

News Column for Use Week of 2/25/19
Monica Thayer, Extension Agent: 4-H Youth Development
River Valley Extension District
2/21/19

4-H'ers Attend Citizenship in Action in Topeka

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 17th and 18th. Citizenship in Action (CIA) is a State 4-H Event for young people to learn about the legislative process. 4-H is growing our youth into tomorrow's leaders through opportunities, including CIA.

Sunday afternoon, attendees were split into committees and worked together to write three different mock bills that would later be debated and voted on in mock sessions. The mock bill on Veteran benefits was debated and voted on at the hotel prior to the banquet.

Sunday evening, 4-H'ers attended a formal banquet with Representatives Suzi Carlson, District 64, and Bill Pannbacker, District 106, as guests of River Valley District 4-H. Vicki Schmidt, Kansas Insurance Commissioner, was the guest speaker and shared a fascinating story regarding overcoming a failure.

Following the banquet, the 4-H members headed to the Capitol building to debate and vote on the remaining two mock bills regarding the Ogallala Aquifer and opioid restriction in the House of Representatives Chamber. While one group was debating on the bills, the other group was completing a scavenger hunt on Kansas history and legislative knowledge. The evening concluded back at the hotel with dancing, swimming, and playing board games.

On Monday morning, 4-H members attended a buffet breakfast with Wade Weber, State 4-H Program Leader, charging those in attendance to make a difference in their communities. 4-H members brought donations for the Ronald McDonald House in Topeka. Mindee Reece, their Executive Director, thanked the group for their generosity and addressed exactly what their organization does for families, which included families from Clay, Cloud, and Washington Counties in 2018.

The delegation then headed to the Capitol to meet with legislators, observe committee meetings and legislative sessions, and tour the Capitol. Senator Elaine Bowers, District 36, took time out of her busy day to meet with our 4-H members in her office and showed the youth around.

CIA was 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. As our youth continue to grow into tomorrow's leaders, help them prepare for this role through experiences in 4-H. Contact Monica at 785-527-5084 or mthayer@ksu.edu to learn more about 4-H in the River Valley District.

Picture and names below.



Back Row (L to R): Gabe Rice, Bryson Schmidt, Representative Bill Pannbacker, Keath Meyer, Cole Stahlman, Rachelle Anderson, Haylie Avery, Angel Hale, and Zachary Stitt
Front Row (L to R): Levi Cool, Gunnar Hale, Kenzie Bartlett, Reegan Geer, Carly Kolle, Hana Cool, Karrin Larson, Reece Geer, and Representative Suzi Carlson