

News Release for Immediate Release or Next Issue
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16 4-H Members Attend Citizenship in Action (CIA)

Sixteen 4-H members and three chaperones from the River Valley District attended Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action in Topeka at the Capital Plaza Hotel on Sunday and Monday, February 16th and 17th. CIA is a State 4-H Event for young people to learn about the legislative process. Sunday afternoon, attendees were split in committees to work together to write three different mock bills – later to be debated and voted on in mock sessions. The mock bills included the following three topics: “Mental Illness in America,” “How do we prevent Mass Shootings in our Communities?,” and “Land Use Conflict – When Country and City Clash.”

Sunday evening, 4-Hers attended a formal banquet with Representatives Suzi Carlson, District 64, and Bill Pannbacker, District 106, and Senator Elaine Bowers, Senate Majority Whip, District 36 as guests of River Valley District 4-H.

Following the banquet, the 4-H members headed to the Capitol building to debate and vote on the mock bills in the House of Representatives and the Senate Chambers. The evening concluded back at the hotel with dancing and swimming.

On Monday morning, 4-H members attended a buffet breakfast. They also had the opportunity to donate to Pennies for Patients. The funds raised supported The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In addition, they also heard from Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt who shared his 4-H experience and encouraged everyone to take advantage of the opportunities given to them.

The delegation then headed to the Capitol to take a historic tour, observe legislative sessions, and to meet with Bill Pannbacker, Suzi Carlson, Senator Elaine Bowers, and Representative Susan Concannon, District 107. We were fortunate that all four of these important figures took time out of their very busy day to meet with our 4-H members and to talk to them about the Senate and House processes.

CIA is a great opportunity for youth to witness the legislative process in action, participate in mock sessions, promote 4-H to our legislators, and to learn the difference one can make with their state government. We hope to take more 4-Hers to next year’s event!