

News Column for use the week of September 19, 2022  
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#### **4-H Junior Leaders Travel to Nashville**

45 4-H members from the River Valley District traveled to Nashville, Tennessee on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. After spending two full days of sightseeing, learning, and having some fun, the group traveled back home on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

4-H Junior Leaders are youth that are age 12 and older who are enrolled in the Leadership project through 4-H. Through the leadership project, youth are developing life skills to be better leaders and role models for others. Due to space restrictions, youth must have been age 14 to be eligible to register for the trip.

On the way to Nashville on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, the group stopped in Odessa, MO to eat lunch. The morning bus ride was pretty quiet as the 45 youth from 4 different counties came together. Due to the distance and time it takes to travel from Kansas to Nashville, we made the drive straight through with a few stops to get up and move along the way. By the end of the first night, many friendships had already begun to flourish, and youth were singing songs, smiling, and enjoying their time together.

On Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, we started our day with a tour at RFD-TV by one of our Republic County 4-H alumni, Charlsie (Craig) McKay. RFD-TV was very welcoming to our large group and even allowed the opportunity for all our youth to be a part of the morning broadcast that was LIVE on national television. This tour was a great opportunity for youth to explore career paths and see the success of a former 4-H'er.

We loaded up the bus and headed to the Cooters (Dukes of Hazzard) museum. Youth enjoyed learning all about the iconic TV show that made its first debut in 1979. One of the big highlights was seeing a replica of the famous General Lee and an original jeep that Daisy drove in the show.

Youth enjoyed lunch on Broadway Street while listening to the live music of up-and-coming artists. Next on the list was the Country Music Hall of Fame Museum. Youth were able to walk around and read historic and educational information from decades of famous singers.

That evening, the group attend the General Jackson showboat. The big paddleboat floats down the Cumberland river while a talented group of singers perform and guest eat a tasty meal. Unfortunately, the paddleboat needed some maintenance and was unable to travel the river the night we attended. Nevertheless, the youth enjoyed the show.

On Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, the group went to the Treetop Adventure Park. Youth harnessed up and took to the trees of Nashville. They enjoyed climbing through a series of courses made of bridges, ladders, and zip lines. A few of the youth were brave enough to challenge themselves to the hardest of trails.

After lunch, the group toured Lane's Auto Museum, one of the few museums in the United States to specialize in European cars. It was an incredible collection with numerous vehicles and motorcycles. They were generous enough to give us a live demonstration and the history of one of the vehicles on site. Youth finished the afternoon enjoying time at the hotel pool, relaxing, and cleaning up for the evening activities.

That evening, the group ate dinner and attended the Grand Ole Opry during their Country Music Classic night. This one-of-a-kind experience allowed youth to witness some of the greatest country music stars perform on one of the biggest stages. The stars included T. Graham Brown, Jamey Johnson, Jeannie Seeley, Sunny Sweeney, and the Gatlin Brothers.

On Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, the group loaded the tour bus and headed back to the River Valley District. This educational and fun trip was enjoyed by all. 4-H offers many fun and educational opportunities for youth. Contact Macy Hynek at 785-527-5084 or at mhynek@ksu.edu to learn more about 4-H and its opportunities in the River Valley District

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45 4-H'ers are pictured here at the front of the Grand Ole Opry, one of the stops during the River Valley 4-H Junior Leader Trip.

Youth in attendance were:

River Valley District – Belleville: Blake Aurand, Jaren Aurand, Natalie Boyer, Natalee Bray, Clayton Carlgren, Dakota Clausen-Peters, Chesnie Dickinson, Elijah Field, Carysn Frasier, Sherice Fraiser, Andrew Hubert, Emma Hubert, Brecken Issacson, Tallyn Melton, Kiersten Morgan, Sean Morgan, Autumn Nabity, Zach Piroutek, Miles Rickard, Jaycee Selewski, Avery Stindt, Kylie Stone, Meg White, and Elly Williams

River Valley District – Clay Center: Juliann Begnoche, Kaley Chambers, Reece Geer, Allison James, Lane Musselman, and Sierra Stewart

River Valley District – Concordia: Samantha Bartlett, Bethany Demars, Taley Murdock, and McKenzie Widen

River Valley District – Washington: Joree Bentz, Addison Herra, Amber Kollé, Carissa Kollé, Madisyn Lohse, Gillian Minge, Reanna Rencin, Aliyah Sinn, Elgin Sinn, Coy Stamm, and Hope White

Chaperones: Diane Kussman, Brianna Hake, Macy Hynek, and Wade Reh