

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Changing Lives

When you support Extension, middle school youth discover and enhance their leadership potential.



In 2017, the 4-H State Teen Council implemented a new healthy living initiative through their "Hit the Trail: 4K" during each 4-H Summit session.

4-H Summit Bridges Learning and Leadership for Middle School Youth

4-H Summit provides opportunities for peer interaction in a structured atmosphere of exploration to experience new activities.

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“Kentucky 4-H Summit really helped me meet new people from across Kentucky. We learned together, and 4-H Summit opened my mind because we learned different leadership skills we could use in the future.”

McCracken County 4-H Member

The objective of Kentucky 4-H Summit is to provide youth from across the Commonwealth with the opportunity to develop leadership skills through exploring and enhancing their leadership skills.

In 2017, 488 middle school 4-H members from 86 counties participated in 4-H Summit. 4-H Summit provided youth the opportunity to belong to a group of peers and as they expanded teamwork skills, exercised communication skills, and fostered relationships with older 4-H members.

The Kentucky 4-H State Teen Council served as mentors for the event and be positive role models for the younger 4-H’ers. The Kentucky 4-H leadership boards (Fashion Leadership Board, Performing Arts Troupe, and the Science, Engineering and Technology Leadership Board) developed and implemented educational workshops to share with middle school members, allowing the younger 4-H’ers the chance to see leaders in specific 4-H projects.

4-H Summit participants reported feeling accepted by a group of their peers, improved team building and leadership skills, and improved their communication skills. The middle school 4-H’ers reported that because of their involvement in the event they now felt more comfortable leading a group discussion (53%), a leadership activity (48%) and a communication activity (46%) among a group of peers in 4-H, their school, church or other organization when they returned home.



Members have the opportunity to expand their life skills through hands-on workshops in a variety of subjects.



The Kentucky 4-H State Teen Council, Fashion Leadership Board, Performing Arts Troupe, and the Science, Engineering and Technology Leadership Board develop and implement educational workshops to share with middle school members.