

COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE



College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

[extension.ca.uky.edu](http://extension.ca.uky.edu)

# EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Changing Lives*



Contact:  
4-H Youth Development  
212 Scovell Hall  
Lexington, KY 40546-0064  
859-257-5961

<http://4-h.ca.uky.edu/>

When you  
support  
Extension, youth  
demonstrate their  
communication  
and performing  
arts skills to  
be leaders in  
their school and  
community.



4-H Performing Arts Troupe and Leadership Board is comprised of nineteen youth representing all areas of Kentucky.

## 4-H Performing Arts Troupe and Leadership Board Enhanced Skills, Provided Learning Experiences, and Influenced Career Paths

*“Researchers have found a positive association between arts participation and a number of desirable academic and social outcomes, such as school grades, test scores, enrollment in post-secondary education, attainment of a bachelor’s degree, and higher levels of literacy and civic engagement (Child Trends, 2013).”*



**Members have completed an end of program evaluation which revealed that 100% of the participants increased skills in the performing arts, are confident they can express themselves through the arts, get along with people who have different interests and opinions, and have used skills they have learned in other activities in school or in their community. Seven former members plan on seeking a career in the performing arts as a result of this program.**

The Kentucky 4-H Program created and implemented the Kentucky 4-H Performing Arts Troupe and Leadership Board in 2012. Over the past four years, thirty-eight youth have participated in the program. The youth have vocal and performance skills as well as technical skills in staging, lighting, and sound. They attend a 4-H music camp where they improve music skills, and enhance their performance while they learn teamwork skills. Performing Arts Troupe members attend 4-H Teen Summit and Teen Conference where they lead other 4-H youth and perform. The Performing Arts Troupe develops and implements a series of workshops for 4-H middle school youth to encourage them to express themselves through the arts. The middle school youth then perform at the 4-H Teen Summit. Their final performance of the year is at Teen Conference.

The members of the 4-H Performing Arts Troupe & Leadership Board learn about career opportunities in the performing arts during a culminating educational trip where they attend a Broadway musical, tour backstage at a performance venue, learn about making instruments, tour a recording studio and record a song. Research by the National Education Association indicates that youth gain confidence as a result of expressing themselves through the arts. That confidence in communication is expressed in other activities in their schools, through civic engagement and pursuit of college degrees.



*4-H Performing Arts Troupe prepares to record a song at a local recording studio.*



*4-H Performing Arts Troupe are introduced to a variety of art forms such as making guitars and mandolins at the Appalachian Artisan Center.*