



UK Cooperative
Extension Service

Washington County Extension Service
245 Corporate Drive | Springfield, KY 40069

Washington County Teen Leadership



A Note to Our Supporters, Volunteers & Partners

Thank you for supporting Teen Leadership! Leadership has always been vital to the success and growth of our society. The goal of the program is to develop each participant's interpersonal and professional leadership skills. Many people have helped our leaders to learn and succeed. Please continue to read about our activities during the 2023-2024 Teen Leadership program.

Teen Leadership Program

Washington County Schools and the Washington County Extension Office partner each year to offer the Teen Leadership program for high school juniors and seniors. Students must apply for the program and express an interest in developing their leadership skills. Program coordinators meet with Teen Leaders each month throughout the school year to focus on various aspects of the community. Team building, personal development activities, and assignments are incorporated into the program as well. Our community and state partners are integral to achieving the goals of Teen Leadership.

Program Coordinators

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Class of 2023-2024

Camden Abell
Hunter Bartley
Reese Cambron
Morgan Carrico
Jacob Cochran
Amarissa Cullen
Alexis Frye
Jasey Goff
Kennan Hudson
Briley Lewis
Olivia Mattingly
Jesse McClain
Anne Scott Mudd
Jolon Mudd
Abby Nalley
Addison Osbourne
Isabella Piasecki
Maddie Spalding
Baylah Staser
Wyatt Stumph
Alex Taylor
Madeline Taylor
Kyah Tucker
Ally Yeager
Isobel Yeager

Teen Leadership Assignments

Introductions

Goals: *introduce the teen leaders, build community awareness*

Teen leaders created a photo presentation of family, friends, school, their heritage, local businesses, agriculture, new construction, their favorite places, things they want to change & things they want to remain the same in Washington County.



Real Leaders

Goal: *recognize the characteristics of leadership in the real world*

Teen leaders chose one real leader & gave a short presentation on that person. Real leaders could be family, local leaders, artists, politicians, athletes, business owners, etc. Teens included the following:

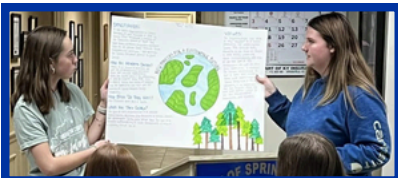
- Information about that leader
- The leader's purpose or goal
- The people the leader influences
- Characteristics the leader displays
- Leadership personality



Community Engagement

Goal: *learn about community organizations & leadership*

Teen leaders worked in teams to learn more about a community organization. In their poster presentations, teens included a description of the organization, member information, goals, and the value that the group adds to the community.

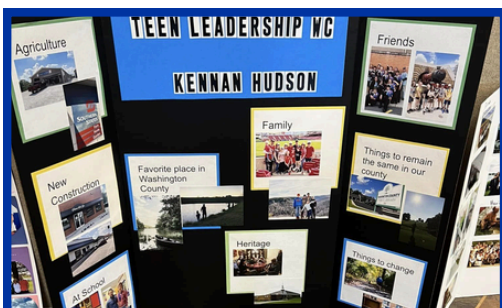


Welcome Retreat

Goals: team building, communication & public speaking

Retreat activities included:

- Teen Leaders' Introduction Assignment Presentations
- Choosing teams and civic organizations for Civic Engagement Assignment
- Leadership Personalities with Cabrina Buckman



The Teens Learned:

"I learned how to show my heritage and what that meant to me"

"I am concerned about youth opportunities in our community"

"I love my town and cherish the small things"

"My community has some aspects that need to change, but we all still love Washington County"

"When working with a team, I can focus on the things I am best at"

"I will make sure to stay patient with others even if I think differently than them"

Leadership Traits the Teens saw this Day:

- Confidence
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Imagination
- Advocate for Community

Agriculture Day

Goals: learn about local agriculture and career opportunities. Thanks to Farm Bureau for providing lunch and Taylor Graves, Washington County Extension Agriculture Agent for planning this day!

Activities and speakers included:

- Visit Silverton Hill Farm
- Ag Olympics with Taylor Graves
- Learn about careers in agriculture and county agriculture with Taylor Graves and Dennis Morgeson
- Visit Lost Oak Sheep and Flower Farm



The Teens Learned:

"How a large scale farm manages horses and how they simulate race conditions"

"Different kinds of sheep and processes used in the sheep farming industry"

"The difference and similarities between large and small scale farms"

"How an independent farmer cuts costs but still maintains respect to the animals"

"Communication and working together is the only way teamwork can work"

"There are many different kinds of agriculture in our community"

"Teamwork is crucial skill to learn"

"How farming can look on a smaller scale and how homesteading can look"

OCTOBER 19, 2023

Wellness Day

Goals: learn about self-care practices and preventing substance misuse

Activities and speakers included:

- Preventing Substance Misuse with Dr. Alex Elswick, UK Extension Specialist for Substance Use Prevention and Recovery
- Mental Health with Dr. Chuck Stamper, UK Extension Special Projects Coordinator
- Visit Hooves of Hope to learn about equine therapy



The Teens Learned:

"This day helped me expand my knowledge of mental health, and showed me ways to help navigate mental issues"

"It helped me realize that it's important to have a strong support system"

"Practicing self care allows you to feel safe and see others who may struggle"

"I learned the 'full picture' of addiction and mental disorders/health. The way he explained it made a lot of sense to me, and his view was very insightful."

"How animals can help people with their mental and physical health"

Leadership Traits the Teens saw this Day:

Strength
Involvement
Bravery
Honesty
Self awareness
Understanding
Compassion

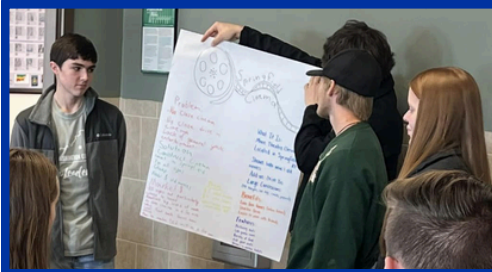
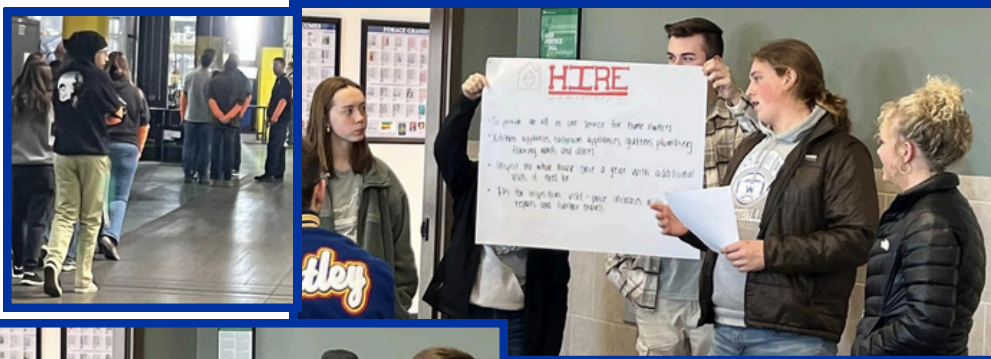
Business & Industry Day

Goals: learn about local industries and careers

Thanks to Daniel Carney, Director of the Springfield-Washington County Economic Development Authority for planning this day!

Activities and speakers included:

- Local Economic Overview with Daniel Carney
- Visit Toyotomi America Corporation
- Visit Innovative Tooling Solutions
- Visit Barber Cabinet Company
- Small Business Pitch Contest



The Teens Learned:

"Our economy is very abundant and open for growth. We are a hub for potential buyers."

"Not only did I learn more about some businesses in Springfield, but I learned how big of an impact these businesses have, such as how they export their products all over the country, state, etc."

"That so much more goes into creating a business rather than just creating it, that activity was great focusing on how to show us that" [the small business pitch contest]

"Manufacturing is important in Springfield and that because of the geographical location in Kentucky there are a number of automobile manufacturers"

Leadership Traits the Teens saw this Day:

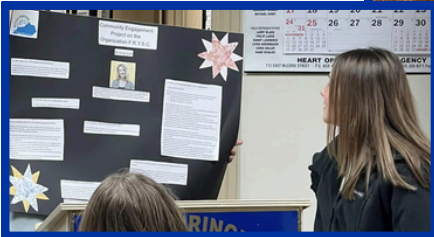
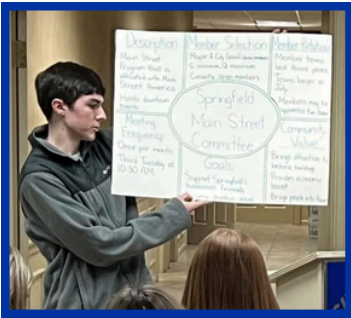
- Visionary
- Dedication
- Teamwork
- Determination

Local Government & Civic Engagement Day

Goals: learn about local government and civic engagement

Activities and speakers included:

- Visit City Hall to speak with Mayor Chris Essex and Jessica Hart, City Clerk
- Visit Springfield Police Station
- Panel Discussion with Jill Reed, Mainstreet Director and Lora Justice, Tourism Director
- Visit 1816 Courthouse to speak with Judge Tim Graves and Brett Barry, County Clerk
- Civic Engagement Presentations



The Teens Learned:

"I learned about how much they do for the community and how much input from the youth they want"

"There are a lot of volunteers in my community"

"How important youth involvement is for Springfield"

"The Springfield Main Street Committee helps preserve historic buildings on Main Street"

"They have the marriage license of Lincoln's parents in the courthouse"

"People from all around the world come to Springfield"

"They want to start a youth committee" [Mayor Essex]

"It is a long process for people to get to court and become an officer"

"The courthouse has records from the late 1700s"

"A great amount of work goes into keeping the community running"

Financial Management Day

Goals: learn about financial management and setting goals for the future

Activities and speakers included:

- Goal Setting Posters with Cabrina Buckman
- Visit Springfield State Bank to learn about online banking and security protection
- College Expenses and Scholarships with WCHS Guidance Counselor
- Decision Grid and Budget Activity with Melissa Richardson
- Learning about Loans with Ag Credit



The Teens Learned:

[goal setting poster] "What I want to accomplish in the different stages of my future. Posters like this help to create motivation to be productive."

"I learned how to look out for possible fraudulent emails"

"I learned how to protect myself and my finances"

"A decision grid can be extremely helpful when making important decisions"

"Numerous expenses need to be taken into account when budgeting"

"I learned that your credit score plays a huge role in taking out loans"

"It can be good to have loans and credit cards if treated with responsibility"

"I learned there is a lot to look forward to and start saving for"

"Making decisions can be very difficult and overwhelming but the right strategies can help you narrow down your options"

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

State Government Day

Goals: learn about state government and how it works

Special thanks to Representative Kim King and Bobbi Jo Spaulding for assisting with this day.

Activities and speakers included:

- View the House of Representatives Session
- Tour the Capitol
- Lunch and Discussions with Representative Kim King



MARCH 5, 2024

Health and Emergency Services Day

Goals: learn about health and emergency services and career opportunities. Special thanks to Flaget Hospital and Joe Carpenter, WC Rescue Commander!

Activities and speakers included:

- Visit Flaget Hospital to tour services and learn about career opportunities
- Mock car crash rescue with Springfield-WC Rescue and WC Ambulance Service



The Teens Learned:

"I learned how there are many different types of jobs within healthcare, I didn't know there were quite so many options"

"I learned that there is a lot more behind the scenes besides doctors and nurses at hospitals"

"I learned the process for how the rescue and EMS handle an accident scene"

"The [rescue] tools are very heavy, wear your seatbelt, and don't drink and drive"

"I saw a lot of collaboration, there were people working together in every part of the hospital tour, as well as in the mock rescue"

Leadership Traits the Teens saw this Day:

Resilience
Caring
Teamwork
Communication
Bravery
Persistence
Intelligence

APRIL 11, 2024

Graduation Day

Goals: practice teamwork skills and public speaking

Activities included:

- Real Leader Assignment Presentations
- Award Certificates
- Breakout Room at Countdown Games



The Most Important Thing the Teens Learned in the Program:

"The most important thing I have learned is that it never hurts to speak up about your community and share your opinions."

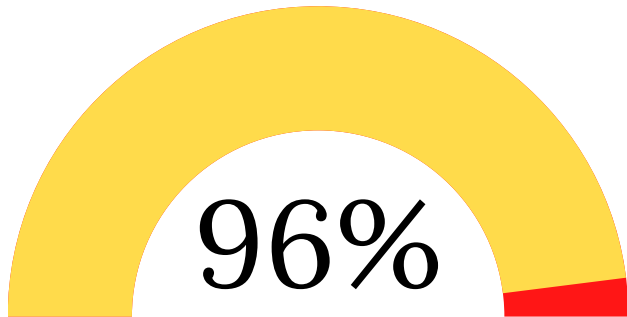
"Just because my leadership style may be different than others, it doesn't mean that I am not a leader"

"The most important thing I learned in this program is that there is not one definition or description of an effective leader. Leaders can come from starkly different backgrounds, end up in various places, and operate with different styles, but they are all capable of having a tremendous impact on the people around them."

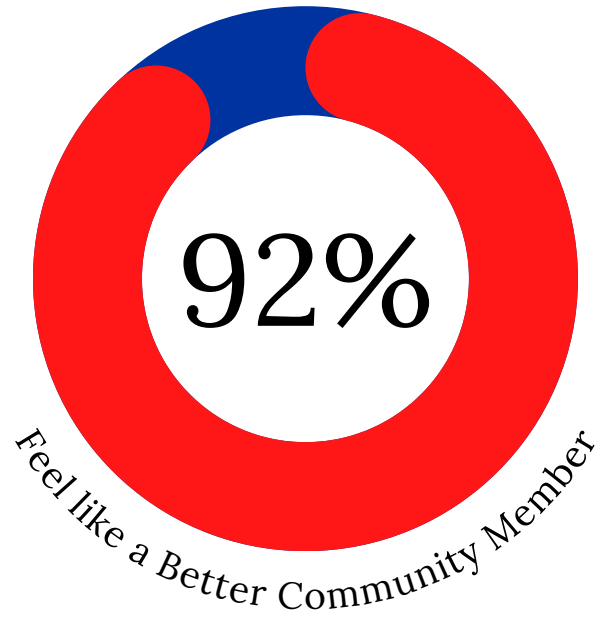
"The value of small town leadership to its inhabitants"

"That every aspect of Washington County is important in its own way"

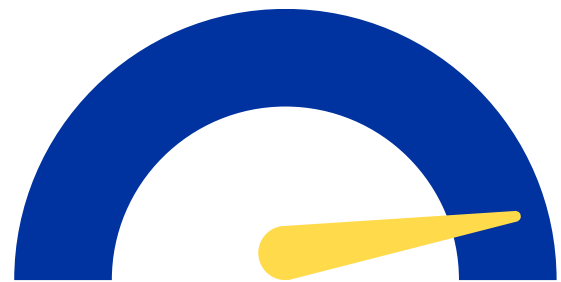
*As a result of the Teen Leadership program,
the teen leaders reported...*



Have a Better Understanding of Leadership in Washington County



96% Feel More Prepared for College/Career



Have Improved Leadership Skills



Have a Better Understanding of How to Reach Their Goals



*"Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts.
It is about one life influencing another."*

-John Maxwell

