

Learning about leadership

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 02 June 2011 19:24 -



Local FFA'ers attend officer training in Aurora.

It was a short summer break for new Future Farmer's of America officers from Gothenburg High School.

Hardly a month after being named a new officer at the annual FFA Banquet in April, Gothenburg's officer team is already starting to take responsibility for their roles.

On May 23, the officers traveled to the Nebraska Youth Leadership Development Center in Aurora for the 2011 Chapter Officer Leadership Training conference.

The facility was bought specifically for use by the Nebraska FFA in 1968 by the Nebraska Vocational Agricultural Foundation to educate and train young students in leadership.

The two-day conference, for the most part, concentrated on the roles of the separate offices in the FFA.

This year's theme was "COLT 5-0," based on the television series filmed in Hawaii, and centered around a team trying to find the kidnapped Yohr A. Biliteez.

Teams moved closer to the kidnapped victim by using leadership skills.

COLT involved large group sessions, office-specific "investigation teams," optional

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“select-a-sessions” and chapter meetings.

Through the sessions, officer teams learned valuable lessons about teamwork, communication, adaptability and vision as well as how to perform in their specific offices.

Each investigation team was led by their state officers. Gothenburg’s Brennan Costello, who is state FFA president, led sessions for the FFA presidents and secretaries in attendance.

Besides learning the values and responsibilities of FFA officers, the officer teams also got a jump-start on the next school year.

Plans of activities, commonly referred to as POAs, were covered in the sessions which allowed officers to begin planning for the year ahead.

They discussed how to improve meetings, encourage member participation and improve communication within the chapter.

Activities and what and how they would try them were also discussed.

Most importantly, the team talked about vision since officers need a clear vision to guide their chapter.

The local team decided on a L.E.A.D. approach which stands for Leadership, Excellence and Agricultural Development.

During the conference, officers were educated about performing in their offices as well as life-long lessons about leadership.

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This year's COLT conference allowed them to lay the groundwork for a successful FFA chapter.

Although the FFA season is just beginning, it looks to be a promising one.

Cale Moore

FFA reporter