

Local 4-H members attend Day at the Capitol

MERRILL — Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development will celebrate 100 years of positive youth development programming with several events in 2014. Since 1914, Wisconsin 4-H has helped youths grow the leadership, critical thinking and communications skills necessary to be successful in a constantly changing world.

To kick off the Centennial year, more than 800 4-H members and volunteers went to Madison for 4-H Day at the Capitol on March 19. 4-H club members met with legislators, shared displays in the Capitol Rotunda and celebrated with a noon rally.

Four 4-H youths and adults from Lincoln County attended to discuss the positive impacts of 4-H with their local legislature members. They were Caroline Lemke, Lori Lemke, Colleen Schult and Katelyn Schult.

Katelyn, a youth member from the Hamburg Hawks 4-H Club, said about the day, "It was fun and the building was big! There were lots of people wearing 4-H shirts at the Capitol."

Her mom and club leader for the Hamburg Hawks 4-H Club said, "I



Colleen and Katelyn Schult pause during 4-H Day at the Capitol. PHOTO COURTESY DEBORAH MOELLENDORF

enjoyed seeing so many youth from around the state representing 4-H and actively learning about citizenship."

Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development will celebrate the Centennial with a few more statewide events throughout the year: April was Wisconsin 4-H Statewide Service Month; and Aug. 5 is Wisconsin 4-H Day at the State Fair. Check out <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/4h> centennial/ to learn more about the last 100 years of Wisconsin 4-H and

statewide events.

In addition to participating in these statewide events, a committee of older youths and adults has been planning for local events to celebrate. Events and projects include each 4-H club creating a club history display that are currently available for the public to view in the lower level of the Lincoln County Service Center; 4-H members and leaders are collecting stories from former 4-H members and leaders along with photos that will be publicized in a booklet; resolutions commemorating the anniversary are being forwarded to Merrill City Council and the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors at their May meetings; and a 4-H Reunion Day is being planned for August.

Several others events are being planned and information will be posted on the Lincoln County 4-H News blog at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/lincolncounty4h/> as it becomes available.

Contributed by Debbie Moellendorf, Lincoln County 4-H Youth Development educator. Contact her at 715-539-1077 for more information or if you are interested in becoming involved.