

Heroes Live Here™ and BC 4-H

My name is Amelia and I am a 17 year old, first-year student at the University of British Columbia. For the past two years I have been working as one of twenty B.C. 4-H Ambassadors. My job as an ambassador is to promote 4-H and to inform the public about 4-H, as well as to educate current members and leaders about the program and the many opportunities it has to offer. This year I volunteered to be a facilitator at a 4-H camp called Youth Action. I attended this camp just two years previously and had a fantastic time, so I was very excited to go back in a different role.

As a 4-H member, and especially as an Ambassador, I have often been asked what 4-H is. Well, 4-H is an international club, represented in 80 countries, for people aged 6-21. Each person belongs to a club that has a specific project, ranging from anything such as sewing or cooking, to pigs or horses. Through participation in their club and other district, regional and provincial programs, such as public speaking competitions and camps, young people learn how to become productive, self-assured adults who can make their community and country a better place in which to live.

I am a member of the Coombs Country 4-H Horse Club and have been for the past seven years. I have been an extremely active member, participating in public speaking contests and judging rallies every year, as well as education board and demonstration competitions

In July 2009 BC 4-H held a Heroes Live Here Leadership Conference called Youth Action for 4-H youth from across the province. This 5 day program takes a look at important youth issues, developing leadership skills and building self esteem. The 58 (14-15 year old) delegates that attended learned more about their leadership styles, communication skills, played games and had fun making friends from around the province.

As a 17 year-old facilitator, I found it easy to fit in with the delegates and really get a sense of how they were feeling, and I know that when it came time to say goodbye everyone was feeling rather sad about leaving people that they had made great friendships with.

As a part of the Heroes Live Here program, delegates were asked to write stories about 4-H heroes in their life. At Youth Action the delegates shared and celebrated these stories (an example is posted to this website). Delegates were also asked to make up a “Hero Recipe,” and the recipe of one of the groups has also been posted.

During National 4-H month in November, delegates from Youth Action have been asked to share their Heroes Live Here back-home projects on the B.C. 4-H website (www.bc4H.bc.ca), so make sure to check it out in November to see what the delegates are up to!

I had a wonderful time this summer working with all the 4-H members, 4-H staff, and with Iha from Heroes Live Here, and I hope I get the opportunity to do something like this again as it’s an experience I will never forget.