

A Week of Learning for 4-Hers

While the idea of spending the long days of summer planning activities, facilitating workshops and being responsible for large groups of energetic 4-H members might seem like a daunting task, it's nothing that the 80 aspiring counselors who attended this year's Leadership Through Counseling Seminar (LTCS) weren't prepared and excited to deal with.

With this year's Summer Programs themed "Lights, Camera, Action" it was only fitting this edition of LTCS was titled "Dress rehearsal". During the week-long training seminar, delegates and newly trained counselors were given several opportunities to showcase and build on their leadership skills. Small groups of delegates were responsible for planning and orchestrating different activities throughout the week, providing everyone with the opportunity to learn to organize as well as react when things don't operate as smoothly possible. In addition, important skill-building workshops were run throughout the week to give these Alberta 4-H senior members the appropriate tools to make their summer counseling experiences a success. First aid, crises management, small group planning, all gave the group the time to rehearse what they will need to know when it comes time for them to be in the director's chair at their respective summer programs.

With numerous camps happening throughout the province, there are endless opportunities for this enthusiastic group of newly trained counselors to



test their skills, and patience! 4-H Summer Staff Coordinator Rita Marie Leask, commented, “The bases behind LTCS is to prepare this group of young adults to be positive role models and to be effective at handling any situation presented to them. It also really puts into motion the 4-H Moto of *Learn to do by Doing*”

Returning for a second year at LTCS, Nolan Sereda conveyed, “Increasing my knowledge will make me a more confident counselor. It also helps develop the skills I need and aids in finding ways to make the experience for every delegate fun and rewarding. Plus seeing the enthusiasm the younger members have for the 4-H program gives me the energy to keep going through the week”. Energy is something that is never on short supply when it comes to a group of 4-Hers.



“The highlight at the end of the week is knowing that we have helped to build a strong, secure and prepared team of counselors ready to facilitate camps throughout the province” said Emily Wall, Junior Staff member of LTCS.

Presenting Partner for LTCS is Penn West Exploration. Partner Supporters are Agrium, Farm Credit Canada, Government of Alberta, Monsanto, Olds College, and Peavey Mart. Partner Friend is the Canadian Wheat Board. Partner Donor is CIBC, and Partner Host is the Alberta 4-H Centre.