

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Dear School Personnel:

4-H Capitol Experience is an annual 4-day conference for teens throughout Michigan who are interested in public policy and government. This year the conference will be held Sunday, March 21 through Wednesday, March 24, 2010, in Lansing. During Capitol Experience, through experiential learning, teens will:

- Discover how to influence public policy decisions.
- Explore careers in public policy.
- Learn about the policy process at the state level.
- Learn how decisions at the state level influence what happens in local communities.
- Network with teens and professionals from across Michigan.

This conference also provides participants the opportunity to visit with representatives from community agencies, a spokesperson for a state executive agency, a lobbyist, a legislative aide and to tour the State Capitol Building. Participants will also select a public policy issue to focus on throughout the conference.

4-H Capitol Experience is not only a great opportunity for youth to take an active role in state government, but the conference also reinforces the concepts taught in high school classes through hands-on activities. The Michigan State Content Standards for Social Studies Education reinforced by 4-H Capitol Experience include:

- **Civic Perspective, Content Standard 1:** Evaluate how effectively the state government is serving the purposes for which it was created.
- **Public Discourse and Decision Making, Content Standard 1:** Generate possible alternative resolutions to public issues and evaluate those using criteria that have been identified.
- **Public Discourse and Decision Making, Content Standard 2:** Engage each other in elaborated conversations that deeply examine public policy issues and help make reasoned and informed decisions.
- **Citizen Involvement, Content Standard 1:** Plan and conduct activities intended to advance their views on matters of public policy, report the results of their efforts and evaluate their effectiveness.



**4-H YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT**

Children, Youth, Families
and Communities

Michigan State University
160 Agriculture Hall
East Lansing, MI
48824-1039

517/432-7575

FAX: 517/355-6748

<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/4h/>

By emphasizing these standards, 4-H Capitol Experience supports what Michigan students learn in school with hands-on experiences, and prepares teens to be responsible citizens who use knowledge of government and politics to make decisions about governing their community. We hope that after attending 4-H Capitol Experience, teens will be better able to construct and express their positions on a public policy issue and use their knowledge to make a difference in their communities.

Attached is a conference brochure that outlines what the participants will be doing at the conference. For more information, visit the conference Web site at www.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/capexp.html.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cynthia B. Mark'.

Cynthia B. Mark, Ph.D.
Program Leader
4-H Youth Development
markc@msu.edu
(517) 432-7602

*Michigan State University Extension
programs and materials are open
to all without regard to race, color,
national origin, gender, gender
identity, religion, age, height,
weight, disability, political beliefs,
sexual orientation, marital status,
family status or veteran status.*

*Michigan State University,
U.S. Department of Agriculture
and counties cooperating.*

*MSU is an affirmative-action,
equal-opportunity employer.*