

THE VISION IS CLEAR KYG 2020 IS HERE



4-H Alumni: In Idaho's Legislature

4-H empowers youth with many life skills, as well as countless memories and lessons, which all help create leaders. In addition, 4-H offers a wide variety of projects such as government, personal finance, gardening, sewing, leadership, and visual arts helping 4-H members learn more about the world.

These projects provide valuable skills such as teamwork and other lessons that are more specific to the project. 4-H alumni can accomplish great things! Every year on President's Day, Idaho 4-H members gather at the Know Your Government Conference (KYG) in Boise. 4-H members will learn about the state's legislative and judicial branches of government and make connections with other youth from across the state. On the final day of the event, a breakfast is hosted at the conference with judges, legislators, and other state leaders in attendance. The **legislative breakfast** (one of my favorite parts of KYG) made me wonder, "How many of Idaho's current legislators are 4-H alumni?"

It turns out that Idaho's Legislature is full of former 4-H'ers. Out of the 34 responses I received from Senators and Representatives in our state, 14 of them are former 4-H members. Many people in the statehouse are active supporters of KYG. Even though members may not be 4-H alumni, they believe in the program and support it however they can; including encouraging their children to join and serve as 4-H volunteers.



I interviewed Laurie Lickley, a former 4-H member and Representative in the Idaho State House from District 25 and asked her about her involvement in the 4-H program and Know Your Government. I asked her why she thought KYG was an important opportunity for 4-H members to attend. Lickley passionately responded by explaining how KYG is really important for youth because "it gives them an understanding of the three branches of government, and it teaches the importance of being involved in public policy and other civic activities." She added "KYG teaches youth that they are no different than the elected officials in our government and that if they want to pursue a place in government then they can."

Former 4-H members have gone on to have success in life and become elected officials in the Idaho legislature and help serve our beautiful state. 4-H and Know Your Government are two extremely beneficial programs that teach our youth about leadership, government, and empower them to make our world a better place. These things all lead back to the 4-H pledge which states, "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country and my world."

Mackenzie Malson, KYG 3rd Yr. Reporter

What is KYG?

Know Your Government is a unique 4-H opportunity for teens to get involved with learning about government. This project includes an in-depth manual of the functions of government and a statewide conference to further explore our government. This **three-day conference** is held on Presidents' Day weekend in Boise, ID. KYG equips **8th and 9th graders** with knowledge of local government through hands-on learning. During the weekend, delegates visit the **Idaho Capitol** and **Ada County Courthouse**. They also have the opportunity to interact with attorneys, lobbyists, justices, and other leaders in our state. These teens get to participate in mock legislative and mock judicial sessions. The opportunity to personally review, debate, and "play the part" in these sessions helps kids comprehend the inner workings of government. This conference truly cements the rigorous learning in the KYG project manual while exciting new interest in real-life government.

The KYG conference is more than just learning about government, it helps youth step out of their comfort zone. When you bring together over 100 youth who have never met, there is bound to be nerves and tons of energy. Through participation in group **games and activities**, delegates are given tools to enhance their **teen leadership skills** which this conference encourages. The structure of the conference allows for a lot of team work and networking, helping youth learn about themselves and each other. The fantastic guest speakers always encourage delegates to step into their individual, unique potentials and serves in their communities.

After three days, as kids file back onto buses and head home, new friendships have been formed a slight swagger can be found in their gait.

Facts and ideas about government and people swirl around young minds that will settle to reveal **the next generation of strong leaders**. A lot of learning and a little bit of growing up happens at this conference every year, shaping the future for 32 years.

Addie Wegener, KYG 4th Yr. News Editor

KYG by the numbers

- 5,358 KYG youth 1988-2020
- 171 KYG youth 2020
- 32nd Anniversary of KYG
- 19 Hours combined travel time

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is here!!*

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Uh Oh, Funny!

Hello KYG! Welcome back to this year's "funny". Be on the lookout for motivational speaker, Kyle Willkom, who has been spotted filming "tik tok videos" throughout the hotel. In other news, Aidan Crabtree, 4th Year Speaker of the House, was spotted jogging in place at speeds faster than the handwriting of procrastinators completing the third year applications. And now, some advice brought to you from members of the Steering Committee: If you find yourself waking up late with only five minutes to change and get to breakfast because you were up until one in the morning watching Netflix, just sleep a little faster. It's a bird... it's a plane...no it's another camera that the reporters are using to take awkward pictures when you're least expecting it. Well, that's all for today. Tune in to this year's newsletter for the latest updates on the heated mock legislation.

Ethan Reneau, KYG 4th Yr. Video Producer