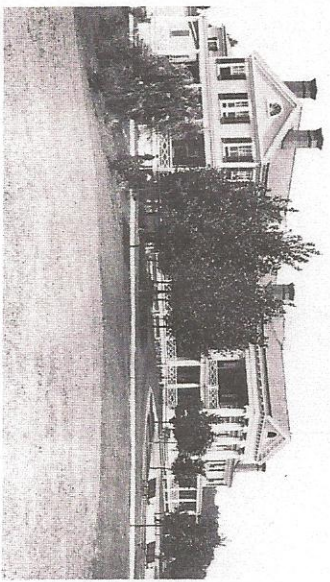


# National 4-H Center

## Historic Chevy Chase Landmark



The Chevy Chase Inn at the turn of the century

The National 4-H Center, one of the largest youth education and conference facilities in the country, has a colorful history dating back to 1893.

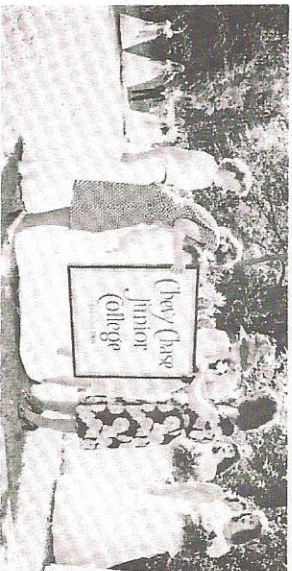
### Chevy Chase Inn 1893-1903

In 1890 Francis G. Newlands recognized the potential of the farmland north of Washington and formed the Chevy Chase Land Company to develop the area. As part of that development, Newlands built the Chevy Chase Inn, which became a popular refuge for Washingtonians during the hot and humid summer months. While the inn was popular during the summer months, in the winter it became a white elephant. By 1903 even the summer hotel business could not offset the expenses of operating the hotel year-round. That year the property was sold and became the Chevy Chase College for Young Ladies, later called Chevy Chase Junior College.

### Chevy Chase Junior College 1903-1950

When the property was taken over by its new owners, a brick facade was added to the white frame colonial structure and two new buildings, known today as Turner Hall and Warren Hall, were constructed on either side of it. The school attracted daughters of diplomats and proper Southern ladies and appeared to be the epi-

tope of elegance, with the young ladies dancing around the maypole, playing hockey on the front lawn, and according to its 1950 yearbook "experimenting with the wonders of chemistry" in the laboratory. But that year the school abruptly closed.



Chevy Chase Junior College

Two years earlier, the National 4-H Foundation had been established. Its mission was to channel private support from business and industry into 4-H programs nationwide. The Foundation had been searching for a suitable location for a national training center for 4-H. The old school grounds seemed like a perfect spot. The property was purchased early in 1951.

### U.S. Defense Department 1951-1957

On Valentine's Day 1951, the Foundation dedicated the buildings to the service of 4-H, but they held the keys for less than half an hour. The nation was gearing up for the Korean conflict and the Defense Department asked to lease the buildings for an Operations Research Office.

The Defense Department held the property until near the end of the decade. In the meantime, the Foundation began raising funds to renovate the property upon its release. 4-H members across the country participated in a "share and care" program that raised nearly \$250,000. These funds, together with substantial grants from the Ford Foundation and the Danforth Foundation, enabled renovation to begin as soon as the property was returned in 1957.

### National 4-H Center 1958-

In 1958, the Foundation staff moved from Silver Spring into Turner Hall on the campus. On June 16, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower cut the ribbon at the opening ceremonies for the National 4-H Center.



The first group to use the new facility were teenagers attending the annual National 4-H Conference. For years 4-H teen leaders attending National 4-H Conference had camped on the Mall near the Washington Monument for a week to confer and make recommendations about future directions for 4-H. It is appropriate that they were the first group to use the new facility.

The Center also became the site for year-round training programs for 4-H youth, volunteer leaders, and professional staff. During the summer and during the school year, young people participate in Center-based citizenship programs that use the resources of Washington to augment seminars held at the Center. In 1959, 40 teenagers from Buchanan County, Iowa arrived at the Center for the first program. Today more than 6,000 young people each year benefit from this experience.

Throughout the year the National 4-H Center serves as the orientation site for 4-H international exchanges. The corridors, where students at the turn of the century could be heard practicing French, today ring with Spanish, German, Hindi, and Swahili. With the steady growth of 4-H, now involving 5,000,000 young people and 600,000 volunteer leaders, the Center facilities became cramped for space. During the summer citizenship program, some participants had to be housed at other facilities.

To address this problem, the Foundation launched an expansion program in 1969. With pledges from 4-H families and from the private sector, the first phase of construction began in the spring of 1970. By July 1971 the first two buildings were completed and the overnight capacity of the Center grew from 300 to 650 occupants. In addition to guest rooms, the two new facilities added conference rooms and a dining room with seating for 450 people.

In 1976 expansion of the main administration building began. With contributions of more than \$8,000,000 from corporations, foundations, and individuals, the restoration was completed in the fall of 1977. To recognize major supporters of the Center expansion program, the expanded main administration building, with its familiar pillars restored, was named J.C. Penney Hall. The residential and dining hall was named W.K. Kellogg Hall and residential and conference halls were named for Cyrus H. McCormick and Harvey S. Firestone.

While expansion of the Center was under way, the decision was made to merge two national organizations working on behalf of 4-H: the National 4-H Service Committee in Chicago, Illinois and National 4-H Foundation. On February 1, 1977, the combined organizations became known as National 4-H Council, effectively joining efforts to gain private support for programs and to increase public awareness of 4-H.

The National 4-H Center will continue to be far more than a group of buildings.

It is dedicated to Service to Youth.



National 4-H Council is a not-for-profit educational organization that uses private resources to help expand and strengthen the 4-H program. 4-H is the youth education program of the Cooperative Extension Service of the state land-grant universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

National 4-H Council owns and operates National 4-H Center, an educational training center located just outside Washington, D.C. The Center offers an attractive setting with facilities to meet the conference and meeting needs of both small and large groups. The Center operates year-round, serving the needs of 4-H and related groups. It offers resources and services that are both efficient and economical.

### Special Features

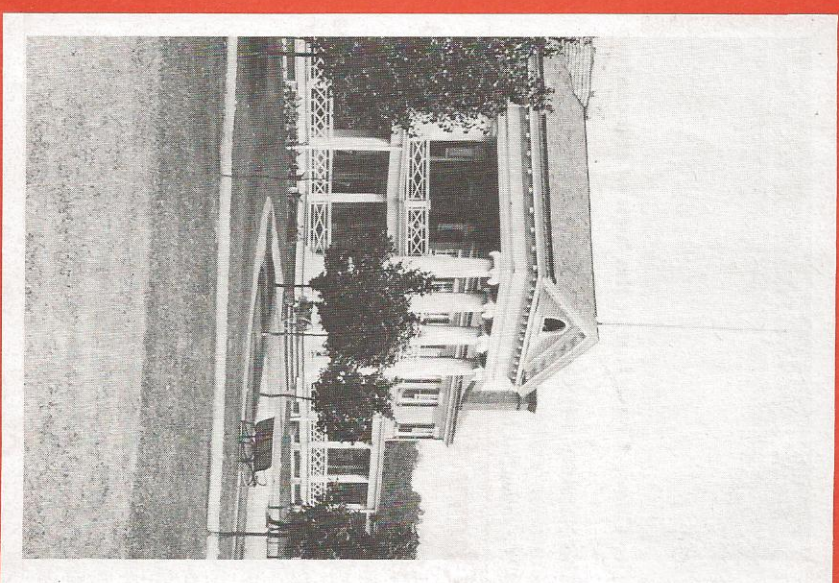
- \* overnight accommodations for 650 people
- \* 30 conference rooms
- \* dining and banquet facilities
- \* free parking
- \* free use of audio-visual equipment
- \* easy access to major airports
- \* transportation coordination assistance
- \* lovely campus setting in quiet, secure neighborhood



Programs and educational materials of National 4-H Council are available to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin or handicap. Council is an equal opportunity employer.

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# History of the National 4-H Center



National  
4-H Council