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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN IDAHO

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION 4-H COUNTED 73,032 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND THROUGH TRADITIONAL CLUB ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR ENDING SEPT. 30. VOLUNTEERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TIME TO THE NATION'S BEST KNOWN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM NUMBERED 5,068.

Source: University of Idaho Extension 4-H Annual Report

Know Your Government conference draws 4-H members to Capitol for Presidents Day holiday

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A BILL REQUIRING SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE students with more calories at lunch will be one order of business when University of Idaho Extension 4-H members flock to Idaho's State Capitol for the annual Know Your Government conference during the Presidents Day holiday.

Nearly 200 4-H members from across Idaho are expected to travel to Boise for the conference. They will explore the legislative, judicial and executive branches of state government first-hand through presentations by Idaho's top leaders and by filling many of those roles themselves.

Teens take on many of the organizational responsibilities long before heading to Boise. They plan events, help organize the intensive agenda and work closely with 4-H staff and chaperones.

The 4-H members assume the duties of senators and representatives within the Capitol's legislative chambers on Sunday. Another group of 4-H members will take on a variety of court cases within the chambers of the Ada County Courthouse.

The experience for 4-H members and volunteers will culminate with the annual Legislative Breakfast planned Monday at the Red Lion Downtowner from 7 to 8 a.m.

Legislators gather with 4-H members from their districts to discuss the lessons learned throughout the conference. Speakers will include Lt. Gov. Brad Little, Interim UI President Don Burnett and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean John Foltz.

Northwest Farm Credit Services, Idaho Grain Producers Association and Idaho Law Foundation provide financial support for the conference. Legislators, judicial officials and lobbyists also contribute mentoring and money to the conference.

UI Extension 4-H Youth Development sponsors regional robot challenge competition in Moscow

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HUNDREDS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS will gather in Moscow Saturday for a regional robotics and engineering challenge sponsored by the University of Idaho Extension 4-H Youth Development program.

The day-long event in Memorial Gym on the UI's Moscow campus challenges teens in grades 9 to 12 to program and operate sophisticated robots on challenging courses.

Just as important, the competition challenges teens to practice sportsmanship, teamwork and design excellence in their quest for regional recognition and the right to advance

to super-regional finals in California.

The competition strives to inspire young competitors' interest in science and technology.

Teams of up to 10 competitors learn to design and program sophisticated robots equipped with sensors that use infrared and ultrasonic cues, and have the ability to follow lines, seek magnets and respond to touch.

The teams work with mentors to engineer and then program the robots to compete, both autonomously and via game controller, in a highly technical and fast-paced contest.

New project enlists 4-H youth as healthy living advocates

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UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION will enlist 4-H members as healthy living advocates to help younger children and communities eat healthier.

The effort, which is now taking shape, will draw on a \$150,000 grant from the National 4-H Council in partnership with the ConAgra Foundation. The goal is to reduce the incidence of obesity among youth and adults. Idaho's adult obesity rate tops 30 percent.

The UI Extension 4-H Youth Development Program will select and train 20 high-school-age members this summer as teen advocates for healthy living. They will help to educate other students about reasons and ways to become more active and about shopping for, preparing and eating healthy foods, said Maureen Toomey, Caldwell-based 4-H youth specialist.

Events and educational activities coordinated by the teen nutrition advocates will reach 2,500 young people throughout the state. About half of the outreach effort will focus on youth in southwestern Idaho, particularly Ada and Canyon counties, Idaho's most populous.

Northern and eastern Idaho will split the other half of the total outreach activities.

Toomey said UI Extension nutrition faculty members will work with the teen advocates to train them. Another key part of the project will be working with the EatSmart Idaho project, which provides nutrition education to low-income families receiving food assistance.