

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Changing Lives

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



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.

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

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

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“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

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.

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.



The University of Kentucky Police Department conduct a Mini Police Academy to introduce members to careers in law enforcement.

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.**