FY2017 4-H Youth Development Impact
Challenge of Citizenship Education
Polk County

Total 4-H Program Overview

4-H Members	746
4-H Clubs	19
4-H Volunteers	90
Value of Volunteer Hours	$52,142.00

Highlights

Enhanced Civic Responsibility	207
Shared What They Learned	44
Developed Leadership Skills	83
Improved Teamworking Skills	15
Increased Communication Skills	35
Funds Raised for CWF Trip	$11,250

"...entirely new realm of respect for our nation's heros and policy-makers, one I'll never forget." Abby T

"...this trip reminded me of the sacrifices made for my freedoms." Eden B

Polk County 4-H Teens made up one-fourth of the 2017 Arkansas delegation to Citizenship Washington Focus. Teens learned about the federal government process and saw the sites of DC on this week-long trip.

Relevance

At a time when the nation is confronting some of the more difficult decisions it has faced in a long time, a lack of high quality civic education in America's schools leaves millions of citizens without the ability to make sense of our system of government. 4-H has always emphasized the importance of developing passionate, informed citizens.

Response

At the county level, 4-H youth were educated in advocacy and civic engagement in preparation for an educational field day to the state capitol during the legislative session. Youth and leaders attended 4-H Day at the State Capitol where they met and saw our legislators in action. The delegation learned what a day as a legislator entails as well as met 4-Hers from other counties with the same interests. In addition, some of the teens went on to represent Polk County and Arkansas at the 2017 Citizenship Washington Focus experience in DC and at the National 4-H Center. The teens met with their congressperson as well as saw the sites of DC.

Results

- 39 Polk County 4-Hers and Leaders learned how to advocate and discuss issues with legislators
- 26 Polk County 4-Hers and Leaders attended 4-H Day at the State Capitol during the 2017 Legislative session
- 9 Polk County teens attended CWF in July in Washington DC
- Teens and families raised a total of $11,250 to completely pay tuition for their CWF experience
- 9 Polk County teens reported the CWF experience was "the opportunity of a lifetime" to see our democracy in action
- Enthusiasm has carried over to 2018 and 2019. We have additional youth making plans to attend as soon as they are old enough

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