

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Changing Lives

When you support Extension, youth use career building skills to access post-secondary education and professional careers.

Contact:

4-H Youth Development
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Breckinridge County 4-H members learn about U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) careers. They measured local water levels with a USGS Ground Water Specialist.

4-H Prepares Youth to Pursue Professional Careers

The 4-H Career Shadowing program enables youth to research educational requirements and professional demands in a variety of workplaces.



extension.ca.uky.edu

Kentucky 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential to succeed in today's global society. Over 122,000 4-H members reported applying their skills learned in 4-H in activities at home, school or in their community.

2017 Kentucky Extension Reporting System

Workforce preparation is a major concern in our global economy. Employers are reporting that young workers lack communication, leadership, teamwork, and problem solving skills necessary in today's workplace. The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service has addressed these concerns by providing intentional workforce preparation experiences including education, experience and reflection. In the 2016-2017 program year, youth in 5th to 12th grades participated in a variety of 4-H career awareness programs. The focus included distinguishing career clusters, recognizing types of jobs within the cluster, completing a job application, creating resumes and improving communication skills.

Boone County 4-H conducts Employment 101 with 8th grade students at two middle schools. Of the over 340 youth who participated in 2016, six have contacted their teacher to report being hired in their first job using the skills they learned from 4-H.

In **Warren County**, over 120 youth, in middle and high school, participated in the 2017 4-H Career Shadowing Day. Youth shadowed professionals in a variety of fields including engineering and technology, health care, education, law, agriculture and communications. **Warren County** students have the opportunity to investigate up to eight different careers before graduating from high school. During the 4-H Career Shadowing Day, youth observed activities and responsibilities, investigated educational requirements for the career, and questioned the professionals. As a result, 68% of the youth reported that the job shadowing experience changed their opinion of future career choices. Others reported being more confident in the career choices they plan to pursue. Ninety-seven percent reported becoming more focused on schoolwork to in order to achieve career goals. **Warren County** 4-H Career Shadowing Day alumni have acquired employment at veterinarian clinics, as teachers, and been accepted to the Air Force Academy. Each credits their career pursuits to their 4-H experiences.

The **Breckinridge County** 4-H Career Club



Boone County student participates in a mock interview.



Breckinridge County 4-H members have fun while learning about funding options for higher education during the Career FUNd Quiz Bowl.

toured five Kentucky universities and multiple companies exploring engineering, kinesiology, broadcasting, pharmacy, culinary arts, medicine, business, agriculture and fine arts. In addition to career skills, youth investigated higher education financial aid options.

These are a few of the specific workforce preparation programs offered by Kentucky 4-H. 4-H develops communication, teamwork and leadership skills in all program areas. During 2017, over 46,000 youth improved their communication skills, 7,430 members led a project group or project club, and 4,248 served as mentors to younger youth.