



Texas 4-H Conference Center

Welcome to YOUR 4-H Conference Center!

From the Director: I hope you are one of those folks who can say that “you love your job”! I know it’s true for me. I truly feel every day that I am blessed to be the Director of the Texas 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood. It’s not just a beautiful location, it’s a wonderful opportunity to see youth grow and mature.

It’s exciting to see them come to the 4-H Center for the first time to participate in County Camp or Prime Time, canoeing and swimming and having a great time. Then as they mature in their 4-H careers they participate in SpecTra and Teen Retreat to enhance

their leadership skills. My greatest joy is to see these young people return to the 4-H Center in a mentor role when they sign on to become one of our “overworked and underpaid but extremely qualified” Summer Staff! What an impact they make on young people.

As a 4-H Program, we are extremely blessed to have such a wonderful facility. Trust me, I’ve been to several other state’s Centers. A few offer what my 10-year old son said a few years ago, “*real camping*”. Rusty old army cots, outdoor restroom facilities, troughs for hand-washing, you get

the picture.

Our AgriLife Extension professionals, our 4-H families our donors and our fabulous 4-H Center staff have made all this possible and they are acknowledged later in this newsletter.

The purpose of this newsletter is to let you know what’s happening at the Center, how you can get involved and it’s an invitation for YOU to visit YOUR Texas 4-H Conference Center. We’re here for YOU! Come see us!

Doc Locke

DID YOU KNOW...

- ◆ Approximately 9,000 people visit the 4-H Center each year?
- ◆ Hidalgo County travels 409 miles each way to bring 60-75 youth and adults to County Camp!
- ◆ The Center opened for business in 1974 and we’re still going strong!



SpecTra ‘09

SpecTra is a week-long camp for 4-H members 14-18 years old. The purpose of the camp is to explore career opportunities and to enhance 4-H project work. Each year the program varies, but the basics are in place. Youth choose one project area from a menu of seven or eight topics and then they are in that project the entire week.

Coordinated by Texas AgriLife Extension Specialists, County Extension Agents and/or Adult Volunteers, each individual

workshop features about 18 hours of instruction on that particular topic. The method of delivery may include lecture, field trips, hands-on learning and practice through service endeavors.

This summer, the evening workshops will focus on job preparation skills such as resume writing, etiquette, and interviewing skills.

The Gala tradition continues at SpecTra. This is an opportunity for participants

July 27-31, 2009

to experience a formal reception and banquet, decked out in semi-formal evening wear! It is quite spectacular.

A new fact about SpecTra, beginning this year 2009, the program will alternate with Texas 4-H Congress which is held on even years. So, come to SpecTra in 2009 or wait till 2011!



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Brownwood, Texas

Want to know MORE about any of the programs? Check out the website for more details.

<http://texas4h-ctr.tamu.edu>

Check out the Blog for Activities of the Week and up to date information on Center happenings.

Service to others...



Dorm renovations

County Camp

What is County Camp? Just think of it as a way to bring youth of all ages to the same camp. It saves you time and travel expenses. And, it's a great family activity.

There are four sessions offered for County Camp, and while you do NOT have to come with a county delegation, most do. So, grab a friend (or two) and get going.

Activities at camp include archery, canoeing, swimming, riflery, environmental education, arts and crafts, challenge course activities and of course, DANCES!



- July 1-3
- July 6-8
- July 8-10
- July 13-16

Prime Time

Prime Time is another great camping opportunity. The program activities at Prime Time and County Camp are basically the same, however, Prime Time is age specific. Youth ages 12-13 camp July 19-22; youth ages 9-11 camp July 22-25. There's a little wiggle room (or overlap) on both camps in regards to the ages allowed at each one.

Each session of Prime Time is

four days, three nights and features environmental education, canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, evening games and dorm challenges, swimming, challenge course activities and a great chance to meet youth from all over the State! Dances in the evening help build those social skills. We offer lots of line dancing so that everyone gets involved. The 4-H Center's signa-

Conference Center Improvements!!!

Exciting new developments await your next visit to Brownwood. A new 6-inch water service line brings us lots of water pressure in the dorms and throughout the facility.

The twenty-four rooms of the Leadership Lodge each are now furnished with two double beds with plush, luxury mattresses and satellite television! Wireless internet service is available in the

Lodge.

While the youth campers may not get to enjoy these luxury comforts, it sure does make us more attractive to corporate and business groups. Please help us spread the word — The 4-H Conference Center is a great place for business retreats, training meetings, etc. The more that facility is used, the better our chances of keeping camp regis-

July 2009

The July 1-3 session has a dual program schedule. Youth ages 9-13 will follow the traditional program schedule. Youth that are 14 and older do the Teen Extreme Camp with focused activities in Outdoor Education, Outdoor Living Skills and Aquatics. It's just a "beefed up" program for the older set.

Find more detailed information on our website, texas4h-ctr.tamu.edu

Counties need to reserve dates now and register on 4-H Connect beginning March 21. Adult chaperones are required and get a discounted registration fee!

July 2009

ture dance is "The Popcorn", it's been a tradition since the early 70's!



trations affordable for our families.

Thanks to Teen Retreat 2008, the common area in each of the dormitories have a fresh look! What once was just white cinder block is now colorful and inviting. We hope you appreciate these improvements. We continually strive "To Make the Best Better" just as you do.

Mission Possible

July 2009 we will offer our fifth session of Mission Possible, a unique camp for youth with and without disabilities. Our goal with this camp is two-fold:

- empower youth with disabilities to enjoy a traditional camp experience
- empower youth without disabilities as mentors to gain in their understanding of the disability community

4-H youth serving as Mentors are partnered with a youth with special needs to assist them in

whatever capacity is needed. This may be as simple as reminding the camper to brush their teeth and get ready for bed or helping them to bathe each evening during their preparation for lights out. Mentors receive training the day before camp and this year will have on-line learning modules to study before camp. Mission Possible has been a great opportunity for hands-on leadership development and teamwork in action. The team of mentors gain a much greater appreciation of their own abilities as well as the

Technology Camp

Technology Camp recognizes that not everyone loves the great outdoors. There are lots of youth who want to learn more about videography, web design, digital photography, GIS and GPS and robotics.

If that's you, then stay tuned for more information. The 4-H Technology Team is putting together an exciting opportunity for youth ages 11-14. Hold the dates of June 17-19 and plan to join us for Summer Tech... it's

Shooting Sports Camp

This camp is for beginner shooters, who want an opportunity to check out various disciplines. The four day, three night camp provides hands-on learning in

Archery, Light Rifle, Shotgun, Muzzle Loading and Air Pistol. Participants will also complete Hunter Education Certification, Firearm Safety and a little bit on

Spring Fling

The 4-H Conference Center is for everyone! We host a week-long camp for youth ages 50 and older each April and October. Send Mom or Dad or the Grandparents to camp. Spring Fling in April brings folks from throughout the state together for a week of educational learning centers, arts and crafts, talent shows, games and activities and

wonderful fellowship. Don't let the fun pass you by. This is a very affordable week-long camp just right for the young at heart. Registration includes lodging, eleven wholesome meals, and evening snacks. Lodging options: dormitory (linens provided) \$180 and Leadership Lodge, \$220 per person

July 1-3, 2009



abilities of individual campers.

Mentor applications are available on the 4-H Center website as are camper applications.

June 17-19, 2009

going to be a great hands-on learning experience.

Additional information will be posted on the 4-H Center website as it becomes available.

June 3-6, 2009

the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Project.

It's a great basic, introductory camp for new shooters!

April 20-24, 2009

double occupancy.



CHAPERONES

ADULTS SERVING AS CHAPERONES IN THE DORMS ARE REQUIRED. WE RECOGNIZE THE VALUE AND THE NECESSITY OF CHAPERONES, THEREFORE, ADULT CHAPERONES HAVE A REDUCED REGISTRATION FEE.

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WANTED

Young, energetic, spirited persons who have completed one year of college or other work endeavor, to serve as Counselors and Program Assistants for the 2009 Summer Camp Program. Prior 4-H enrollment is NOT required, just a willingness to serve as a positive role model for youth. It's a great chance to be part of a team focused on providing a safe, wholesome environment and a quality camp experience. Summer staff receive a weekly stipend, food and lodging during their employment and invaluable work experience!

* Great resume builder *

BESTT

BESTT is our newly developed Building Environmental Stewards for Today and Tomorrow program. Designed as an enrichment of the classroom experience in Environmental Education, BESTT provides hands-on learning in aquatic biology, archery, team-building,

terrestrial ecology and other topics. School groups select from a menu the topics that best suit their group and structure their program either for a 1-day or an overnight experience. Jump on the BESTT wagon!



Special Thank you to our Donors

The 4-H Conference Center, Texas AgriLife Extension Service is part of the Texas A&M System. Very little of our funding to support programs, facilities and operations comes from state funds. The bulk of our operating funds are generated through user fees and activities and through the generous and continued support of our donors.

We want to recognize these donors and thank them for their generosity (listed in no particular order).

- Texas Extension Education Association
- G. Rollie White Foundation

- Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation
- Volunteer Leaders Association of Texas
- Mr. David Waggoner and family
- Mr. Marcus Hill
- Ms. Gayle Hall
- Citizens State Bank
- Landmark Life Insurance
- J.R. Beadle Foundation
- Mills County State Bank
- 3M Brownwood
- Verizon Southwest
- Wilson Gas
- Texas A&M System Risk Management
- Texas Association of Extension 4-H Agents
- Texas AgriLife Extension Specialists Association
- Texas Extension Association of Family Consumer Science
- Dimes for Dinner project
- Collin County 4-H Ambassadors
- County, District and State Texas AgriLife Extension personnel

Thank You!

Science Teacher Academy

In our efforts to partner with schools, the 4-H Conference Center offers two Science Teacher Academies in June. This three-day, two night in-service is designed to provide the basics to integrate science and technology into the classroom.

The workshops provide hands-on instruction in aquatic biology, GIS/GPS & orienteering, rainwater harvesting, Junior Master Gardener, soil science and much more. Public, Private and Home School teachers are invited to participate. TEA accreditation for all

workshops. Teachers receive curriculum and other teaching resources as part of their registration fee. Help spread the word about this fabulous opportunity!

June 2009

Final thoughts...

This is just a glimpse of what's happening out at the 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood. Please check our website for more information on upcoming activities and events. And, if you don't see it or something is not right, e-mail me at dlocke@ag.tamu.edu We are here to serve you and to offer programs that you and your children will want to attend, so let us know how we can better serve YOU!

B. Darlene Locke
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Extension 4-H & Youth Development Specialist