Fact Sheet

Speaking for Illinois 4-H Program Objectives

The purpose of the Speaking for Illinois 4-H (SFI4-H) program is to provide 4-H members with advanced skills in public presentations and etiquette to effectively promote the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Program to various audiences, including elected officials on the local, state, and national level; potential donors; and civic groups. Youth will be selected on the local level by Extension staff, and provided training on a regional or state level by the Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team.

In time, Illinois will have a cadre of experienced youth speakers available for use by local Extension offices, University of Illinois Extension administration, and Extension Partners to help promote the Illinois 4-H Youth Development Program throughout the state. (Extension Partners is a not-for-profit group that lobbies for University of Illinois Extension in the Illinois legislature.) In addition, the life skills the members gain through the training and follow-up experiences will include speaking in public, organization, civic involvement, citizenship, and leadership.

Program Implementation

Extension Units are asked to recruit high school and college youth to participate in the training program. Criteria for the youth are that they are 14 years of age or older, able to attend the training, willing to commit to speaking at future events and able to secure travel to the training and speaking events.

The next training will take place on Saturday, September 26, 2015 at the Monroe County Extension Office in Waterloo. Training will consist of a day long face-to-face session where youth will learn about the current Illinois 4-H program, Positive Youth Development, business etiquette, and public speaking techniques and spend time working on sharing their 4-H story. On-site check-in starts at 9:30 a.m.; Training goes from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (NOTE: Participants will not be allowed to enter the training room before 9:30 a.m.) Lunch will be provided. A $10 fee is required for registration. The fee covers materials and lunch costs. The links to on-line registration for each session can be located at: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/leadership_sfi4h.cfm.

Once trained, youth will be placed on an official SFI4-H roster and the names and contact information distributed to Extension staff in their area. Even if a county is unable to provide representatives from their own county for the training program, this roster would allow counties access to youth from neighboring counties to assist in contacts for state legislative purposes or other events.

Training will focus on:
- Public Presentation & Business Etiquette basics
  - Preparing Your Presentation – Purpose, Audience, Timing, Talking Points, Collecting Information
  - Interacting with Elected Officials – Local and State
  - Business Etiquette – Scheduling, Attire, Introductions

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• Current Illinois 4-H Program
  o What are the Current Enrollment Statistics throughout Illinois and Your County?
  o What are the Major Initiatives in Illinois 4-H?
  o What are the Biggest Success Stories of Illinois 4-H?
  o What are the Biggest Needs of Illinois 4-H?

• Positive Youth Development & BIG-M
  o What are PYD and BIGM and why are they important to our story?
  o What proof do we have that PYD works?

• Approaching Potential Donors

• Tying It All Together
  o What are your next steps?

Unit staff will continue to work with youth from their county following the training to prepare for visits with donors, community groups, and legislators. State 4-H Youth Leadership Team members will contact trainees throughout the year to check on progress, questions, etc. and evaluate the training process. There will also be Illinois 4-H updates related to funding issues, state and local statistics, provided by teleconference as needed.

For more information or a SFI4-H application, contact your local Extension Unit office or Deb Stocker, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development, State 4-H Office, dstocker@illinois.edu.