



# National 4-H History Preservation Program

**June 2015, Newsletter**  
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## June Dates in 4-H History

June is a busy month for 4-H'ers and we've found that it is also an important month in the history of the program. This month's dates cover a 95-year span as well as a wide variety of happenings. (Listed by June date, not by year.)

**June 6, 1945:** Congress passes the Bankhead-Flanagan Act which recognized 4-H by name and authorized nearly \$8 million of a total appropriation of \$12 million for furthering 4-H club work.

**June 16, 1927:** First National 4-H Camp is held (June 16-23) on the grounds of the Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC.

**June 16, 1927:** State 4-H Leaders adopts the National 4-H Pledge and the 4-H Motto at the first National 4-H Club Camp.

**June 19, 1956:** Ford Foundation approves a grant of nearly half a million dollars as the first major contribution to develop National 4-H Club Center.

**June 21, 1955:** President Dwight D. Eisenhower addresses the National 4-H Conference delegates in the Rose Garden at the White House.

**June 21, 1989:** Tennessee Dining Room at National 4-H Center is dedicated.

**June 30, 1914:** Margaret Lofgren, of Ulen, Minnesota, as the first champion bread-baker in the history of 4-H, meets President Woodrow Wilson at the White House.

**June 30, 2009:** The National 4-H Heritage Tree, a red oak, is planted on the National 4-H Center campus by charter members of the National 4-H Heritage Club.



## National 4-H Camp Comes to D.C.

National 4-H Camp, an annual event since 1927, was held in Washington, DC 26 times before being replaced by National 4-H Conference in 1957; no 4-H Camps held during World War II.

For those 26 years, National 4-H Camp made an indelible impression on the countless youth who participated in the event and experienced the speeches by national leaders, field trips to nationally significant sites, and camaraderie among participants that made it a much anticipated yearly tradition by 4-H members and leaders from around the country. The sitting Presidents and First Ladies often visited the camp site and talked with the delegates or 4-H'ers visited the President at the White House.

The annual "tent city" of the 4-H'ers on the National Mall, next to the USDA Administration building and in the shadow of the Washington Monument, could not help but be noticed by Washington, DC residents and visitors, alike, including the Representatives and Senators. It was most definitely a high visibility event.

The complete history of the National 4-H Camp is posted on the 4-H History Preservation website at: [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/4-H\\_Camp/](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/4-H_Camp/)

Continuing the tradition, President Barack Obama met with eight 4-H members in the White House during this year's National 4-H Conference.



### National 4-H Center Becomes a Reality

June 16, 1959 is a date etched high up on the calendar of 4-H history. It was on that day that President Dwight D. Eisenhower stepped onto the portico of then-Smith Hall and cut the green and white ribbons hanging between the two center pillars, officially opening the National 4-H Club Center.

He had just finished addressing an audience of more than 800 people, including delegates and leaders attending the 29th National 4-H Club Conference, at which time he said, "I am here just because I like the 4-H'ers."

"...because they are dedicated to do things better. As long as we have young people of these characteristics, devoted with their hearts and their heads and their hands and their health to doing these things, America cannot be anything but successful."

The President was assisted in cutting the ribbon by Anita Hollimer, 4-H member from New York, and Larry Dilda, 4-H member from North Carolina. Miss

Hollimer presided during the morning ceremony and Dilda gave the invocation.

For a history of the National 4-H Center, including more information on the ribbon-cutting, visit [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/4-H\\_Center/](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History/4-H_Center/)

### It's Not Too Late to Attend "2015 FilmFest 4-H"

The fifth annual "FilmFest 4-H" takes place June 14-17, in St. Louis, Missouri. Even though it's very close time-wise, it's not too late to participate. Workshops include such topics as prop creation, life as a working actor in Hollywood, improvisation techniques, production success, and much more.

"FilmFest presenters are all involved in different parts of the film industry," said Bradd Anderson, a Youth Development Specialist with Missouri 4-H, which produces this national 4-H film festival with the Missouri Film Office. "If you're a creative person between the ages of 11 and 18, it's a chance to meet the professionals and learn how to do amazing things on a teenager's budget

Participants also have the opportunity to have a meeting with the presenters, visiting one-on-one to ask questions and receive personalized advice. Equally exciting is the chance to connect with new friends, who share their technical and artistic interests. "FilmFest 4-H" also features screenings of films made by teen filmmakers, many of whom attend the festival.



2014 "Filmfest 4-H" participants take a break.

Categories for films are Narrative, Animation, Documentary, Promotional and "Voices of 4-H History." Prizes are awarded to the top films in each category. The National 4-H History Preservation Program helps sponsor the festival and awards prize money to winners in the "Voices of 4-H History" category.

Both youth and adults attending last year's event had this to say about their experience: "I will talk to and collaborate with some of the people I met [at FilmFest], and I'll use some of the lighting tips I learned," said a youth who travelled 17 hours to attend. "I have been inspired to create a film next year," another delegate said, "I will bring [this experience] back to educate my county." An Ohio 4-H professional colleague reported that "I was very impressed with all the speakers, both on and off-site. All were extremely respectful of these youth, referring to them as "filmmakers."

The costs to attend FilmFest 4-H include an all access pass (\$129) for each teen and one chaperone, and a hotel room (\$119/night at The Hilton St. Louis Frontenac FilmFest 4-H conference rate). Lunches are provided on Monday and Tuesday as part of the event, but participants are on their own for breakfasts and dinners.

For complete information on "2015 FilmFest 4-H," please visit <http://4h.missouri.edu/filmfest>

To receive this e-newsletter, please sign up at: <http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/Newsletter/>

## National 4-H History Map Begins to Take Shape

Nine states (MA, MD, WV, OK, SC, TN, NY, NC, NE) have identified a lead 4-H staff member to review/approve historically significant 4-H sites being nominated by 4-H members, leaders, alumni and staff in those states. During the month of June, these nine states will participate in conference calls to study the process of nominating, reviewing and approving 4-H sites for activation on the online National 4-H History Map.

Currently, there are only three demonstration sites on the publicly-accessible 4-H History Map/Atlas. Hopefully, the nine pilot test states will nominate a number of new sites for approval and public viewing in July. The GIS Leadership Mapping Team hopes

that 4-H'ers across the nation will put more historical 4-H locations from their communities/counties on the Map.

The 4-H Geospatial team that designed and is implementing the 4-H History Map/Atlas, will be demonstrating it at ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute) International Education and Users Conference, in July in San Diego, attended by delegates from 120 nations.



Here's how it works and how you can get your history on the Map:

New additions will be approved and added each month. So be sure to take a look at the Map/Atlas [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History\\_Map](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History_Map) each month to see what new and interesting sites in your county/state have been added. It might give you an idea of other similar places, events or persons in your area that should be nominated.

Who can nominate a 4-H historical site?

- 4-H members or clubs;
- 4-H leaders or parents;
- 4-H or Extension Staff members;
- 4-H Alumni; and
- Anyone with knowledge of 4-H history is your area.

What kinds of things might qualify to be included in the Map/Atlas?

- The first club in your county/community;



- The county 4-H office;
- The first camp, fairgrounds 4-H Center or other building or buildings;
- The first event such as camping program, field days, judging tours, fairs; and
- The birthplace or home of the first person or people who started 4-H in your area (or a significant 4-H supporter, donor, leader, agent).

What is the process to nominate a site?

- Go to "Map Your 4-H History" on the National 4-H History Preservation web site at [http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History\\_Map](http://4-HHistoryPreservation.com/History_Map) and download and fill out the form;
- Look for supporting information such as news clippings, photographs or websites;
- Check the information with others in your area to make sure address and information are all correct; and
- Enter the information on the form electronically and submit it.

Pilot testers have recommend printing out the nomination form. Then use the form to think about the most interesting 4-H site in your area and fill in the blanks on the nomination form. The nominator might need to confirm or verify the correct address for the historical site.

If you can find a historical photo or take a current one that helps tell the story it should be attached to the nomination. If there is a web site that provides additional or in-depth information about the nominated site, it should also be included

The 4-H approver in the state where the nominated site is located will test and verify that the provided photographs and websites are operational and relevant. Contact information for the site nominator assures that the reviewer/approver has someone to contact to verify and clarify the information contained in the nomination. Once the nomination form is complete, go back to the "Map Your 4-H History" web site, and enter the nomination information on the site. Finally, each month, the designated 4-H History Map reviewer/approver checks in to see if there are any new nominations that have been submitted for review and approval.

The National 4-H History Map/Atlas will continue to grow with your nomination of historical sites in your area. Imagine a cross-country tour hitting 4-H History locations! What better way to learn of 4-H History!



In 1959, Iowa 4-H'ers travelled by bus for an exchange program with Kentucky 4-H. Since the National 4-H Center had just been opened they decided to keep going to see what was there and asked 4-H Center staff to plan a program for them. And the rest, as they say, is history. That trip resulted in the development of Citizenship Short Course (CSC) as it was called until the early 1970s when it was renamed Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF).

### **Hands On 4-H History** *Traveling with 4-H*

Going to new places through 4-H was a highlight 70 years ago just as it is today. Through 4-H trips, members visit new places and meet other 4-H members who may be from a different county or state. The June 1945 issue of National 4-H Club News mentions a number of 4-H travel opportunities.

Camp is one of the first trips that young 4-H members take. In that year, Vermont was raising funds to establish two or three regional 4-H camps. The 4-H clubs in each of the 11 counties were asked to contribute \$20 toward this effort. Louisiana had scheduled 10 camps during their 23 years of camping, and Montana planned 15 camps to serve their 21 counties.

An article by Dr. Clarence Smith, early Chief of Cooperative Extension at USDA, extolled the importance of trips to state and national events like 4-H Club Congress and National 4-H Club Camp (now National 4-H Conference). However, he noted that trips and scholarships are subordinate to doing your best in project work. He said, "The better you do your project work, the more you give of yourself to your club and the more you bring back from adventures which come to enterprising club members."

Some states offer 4-H international travel experiences. "The thrill of a lifetime" was had by 24 Texas 4-H club boys who drove into Mexico for a 10-day tour of "Old Mexico." They were to meet with youth their age, visit demonstrations of agriculture,

tour the world's richest silver mine and visit remnants of the country's ancient past.

**Hands-On 4-H History:** There are many travel experiences that you can have in 4-H at the county, state, national or international level. Your club may not know about all of them. Have any 4-H members, leaders or parents taken a 4-H trip? Ask them to share their experiences with the club. Perhaps you can mark these on a map (see related story in this issue on the National 4-H Mapping Project). What trips are offered in your state? Ask several members to research what they are to report to the club. As Dr. Smith advised, trips are the result of good 4-H work, and the benefits to those experiences can enrich both those who travel and their fellow club members.

Having started a 4-H camping program in 1915, West Virginia is celebrating its camping centennial this year with year-long commemorative events and special camp activities. (Editor's note: An article on their activities is in the works for a coming issue of this Newsletter.)

From 1948 until recently, the National 4-H Foundation (now National 4-H Council) and USDA jointly administered the International Farm Youth Exchange – IFYE (later the International 4-H Youth Exchange). 4-H international exchanges with 19 participating states are now administered by States' 4-H International Exchange Programs, 1601 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2230, Seattle, WA 98101, 800-407-3314, [www.states4Hexchange.org](http://www.states4Hexchange.org)

"You know, if every kid in the inner cities in this country belonged to 4-H, we wouldn't have much of a crime problem..." - President **Bill Clinton** 1995

### 4-H Hijacking – A Promotion Program

*The following story is from the National Compendium of 4-H Promotion and Visibility on the National 4-H History Website at [http://4-HHistory.com/?h=4-H\\_Promotion](http://4-HHistory.com/?h=4-H_Promotion)*

Technically, this wasn't a national promotion program, but doing research on 4-H promotion history, the story was featured in the June, 1953, issue of National 4-H News, so it did get nationwide exposure. It was a creative way to teach hospitality and promote the local Georgia

4-H program at the same time. Actually, creative may not exactly be the correct word – "bizarre" might be more fitting. But, remember, this was over 60 years ago. Life was slower. Things were different.

The way the story goes: minding their own business, admiring Georgia's pine trees, cotton fields and magnolias, and looking forward to two weeks in Florida, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Brooks of Veedersburg, Indiana, were driving peacefully along US Highway 1 when a policeman's whistle frightened them to a stop near the city limits of Swainsboro, Georgia.

"What have we done wrong now?" they wondered aloud. Nothing! Emanuel county 4-H'ers just wanted to practice their good neighbor policy on them. It was Saturday and time for another good neighbor night program at the county's new \$25,000 clubhouse.



Through time, some 4-H'ers have welcomed visitors with a more subtle approach such as is depicted in this 1959 National 4-H Calendar.

Mr. and Mrs. Brooks were the nineteenth couple to be guests of the local 4-H Clubs. The youngsters, getting good neighbor training, and promoting 4-H at the same time, had hosted tourists from 10 states and Canada over the course of several

months. 4-H'ers competed to get the opportunity to play host and hostess each week. Sara Ellen Phillips, 15, and Loy Cowart, Jr., 17, were the lucky hostess and host for Mr. and Mrs. Brooks. They showed the tourists to their room, reserved in advance at a motor court, and then they began a tour of interesting local points. (Apparently, the Brooks were spending the night in Swainsboro whether they wanted to or not.)

The visitors saw 27,000 barrels of resin at the processing plant and heard explanations of other pine tree uses. They appeared on a radio program over station WJAT, and Mr. Brooks was even a disc jockey for a while. Then they toured the new hospital, saw the livestock auction barn, and took a look at some cotton gins, though Mrs. Brooks had already picked a boll of cotton for herself. And they ate steaks at a local restaurant. At the 4-H Clubhouse that night the guests received a box of Emanuel county products – canned goods, pecans and articles made by home demonstration clubsters. Other features of this regular Saturday night good neighbor event sometimes included a talent show.

For Mr. and Mrs. Brooks the whole thing was something they never expected to experience on their way to the "Sunshine State." And when they left Swainsboro after Sunday breakfast, they were probably tempted to spend the whole two weeks right there with the 4-H'ers who had been so nice to them (the article said).

Imagine if someone tried that today!

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