.



“Key Member Training is an opportunity for Key Members to meet fellow Key Members from across the province,” says Leila Hickman, 4-H Specialist and Key Member program coordinator, “as well as create a work plan for their district.”

Throughout the weekend, delegates stayed on the Lakeland College campus and learned many different strategies that will help them to become effective Key Members. Some of the sessions that Key Members participated in focused on planning workshops, working with local media, and making important network connections. After participating in these valuable sessions, members left the program feeling more prepared, invigorated and excited to be Key Members.

Also throughout the weekend there were many fun challenges that helped Key Members with their teamwork and decision making skills. Whether it was completing a task in the Lakeland College corn maze or tackling clues in Saturday night’s “Amazing Race: 4-H Style” challenge, members’ skills were tested and leadership capacities were enhanced.

“I have a lot of confidence now in my ability to be a Key Member, and this weekend insures that I’m ready to take the role for my district,” says Jenna.



Be on the lookout for the Alberta Key Members as they ensure the successful exchange of information between club members, leaders, district councils and their surrounding community.

Presenting Partner for the Key Member program is Encana Corporation. Partner Supporters are Agrium Inc. and Government of Alberta. Partner Host is Lakeland College.