

4-H Summer Programs to Set Sail

Every year Alberta 4-H members anxiously await the summer. Why? Because they know that summer is the time when new skills are to be learned, lifetime memories are to be made and new friendships will be born. And they also know that all this can, and will, happen at 4-H summer programs. This year, members will have even more of a reason to be waiting anxiously for camp.

The overall theme for the 2010 summer program line-up is *4-H...Setting Sail!* A sailing theme really identifies what happens to 4-H members throughout their camping and program experience. Hopping on board ship as Junior members is the first action that will help them explore and give them the chance to look *Beyond the Horizon*.



The 2010 summer for Alberta 4-H will begin with the *Leadership Through Counselling Seminar (LTCS)*, which this year is themed, *“Taking the Helm.”* 4-H members ages 16 and up who are looking to expand on their leadership skills can attend this program to learn how become counsellors. Through skill building sessions and exploring different styles of leadership, communication and teamwork styles, delegates will acquire the learning necessary to help them counsel this summer. Delegates attending LTCS will have the chance to make camp exciting by planning different activities with their small group. From mini-Olympics to the final dance, delegates will play a role in helping make the program memorable. This, in turn, will help them build upon pre-existing skills and gain new knowledge.

Junior delegates (ages 9-11 years old) who are new to the summer program experience, will partake in the *“All Aboard”* themed Junior summer camping program. This captures the nature of Junior camp, as it will be their first time coming to a camp setting. Here, junior-aged members can load up their vessel and begin to have valuable experiences. Some of these experiences include campfire night, beach time and many different skill sessions



such as crafts and dance. By the end of the program, their vessel will be full of memories, new friends and skills they can start to hone.

The same way sailors have to prepare for the long trek, so do campers. For members between 10-13 years of age, they can learn how to prepare for the voyages ahead at Combined camp, which this year runs under the banner of “*Casting Off.*” Campers at this program will have an assortment of activities to help them learn to do by doing. Activities such as canoeing, archery and outdoor living, will help delegates in many voyages to come. Delegates will have the chance to share leadership roles in their small groups, co-operate with others while doing activities and, as with all 4-H programs, have fun!

Intermediate Camp is very similar to all other 4-H programs; however, it takes it up a notch. With this year’s theme of “*Raising the Sails,*” delegates are inspired to step forward and take charge in the group, in addition to expanding their teamwork skills in order to reach a common goal. These goals are achieved through a variety of skill sessions including crafts and dance. Also there are awareness sessions that will help inform the delegates on issues like the environment, farm safety, and 4-H. In *Raising the Sails* they are taking on a leadership role in preparing for a voyage of a lifetime.

In all 4-H programs there are many items shown in different ways. Delegates are taught skills, teamwork and leadership. These are the focuses of People Developing People (PDP). In this year’s theme of “*Navigating the Seas,*” delegates are given the opportunity to exhibit strong leadership skills. New this year, PDP delegates will get a choice of scenarios for the New World Ag. Forum. They will have the week to prepare and present what they will do with their scenario. Through guest speakers, awareness sessions, and working with their small groups, delegates will get the most out of the PDP program. PDP also gives delegates the chance to pick a session of their choice. They can choose from waterfront activities, arts, outdoor activities and healthy living. People Developing People puts delegates in situations where a leader must come forward, which will give individuals the chance to step up.

Club Week: a program that is hailed as many things. Some people call it the pinnacle of a 4-Her’s career. Others call it the highlight of being a 4-Her. And for some, it’s just too amazing for words. Club Week is designed to help delegates build upon strengths, recognize weaknesses, and employ skills that will help them in the future. The theme for Club Week 2010 will be *Beyond the Horizon*, challenging delegates to reflect on challenges they have faced in an effort to look *Beyond the Horizon* – their own horizon. This program focuses a lot on personal development through discussion, challenges, and personal reflection.



This will help members contemplate how they will choose to live their life. Complementing the personal development component of Club Week is a whole atmosphere designed to create new friendships, unforgettable memories and a list of new skills. During the program, delegates will be able to interact in a variety of fun activities such as Fringe Fest, Masquerade Dance and the Talent Show, all

unique to Club Week. This once in a lifetime program will make life's journey more memorable as delegates learn to look *Beyond the Horizon*.

It is the hope of the 4-H program staff that this summer will be memorable for all 4-H delegates. Not only will 4-Hers experience learning at all of these programs, but they also get the chance to meet fellow 4-Hers from across the province, as well as gain new understanding and perspective on life, and have a lot of fun while doing it. To keep all people updated during the summer, the 4-H summer staff will be blogging of all their exploits for the coming months. Be sure to check out the 4-H website at www.4h.ab.ca and click on "Summer Staff Stuff."

For all those 4-H members coming to camp this year, get ready for *Setting Sail*!