

4-H Members Learn How to “Take the Helm’ at LTCS 2010



The summer means one thing for 4-H members throughout the province: camps. Whether it's regional or provincial, members are excited and ready to learn new skills, create and rekindle friendships, and make a ton of new memories. Instrumental to this camp experience are the summer program staff and counselors, and at the Leadership Through Counselling Seminar (LTCS), 4-H members learn how to make summer camping programs a memorable experience for all delegates.

LTCS is a program designed to provide members, ages 15 and up, the opportunity to expand on their leadership skills. “LTCS is an intensive training program for future counselors,” explains Mark Shand, Alberta 4-H Program Specialist. “This training helps to continue their experience as they can pass along their enthusiasm for the 4-H Program and its summer programs.” 4-H members who attend LTCS have the chance to counsel at many different 4-H programs throughout the summer.

Most teenagers likely wouldn't jump at the chance to spend a week working with children who are energetic, excited and don't always pay attention. But delegates at LTCS willingly accept the challenge.

“I remember coming to these camps and seeing all of the counselors and thinking, ‘I want to be one,’” says Austin Reimer, a delegate of LTCS and soon-to-be counselor.

The way LTCS is designed gives delegates the chance to organize and schedule the program. Each group is given a certain activity, such as beach time, final dance, or talent show to plan. Throughout the week put on their activity for their fellow delegates to participate in to show what planning goes into a program. Through hands-on learning, everyone is given the chance to learn about and evaluate the different activities that makes an entire program enjoyable and effective.



LTCS also gives future counselors the tools they need to lead different interest sessions. From archery to dance to canoeing, they learn how to teach activities involving these skills. LTCS delegates also participate in a number of different self-development sessions such as behaviour management, first aid and working with youth that prepares them for their role as a summer camp counselor.

Throughout the program, delegates like Kendra Rawluk from Loughheed see the benefits of LTCS. “This program gives me the opportunity to improve my leadership skills and learn how to better communicate with members and show them how to have fun. It also helps me learn how to become more of a positive role model in their lives.”

As the delegates of LTCS learn, plan and prepare for their counselling opportunities, they become just as excited to counsel camp as younger members are to experience it.

Presenting Partner of Leadership Through Counselling Seminar is Penn West Energy, and Partner Supporters are Agrium, Farm Credit Canada, Government of Alberta, Monsanto, Olds College, and Peavey Mart. Program Friend is the Canadian Wheat Board and Program Donor is CIBC. The program is hosted by the Alberta 4-H Centre.

