

## For More Information and How to Apply

Application packets are available at your county Michigan State University Extension office and must be completed and returned to your county office by February 5, 2010. Applications and information are available on the 4-H Capitol Experience Web site at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/capexp.html> or contact your county Michigan State University Extension office. You can also contact the State 4-H Office.

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***“It was  
the best government  
experience  
ever!”***

— Past Capitol  
Experience Participant

***“Politics are too serious  
a matter to be left to the  
politicians”***

— Charles de Gaulle  
(President of France 1958-69)



# 4-H Capitol Experience

**Experience Michigan  
Government in Action**

**Lansing, Michigan  
March 21 to 24, 2010**



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The name 4-H and the emblem consisting of a four-leaf clover with stem and the “H” on each leaflet are protected under Title 18 U.S.C. 707.

7/21/09 MMR

4-H Youth Development  
Children, Youth, Families & Communities  
Michigan State University Extension

## What Is 4-H Capitol Experience?

4-H Capitol Experience is an annual 4-day conference that focuses on civic engagement and public policy. This MSU pre-college program has more than 100 teens from around the state who converge on Lansing, Michigan, to experience state government in action!

Since 1982, Michigan teens have had the opportunity to learn how they can get involved with policy issues. Participants interact with legislators, state agency staff, lobbyists, and other resource people to learn how policy is made. Through these educational experiences young people:



- Increase their understanding and knowledge of state government.
- Discover ways to influence public policy decisions.
- Explore careers in public policy.
- Network with other young people and public policy professionals.
- Develop a positive attitude toward their ability to affect public policy.
- Increase their leadership and citizenship skills.

## Does 4-H Capitol Experience Help in High School?

Through experiential learning activities, the conference reinforces Michigan State Content Standards for Social Studies Education in civic perspective, public discourse and decision-making and citizen involvement.

## When & Where Is 4-H Capitol Experience?

4-H Capitol Experience will be held March 21 to 24, 2010. The program will take place at the Quality Inn of Lansing, the Michigan Capitol Building, and state and community agencies.

Participants will have the opportunity to visit:

- The State Capitol Building
- The Supreme Court
- State and Community Agencies

## What Public Policy Issues Are Discussed?

When high school students apply, they select a public policy issue to explore in detail at Capitol Experience. Each group will visit people who work with their issue including a:

- Representative of a community agency
- Spokesperson from a state executive agency
- Lobbyist
- Legislative Aide

## Who Can Attend?

4-H Capitol Experience is for high school teens and adult chaperons who are interested in citizenship programs or state and local government. You do not have to be involved with 4-H in order to take part in this educational experience.

## Cost of Conference...

Registration include all meals, lodging and materials. Rate: \$275 Adult and current 4-H member; \$285 Non-4-H member.



## Conference Highlights

**Sunday** (*Registration starts at 3 p.m.*)

- Explore Public Policy Issues

**Monday**

- Visit Community Organizations
- Discussions with Legislative Aides
- The Capitol Building and the Hall of Justice

**Tuesday**

- Legislative Breakfast
- Visit Lobbyist's Offices and Legislative Committee Meetings
- Visit State Agencies

**Wednesday** (*Conference ends at 12:30 p.m.*)

- Explore Careers in Public Policy
- Bill Signing and Presentation of Certificates

**Throughout the Conference:**

- Participate in a Legislative Simulation

*"It was very informational and a great learning experience."*

Past Capitol Experience Participant

