

Character Counts! on the move in Lancaster County!

You see them everywhere, you hear the words, it's happening! The "Six Pillars" have arrived. They are in the schools, used by sports teams, are part of Sunday school classes and are part of programming in many youth-serving organizations. Youth and adults are teaching, modeling, advocating and enforcing behaviors based on the pillars. Making better decisions based on the pillars is becoming habit forming.









What is Character Counts!?

Character Counts! is a program sponsored by 4-H that emphasizes the "Six Pillars of Character." It is character education that celebrates what is right with young people while enabling them to develop knowledge and life skills that enhance ethical and responsible behavior.

Facts:

In Lancaster County

- Over 700 adults have attended workshops in which they were trained to use the CC curriculum.
- Through the expanded efforts of these adult trainers, over 10,000 youth and adults have been taught the pillars of character in clubs, sports activities, churches, 4-H and other youth-serving programs.
- Over 80% of the Lincoln Public Schools use Character Counts!
- At least five county schools and four parochial schools use Character Counts!
- Nearly \$50,000 has been contributed in support of Character Counts! including major support for Lincoln Public Schools curricula from Rotary Club 14 and for middle school leadership camps based on the pillars from School-to-Careers in Lancaster and Saunders counties.
- Over 70 teens have been trained to use the curriculum and they have supported Character Counts! in summer Bright Lights classes, the fair, Clover Kids Camps and at Parks and Recreation sites.

 <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Trustworthiness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell the truth • Be reliable • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal 	 <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Respect</p>
 <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Responsibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use good manners, no bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Follow the Golden Rule • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements 	 <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Fairness</p>
 <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Citizenship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere—keep on trying • Always do your best • Think before you act—consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices 	 <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Caring</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded, listen to others 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Stay informed, vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need 	

CWF

Have you ever had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C.? Have you ever visited Niagra Falls, the Statue of Liberty or Gettysburg? Would you like to? If so, then the Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) trip may be just the program for you.



Members of the 1999 CWF group at the Lincoln Monument in Washington, D.C.



Megan Bergman, Jenny Fiala, Jesse Schrader and Kelly Sehn on the Maid of the Mist Tour at Niagra Falls.



Youth posing on the outlook point at Gettysburg.

CWF is a leadership program for high school youth ages 14-19. This program helps youth develop a better understanding of our government. Youth are able to go behind the scenes of our nation's Capitol, meet our state senators, representatives and view congress in session. Since this program is offered once every three years, youth who will be 14 but not over 19 by June 2002 are encouraged to join the program today. During this three year program, youth have the opportunity to earn 100% of the cost of the trip through organized fund raisers and activities.

Science at its best! 4-H School Enrichment

Is your child hatching baby chicks at school—or tasting space food? What about composting with worms or making recycled paper? Or, is your youngster asking you to turn off the water when you brush your teeth? If so, chances are your student is participating in 4-H school enrichment.

4-H school enrichment is



science at its best! Through hands-on/minds-on activities, youth develop skills in problem solving and decision-making. They apply scientific and technical principles to their daily lives...and they have fun! Each year, 4-H school enrichment educates over 12,000 Lancaster County youth.

Smelly stuff—trash—things we don't need anymore! These are ideas that come to the minds of second graders when they hear the word "garbage."

Garbology introduces students to solid waste management and the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Youngsters develop an increased awareness of garbage—where it comes from and where it goes, the problems it presents and possible solutions.

Worms that eat garbage? It's true! About 1,000 red wigglers can eat up to three to five pounds of kitchen scraps a week. Then they'll give you worm castings that can be added to potting or garden soil for richer

plantings. Students from all over Lancaster County are indeed, learning a new way to compost—**Vermicomposting**.

Soft and furry with very large appetites! Things that go "cheep" in the night. The miracle of life unfolds as third grade youngsters study life cycles in **Embryology**. Students and teachers are responsible for

relates science and space technology to everyday living for fourth graders. By using features from the space shuttle program as working models, students learn how forces, fibers and food affect their daily lives on earth and astronauts while in space. Youth learn about gravity, taste space food and communicate with NASA via the Internet. With the exploration of Mars and the building of a new space station, kids become globally aware of their place and responsibility in the Universe.

With an emphasis on water quality and conservation, **4-H Water Riches** provides new and exciting experiences for fifth graders and solicits each

student's commitment to preserve and conserve this important natural resource.

"I learned about the water cycle and how we are using the same water over and over again." (Jane)

"The part when you put the food coloring in the model was amazing. It showed us how fertilizer, oil and other things can pollute water." (Josh)

So—for science at its best, watch for your youngster's participation in 4-H school enrichment.



classroom. "Embryology teaches responsibility, patience and expectation. Youth develop a healthy sense of awe, respect and tenderness toward living things," comments a Lincoln Public Schools teacher.

Blue Sky Below My Feet

