When you support Extension, high school students improve their leadership skills to serve as active citizens in their local and state communities.

Contact:
4-H Youth Development
212 Scovell Hall
Lexington, KY 40546-0064
859-257-5961
http://4-h.ca.uky.edu/

Kentucky 4-H Teen Conference Enhances Leadership Skills of High School Students

4-H Teen Conference delegates met with Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government elected officials during the Listen Up Legislators educational workshop to expand their knowledge of the legislative process.

4-H Teen Conference seeks to develop leadership and teamwork, improve communication, foster civic engagement, and expand knowledge and skills.

extension.ca.uky.edu
Since 1924, the Cooperative Extension Service has conducted the 4-H Teen Conference at the University of Kentucky. In 2017, the 4-H Teen Conference attracted 536 high school 4-H members from 89 counties across the Kentucky. During 4-H Teen Conference, high school 4-H members developed skills in leadership, improved communication, and fostered citizenship. They expanded knowledge in specific subjects related to 4-H Core Content areas, gained club and county 4-H program skills, experienced a sense of belonging in a social setting, and became acquainted with the University of Kentucky, campus life, and career opportunities.

4-H Teen Conference is a useful tool for positive youth development professionals to engage high school youth in 4-H activities that will promote mastery, belonging, independence, and generosity. In 2017, 54% of the youth surveyed reported that this was their first year attending 4-H Teen Conference and 57 had previously attended 4-H Summit, the 4-H middle school leadership conference. Of the youth that attended, 70% participated in a 4-H School Club, 83% participated in a 4-H Community Club, 69% have been a member of their county’s 4-H Teen Leadership Club/4-H Teen Council and 39% served on the Kentucky 4-H State Teen Council or one of the Kentucky 4-H Teen Leadership Boards.

Nearly half of the youth first visit to the University of Kentucky’s campus and two thirds of the youth’s first experience staying overnight in a University of Kentucky dormitory. Of those attending, 93% reported their plans to attend a four-year college or university, with 87% considering the University of Kentucky as a post-secondary option.

Youth reported many benefits to attending 4-H Teen Conference in 2017:

- 69% developed leadership skills
- 68% expanded personal networks by making new friends
- 64% expanded their knowledge related to 4-H core content
- 62% improved communication skills
- 49% became acquainted with the University of Kentucky
- 40% gained skills to take back to their club or county 4-H program.

“I learned the basics of video production at Kentucky 4-H Teen Conference through my educational workshop with KET, from here my interest and passion for video production has grown. I am now enrolled at the University of Kentucky pursuing a degree in video production. Kentucky 4-H Teen Conference has shaped my future.”

Kentucky 4-H Treasurer 2017-2018