

WE THE PEOPLE

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Date

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Six *We the People* workshops are planned to help prepare you for the Citizenship Washington Focus conference. Delegates are expected to attend all six. Parents are always welcome at any and all sessions, but the learning is designed primarily for the delegates. At the workshops, delegates will be learning about our government, making conference plans and finding ways to engage in our local communities. These workshops will be lots of fun and will give you the chance to meet the other delegates. The workshops will focus on the learning that we need to be prepared for CWF.

Before each workshop, you will receive a *We the People* newsletter much like this one. The newsletters will act as your workshop reminder and will have lots of educational information. On occasion, you may have a short homework assignment to prepare for the next workshop. Homework will be listed in your newsletter. The main function of the *We the People* newsletters, however, is to provide you and your parents with travel tips and instructions. Travel information will be provided to everyone in writing through the newsletters so we can focus on citizenship learning at the workshops.

You and your parents can always call me with any CWF questions or concerns that you may have.

Welcome Delegate,

We are pleased to have you as one of the _____ delegates from _____ attending the Citizenship Washington Focus Conference from _____ to _____. This newsletter is the beginning of a series of communiqués to help you prepare for the learning experience of a lifetime. We know that you will find this conference to be one of the highlights of your 4-H career. From now until we leave for Washington, D.C., we will work together to prepare for this exciting experience. As a group, we will learn about civic education, participate in some service projects, do some committee work and become a team. We will also have at least six face-to-face workshops with you. We are excited to have the opportunity to travel with you and get to know you!



What Is CWF?

CWF or Citizenship Washington Focus is more ... It is more than a vacation, it is a summer **educational conference** held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center. The 4-H Center is located just minutes from downtown Washington,

D.C. The conference provides 4-H youth with opportunities to explore, develop and refine their community and civic engagement skills to be outstanding leaders in their communities. Through hands-on educational workshops and sightseeing tours in the “living

classroom” of Washington, D.C., youth learn about the history of our nation, the leaders who have shaped it and how they can apply the leadership and citizenship skills they learn during CWF when they return home. And it is FUN!

What to Expect

You will spend seven days at the CWF Conference at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Each year throughout the summer, youth from all over the United States join together at the 4-H Conference Center to participate in a weeklong session to learn about leadership, our nation’s history, etc.

While at the conference you will:



- Attend workshops
- Hold debates
- Have town hall meetings
- Serve on committees with other youth
- Participate in a talent show
- Visit your senators and representatives on Capitol Hill
- Have a night tour of Washington, D.C.
- Experience the excitement of our U.S. capital.

You will also prepare a service plan to implement when you get back home.

Things to Think About

During your visit to the Nation’s Capital, you will have the opportunity to talk to peers from other states and visit with some of your state’s elected officials during your visit to the Hill. What will you tell them about issues facing your

state’s youth and communities? Do you know the names of your state senators and representatives? Could you explain how your state’s legislature works? What are the demographics of your community? How has your involvement in the

4-H program impacted your career goals? Why is your state a great place to live and grow up in? These are just a few questions that you might be asked at CWF.

Please Let Us Know

Making choices is a big part of the planning process for the CWF experience. At our first meeting, you will have the opportunity to vote on several of the sites and cultural experiences that we will do during our travels. Do some research and be prepared to VOTE!

Terms You Should Know

• **Bicameral Legislature**

A lawmaking body with two branches or chambers.

• **Bill**

A form or draft of a proposed statute presented to legislature but not yet passed into law.

• **Capitol**

The Washington, D.C. building used by the U.S. Congress for its sessions.

• **Electoral College**

A group of people who represent the 50 states and the District of Columbia in the election of the President of the United States.

• **Hearing**

A meeting or session of a committee of Congress, usually open to the public, in which testimony and arguments regarding legislation are presented.

• **Incumbent**

Current holder of a public office.

• **Session**

The period during which Congress assembles to conduct business.

• **Veto**

The constitutional procedure by which the President can deny approval of a bill or joint resolution, preventing it from

being enacted into law. It can be overridden by a two-thirds passing vote in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.



• **Quorum**

The number of members required to be present for Congress to conduct official business (218 in the House, 100 in Committee of the Whole, 51 in the Senate).

Helpful Resources

To assist you in preparation for the CWF conference, here are some websites that you might want to check out:

- <http://kids.clerk.house.gov/high-school/>
- <http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/feature/teach.php>
- <http://www.senate.gov/index.htm>
- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>



Participant Agreement (clip & bring to the first workshop)

Please identify two educational goals that you would like to accomplish as a result of your participation in the Citizenship Washington Focus conference. I agree/my child agrees to participate fully in the educational program before/during/after the CWF experience.

1. _____
2. _____

Member Signature _____ Parent Signature _____

Please use this page to add your own specific information important to your particular group.