

The BRIDGE



*4-H History:
Yesterday, Tomorrow, and Now.*

Vol. 11, No. 3

May, 2022

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A Chicken Goes to Camp: The First County 4-H Camp

By Jane E. Jopling, WVU Extension Agent, Retired

The list sent to parents was usually quite simple: an empty mattress tick to be filled with straw, a tin plate and cup, a bag of vegetables and one live chicken.¹ These soon became the basic requirements for West Virginia campers to bring to a new exciting experience called “county 4-H camp”. (We’ll get to the chicken later.)

In July of 1915, a camp for 4-H youth was held at the Jackson Crouch farm in Randolph County, West Virginia. Historians recognize it as the world’s first organized 4-H club camp in the nation.¹ West Virginia University Extension Agent, J. Verus Shipman thought an educational gathering for both farm and town youth had great potential. “It isn’t so much of the idea of a camp”, Agent Shipman said, “But the idea of learning to live together with other children and understanding problems that are not theirs.”²

He wrote to the National 4-H and the West Virginia State 4-H for acceptance of the idea. The leaders of the 1915 WV 4-H program were not familiar with this overnight concept and expressed a firm attitude of “go ahead if you wish”.² Naming the adventure “Camp Good Luck”, Agent Shipman and volunteers secured tents, staff, and supplies for 20 campers.¹ On the first day, torrential rain prevented putting up the tents. The local farmer agreed to let them use his barn as lodging. Girls bunked on the main floor and the boys stayed up in the loft.

Campers were most excited about swimming in the river and having the chance to fish. Food was brought from home and since there was no refrigeration, chickens were brought and kept until “needed”. Shipman cooked the chicken by wrapping them in clay and placing in a fire bed of hot stones.² This amazed all the youth and was the first of many new experiences the campers witnessed.

Realizing that this concept may hold potential, Teepi Kendrick, WVU State Agent in charge of Boys Club Work, came from Morgantown to assist with the experience. A story passed down throughout many 4-H generations tells how he tore his pants in the river after a fun day with the campers. He returned to camp with his waist wrapped in a towel. His wife kept saying “I told you to bring more than one suit!”²

A campfire was planned for each night with singing, skits and special programs. Mr. Kendrick brought a projector from Morgantown and set up a lantern show on a sheet hung from a tree. Years later, a former camper wrote, “Our campfires were wonderful and we sat around it in the evenings and listened to stories as Americans do around the campfire all over the country.”²

Camp Good Luck showed the value of four-fold development residential camp programs; each day providing participants with new knowledge, environmental stewardship and social development. This fun learning experience served as a catalyst for other states’ 4-H programs to develop 4-H camping programs of their own.

¹ West Virginia Encyclopedia: e-WV Camp Good Luck /WV Humanities Council, Charleston

² Stewart, Guy H. *A Touch of Charisma: A History of the 4-H Club Program in West Virginia*. Morgantown: 1969.



Council Circle Campfire Ceremony Held at Camp Good Luck Site in 2015

In 2015, West Virginia 4-H celebrated the 100th anniversary of 4-H Camping by holding Council Circle Campfire ceremonies at locations of historic importance to 4-H Camping across the state.

Of course, one Circle was held at the site of Camp Good Luck.



Chad Proudfoot, presently serving as the Virginia Cooperative Extension State 4-H Organizational Specialist, was, in 2015, a member of the West Virginia State 4-H Staff and served as the Chair of the statewide 2015 Centennial of 4-H Camping Celebration. While talking about the first 4-H Camp, Camp Good Luck, Chad said,

A part of the (first 4-H Camp) story that is sometimes overlooked, but I find quite important, is that the Extension Agent who came up with the camping concept in 1915 was Verus Shipman. After the first camp was held, he died of a heart ailment a few months later. So, he actually never lived to see another camp nor to see the massive state, national, and international program that 4-H camping became. I always feel like we sort of overlook him in the story sometimes, which is a real shame.

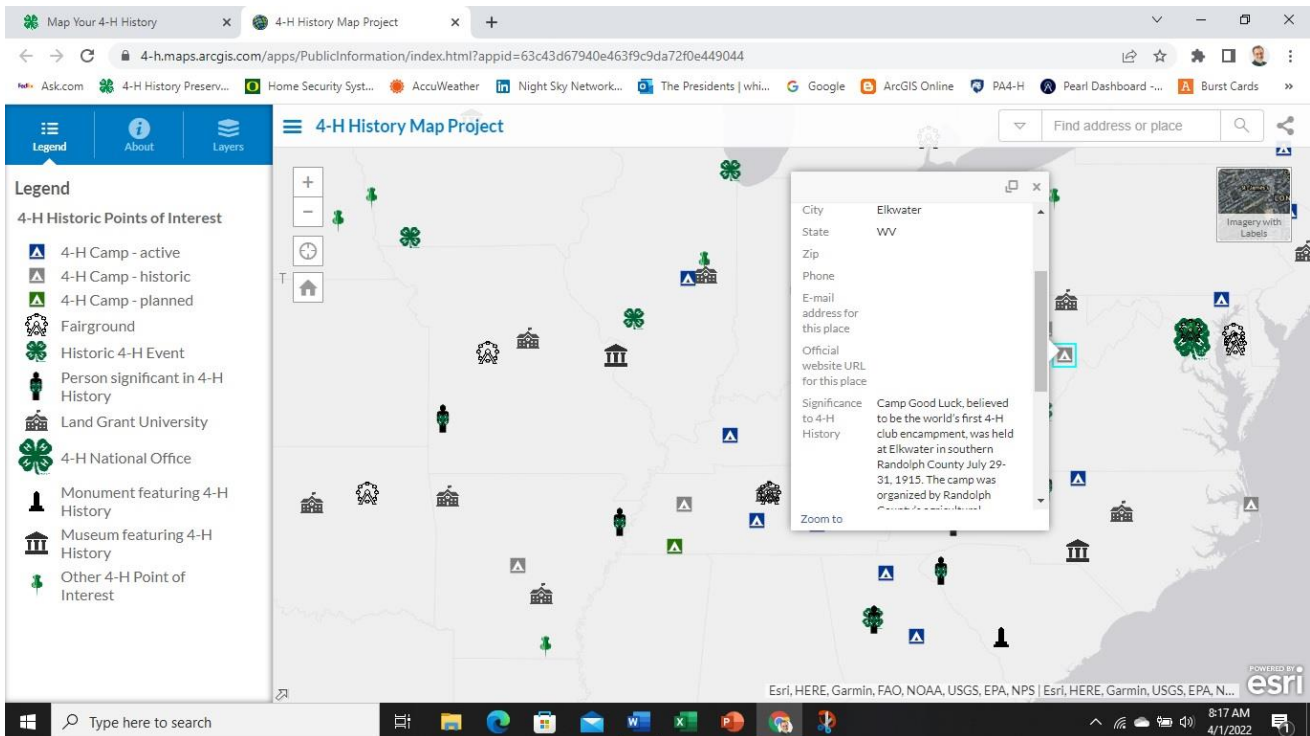
Discussing the Good Luck Circle event, Chad said that

(earlier in the day) tents (had been set) up by the Randolph County 4-H campers. They had a contest to stuff the mattresses with hay like they did in the early camping days. It was even very fitting that it rained the whole time – as the very first camp in 1915 was notable for the torrential rain they experienced those first three days.

When we lit the campfire at the Camp Good Luck site, we took a stick from the fire and lit that lantern. Then, Debbie McDonald (State 4-H Leader) and I transported it back to Jackson’s Mill where Alpha I State 4-H Camp was going on at the time. We kept the lantern burning all night and through the next day, and the following evening we used the light from the lantern to light the fire for the final Council Circle at Alpha I. So, we quite literally brought the light from our very first camp to our state camp and we were able to make everyone there a part of the Camp Good Luck story, too. I’ll be quite honest, that was very emotional for all of us (in a good way, of course).



Camp Good Luck is on the [4-H History Map](#), A National Atlas of Historic 4-H Sites



Camp Good Luck and other 4-H Camps can be found on the [4-H History Map](#), a national atlas of historic 4-H sites across the country located on the National 4-H History Preservation website. If you know of a 4-H Camp, or any other site of historic importance to 4-H, past or present, that is not included on the 4-H History Map, you may nominate the site. Go to https://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History_Map/ for details on how to nominate a site and/or view the map. (Viewing Hint: Zoom in on the map to make more sites appear.)



The National 4-H Conference Experience: Through the Eyes of a Youth Leader

By: Caroline Slama, National 4-H Conference Youth Leadership Team (YLT) Member (Nebraska)

“WE WELCOME YOU TO THE 2022 NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE!” A national Conference is an adventure and huge undertaking that requires many hands to make the “light” work, a success. The National 4-H Conference was no exception but, more of a confirmation to the thought process of having “all hands on deck”. A group of youth were selected to assist with planning this year’s 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. Six youth from across the United States formed this year’s Youth Leadership Team (YLT). These young leaders carved their own paths and really had a hand in ensuring the National 4-H Conference ran smoothly. This year’s YLT members were - Jaylen White (Missouri), Wapiti Mefford (Arkansas), Olivia Hall (Connecticut), Lacy Collier (Tennessee), Megna Nayar (California), and Caroline Slama (Nebraska).

During the Conference, the YLT members did a variety of things, including writing scripts, leading morning activities, aiding with workshops and round table discussions, and leading assemblies for activities during the day. This team was the “go-to” for all things conference-related. Although the 2022 Conference was unique in terms of the change of location from those in the past, the YLT was committed to its overall success by meeting diligently via Zoom, prior to the Conference to plan, write scripts, and produce activities for the youth participants of the Conference, as well as virtual participants. Including virtual participants was a challenge that YLT members tackled with tenacity.

Two days before the Conference, the YLT, round table facilitators, and administration were flown to D.C. to go over the schedule, activities, and flow of the Conference to assure everything was fun, engaging, effective, and inclusive, especially for first time attendees. On day three of the YLT’s attendance, all were prepared to welcome other youth Conference goers. At this time, the YLT were tasked with running the Opening Assembly which had speakers and ice breakers for both virtual and in-person participants. Participants were then split assigned to one of 12 round table sessions, which included “hot” topics that would be researched and presented to the government officials directly associated with the subject matter. Round table sessions included, Puppies with a Purpose and Future of Workforce. Future of Workforce was assisted by Slama. Slama says, “it was amazing to see youth from all over the nation come together and trade ideas about how the workforce in agriculture could be improved. It opened my eyes to ways to help change the nation for the better.”

Although the Conference planning experience had its challenges, the overall experience benefitted not only the youth participants, but the YLT, the facilitators, and the administration. See you all next year!

Editor’s note: The 2022 National 4-H Conference was the first National 4-H Conference to be held since the National 4-H Conference Center was sold. The 2022 conference was held March 19-24, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, VA. The National 4-H Conference began in 1927 as the National 4-H Camp and was held on the National Mall, outside the Department of Agriculture. It was not held during World War II. From 1946 – 1958, the event was held at various locations in the D.C. area. In 1959, it moved to the newly opened National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, MD. In 1957, the name was changed to National 4-H Conference. For more information on the National 4-H Camp go to:

https://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History/Events/4-H_Camp/.



The official Newsletter of the National 4-H History Preservation Team

NIFA's Investment in Youth During Social Distancing

By Bonita Williams, N4-HHPT Member

Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided financial relief in response to COVID-19. This was accomplished through federal funding, tax deferrals and lending options. Federal agencies receiving the funding to grant and support the public with services disbursed \$2.6 trillion in funding through approved allocation processes.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) was one of the federal agencies entrusted with disbursement of CARES Act funding. The Agency announced research and extension investments with a look at COVID's impact on American agriculture through the request for application (RFA) process. The RFA's focus through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Program, invested in projects addressing health and security of livestock; food and food processing; rural Americans; and economic security.

NIFA invested \$13 million across 17 grants projects in 11 states through AFRI and an addition \$1.3 million in 14 grants in nine states.

This new funding supported the three Land-grant types: 1862, 1890 and 1994 Institutions and the Agriculture Experiment Stations through the existing Capacity grant structure. Further, these funds support local farmer and rancher education and advice programs. As well, community development, health and nutrition and 4-H and youth development experiences. According to NIFA,

USDA-NIFA also provides critical support to 4-H, one of America's largest youth development organizations. Traditional 4-H camps and project or livestock competitions moved to virtual formats, often an easier transition for young people who are digital natives, but also complicated by the lack of adequate broadband access in many rural areas where many 4-H'ers live. Hundreds of 4-H'ers used leadership, citizenship, and entrepreneurial skills learned in the youth development program to make, market and distribute needed face masks and to offer technology support to help senior citizens use available technology to stay in touch with friends and family during social distancing.

Social distancing has had multiple impacts on youth; among them: interrupted youth education, increased mental health conditions, decreased motivation, and increased social isolation, among others. According to the World Health Organization and The Judge Baker's Children's Center, Harvard University, youth were isolated from friends and peers during this time; this unique isolation impacts identity formation. Peer support is very important during this developmental stage.

During this time of social distancing, NIFA supported youth through the following funding, Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-COV-2): Innovating Formal and Non-Formal Educational Experiences in Food and Agricultural Sciences K-14 with a total of \$10 million dollars for national projects. National 4-H Council received \$3 million for *4-H at Home*, a resource designed to meet growing needs for virtual and non-virtual education resources that can be rapidly adopted at home or by educators and Extension specialists for effective formal/non-formal education of K-12 students and underserved youth. The University of New Hampshire received \$685,000 for the *4-H Northeast Collaborative: Closing the Gap*, aims to address the double-barrier of low-income levels and local infrastructure issues that rural students regularly face. Rural elementary educators, who also face issues of connectivity, are now tasked with addressing existing issues (i.e., implementing effective science curriculum with challenged learners) in unfamiliar remote delivery methods.

Other Institutions under this initiative include:

- ✿ *Gearing Up for Youth Education and Development for Employment in Agriculture* \$2,254,000, Purdue University
- ✿ *Growing Math: Accessible, Cross-Curricular Education in Food and Agricultural Sciences*, \$1,000,000, 7 Generation Games, Inc.
- ✿ *Food Experiences for Agricultural Science Training (FEAST)*, \$800,000, University of Hawaii
- ✿ *Physically Distant yet Socially Connected: Exploring Agriculture through Immersive Field Experiences and Innovative Solutions*, \$1,000,000, Oregon State University
- ✿ *STEMsational Ag: The Virtual Farm*, \$816,000, Middle Tennessee State University
- ✿ *Rapid Rollout of 8 National Standards-based Rigorous and Remote AFNR Courses for Underserved College-bound Students*, \$1,000,000, Tennessee State University

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Caption Please!

This painting has been selected from our historic 4-H Calendar Art collection. Your job is to give the picture a caption! Make it funny. Make it pull at the heart-strings. Make US smile!

Send your caption no later than April 14, 2022 to: Editor@4-HHistory.com.

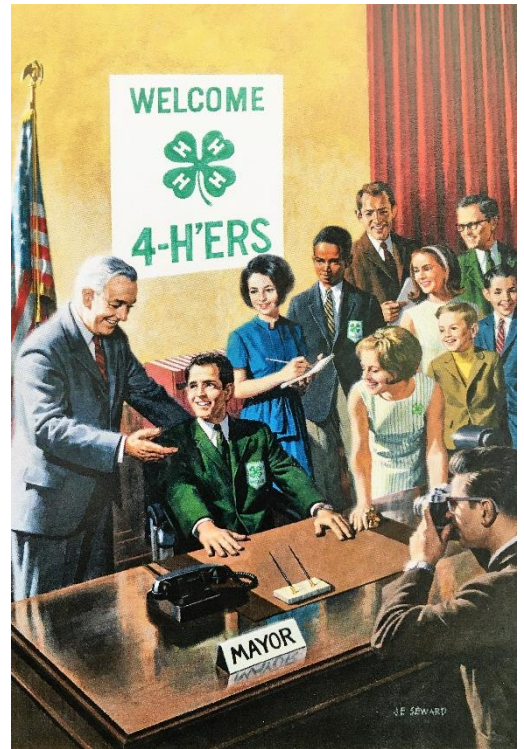
Our EdBoard Team will review the suggested captions and select “the best” (in our humble opinion, of course). Look to see if YOUR caption appears in a future issue of The BRIDGE.

Tell Us Your 4-H History Story

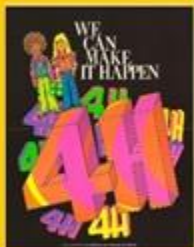
We know you’ve made 4-H History! So, tell us about it! The world wants to know YOUR 4-H history!

Send your articles to: Editor@4-HHistory.com

Submissions longer than 500 words must include a 500-words or less summary. The in-depth articles will be posted to our web-site and linked to the summary that will appear in the newsletter.



Thanks for reading The BRIDGE. Look for our next issue August 15, 2022!



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