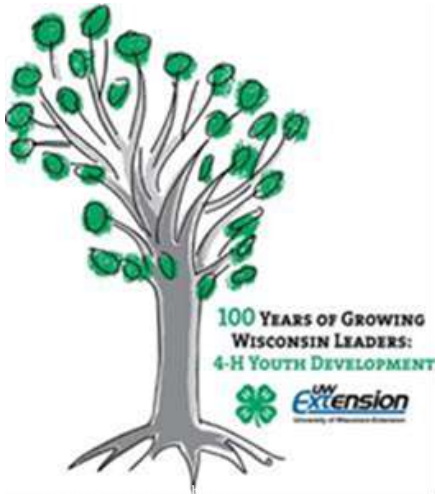


4-H Day at the Capitol

March 19, 2014



4-H Day at the Capitol is one of the statewide celebrations of 100 years of 4-H in Wisconsin. It also is an opportunity for 4-H members, volunteers and supporters to thank and inform legislators on what 4-H is about and what impact 4-H has on people involved. Your participation in 4-H Day at the Capitol, and your presence, will leave a positive impression about 4-H Youth Development throughout the Legislature. Please remember that YOU are one of the faces of 4-H Youth Development.

These legislative visits are a process where you can speak to legislators when you have something to say about an issue, a bill, or a problem that requires legislative action. Average citizens make a substantial contribution to the legislative process. Listed below are some ideas to consider before meeting with your legislators.

Wisconsin government is an open door government. The Capitol is your Capital and the Government is your Government so you have every right to walk into any office and discuss issues of concern to you. You will be impressed with the openness of our government and the willingness of most staff and most legislators to take time to be with you.

Be relaxed in your approach to legislators. They are human, very open and in most cases genuinely willing to take time to visit and listen to you. Be friendly, warm and courteous; and share your personal stories and experiences with 4-H.

Refer to legislators by appropriate title; however, many will request you to utilize their first names. Most are very informal and your conversations will be casual.

Rely upon legislative staff. Legislators depend upon them and if a legislator is not present, take the time to share information with them.

Become knowledgeable about the legislators and their districts. The more you know about them indicates your willingness to listen as well as talk. Try to appreciate their concerns and biases. Listen carefully and report the positive and negative legislative feedback.

Remember, legislators are human. They are ordinary citizens who were elected to office and they all have different family, educational, and work experiences. Don't expect legislators to be authorities. They deal with hundreds of issues each session and cannot be expected to be knowledgeable on every subject.

Have fun. Above all, relax and enjoy yourself. If this is your first experience meeting with legislators, talk to others for reassurances. This will be an enjoyable and educational experience. 4-H Day at the Capitol is the collective effort of your individual experiences and each of you will contribute to its success.