



Frequently Asked Question and Answers:

Deadline to register will be TBA December 2016

Citizenship Washington Focus extended trip: June 24 to July 5, 2017

What is Washington Focus?

Washington Focus is a unique 4-H Citizenship educational experience that combines hands-on participation in workshops, debates, and simulations with outstanding speakers and visits to historical, cultural, and governmental sites. The nation's capital, Washington, D.C, becomes a "living classroom" for this week-long, action-packed experience.

What will the delegates have the opportunity to do?

Delegates travel to the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland to participate in the Citizenship Washington Focus Program. Delegates learn about the democratic process and their role as citizens while they experience our nation's capital. They get an inside look at how government works from prominent guest speakers. They write bills, discuss a current issue facing our nation, and conduct mock elections, and congressional sessions that prepare them for leadership now and in the future.

Will the delegates get to meet with legislators?

Legislative appointments at the Capitol allow delegates to meet face-to-face with their Congress member to discuss current issues, learn how proposals are funded, and advocate for issues critical to them and their fellow constituents.

Where will the events be held?

The National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland is the site for the Citizenship Washington Focus Program. The action-packed educational program includes time for fun and making new friends from across the national through organized recreational activities, a cultural event at a local theater, and a dance.

How do we pay for this conference?

Delegates pay for themselves. Clubs, councils or delegates may establish fundraising activities with the permission of the County Director to help offset costs. Fees are set through the state 4-H offices.

Who travels with the members?

Adult chaperones are needed from each county to ensure the needs of the youth are met. Potential chaperones should meet with their county 4-H program offices to apply to become a chaperone. Chaperones must be committed to travel and stay with the youth.

Citizenship Washington Focus is a year-long program, beginning with registration in December and online orientation in March. County delegations are expected to complete a study guide and prepare thoroughly for their Citizenship Washington Focus program. During their participation in the program, all county delegations develop and carry out a service-learning plan of action to address a current issue in their community. A final report on their service project is due September 15 of the year they travel.

Delegate Criteria:

- Must be an enrolled 4-H member and be 15 years of age or older at time of travel

Program Objectives:

- Witness U.S. government in action.
- Participate in the legislative processes.
- Learn how to communicate with government officials.
- Learn to take an active role in government.
- Develop a plan of action to effect positive change in the delegates' community.
- Practice leadership skills.
- Practice skills of independent living in an interdependent situation.
- Meet and share ideas with young people from diverse areas and backgrounds.

Visit the state 4-H website at : http://4h.ucanr.edu/4-H_Events/WF/

Or, contact the local 4-H office at 831-759-7386

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