The 2018 Idaho 4-H State Teen Association Convention was an incredible week full of workshops, lots of opportunity to showcase some fantastic talents, service projects, a clover banquet and several different teaching opportunities for youth and adult leaders alike.

The youth of Idaho 4-H really do have a future so bright, people have to wear shades to avoid becoming blinded by their incredible abilities to lead out and be a positive influence for others around them.

This year’s keynote and capnote speaker was Brandon Lee White, whom many of the 4-H leaders and youth remember from several years ago, when he spoke at the Idaho 4-H Know Your Government Conference.

White’s message of “Finding Passion and Owning It” was a huge hit, and one the youth were able to cultivate the entire week during their time in Moscow, on the University of Idaho campus.

White’s skillful speaking and connection to the youth through emotional stories and dancing was a powerful reminder that these teens have the capacity to change the world with their own stories, and their own passions.
Teens attended many different workshops that fit their interests throughout the week. Many of the workshops were focused around different careers and choices available for college students at the University of Idaho. Teens were able to learn from skilled faculty members and 4-H leaders in many different topic areas.

Teens walked away with knowledge and skills to propel them forward as they search for additional training, education and careers after high school.

Workshops involved topics such as reporting, jumping into 4-H, drone-flying, battle of the bands, leadership, apparel design and many others.

“Let’s Go Fly A.... Drone”
Loren Bywater
Who knew how many different activities you could do with a drone! From collecting bugs to just taking amazing videos, flying a drone can be a really fun activity for anyone. The participants of the Drone Flying class partnered up and built their own little drone that they could fly and control themselves.
Alyssa Murillo from Payette, ID, explained, “Yesterday we made the drones ourselves and used a smart phone to fly them; it was cool!”
This class learned how to control the drones on the computer by using FR, FL, RR, and RL. These abbreviations mean front right, front left, rear right, and rear left. The drone flying class also got a chance to go into the Kibbie Dome on the UI campus to fly other drones.
Jump into 4-H
Tucker Glick

With the recent STAC changes it no longer requires attendees to be 4-H members. So this year we offered a track to give the youth an idea of what 4-H is about. Most of the youth were surprised to learn about all of the opportunities available in 4-H. One of the youth, central district’s Arturo Alvarez, was looking into the wide variety of 4-H projects he could participate in. He was looking at possibly showing dairy goat. He was also looking for scholarships through 4-H.

#IHeartYoga
Shasta Ockerberg

Relax your body, stretch your muscles, and find your inner peace while participating in this outdoor yoga workshop.

Delegates were given the chance to challenge their bodies and their minds with different positions and stretches while calming their souls with the help of a small breeze and the soothing voices of nature around them. Some positions the delegates attempted were Child’s Pose, The Table, Superman, Turtle, and many other unique positions. The workshop was taught by College Staff member Katlyn Scheer, and the class was taught in three two-hour time periods.

While the ladies of the groups were accepting of yoga with their flexibility and gracefulness, the men had no problem showing off their muscles in poses such as The Warrior.

After the entire class had finished all the muscle-straining poses, they got to relax with a position most people know as The Dead Man. Namaste.
Battle of the Bands
Jade Hoskins

Architecture is one of the biggest businesses around. The people that are in the business are just as important, they are what keep us as a society growing by coming up with new ideas and new building designs every day. Without them, our buildings would all look the same and our society would be this dull place that no one would want to live in or be a part of.

Battle of the bands is a class that taught kids how to design a parking space of their own. Phillip Mead, the teacher of this class, gave us a look at different architectural structures photographed at different locations and perspectives. Each structure was unique in its own way.

One slideshow he showed us was about old town structures that were torn down or may have been burned. The way he explained it was, every town has a structure that they think is horrible or don’t like people seeing, but the cool thing was, these people took these broken down structures and made them into art. It was a really cool way to put something extra in your community.

Now, the assignment that was given to these students was to design a parking lot. But not just any parking lot. This parking lot was to be designed to show off the car you were driving. This assignment was called the “Tricked-out Car Lot”. These students were also asked to think of something cool about the town they live in. One student, Carter Clay answered “There’s a mural on a wall in my town.” The teacher then asked if he could incorporate the mural into his art work somehow. Each students had come up with many brilliant ideas.

Carter Clay hoped to learn how to design architecture by taking this class. “(The class) looked interesting,” Clay said. This class was truly fun to learn about and interesting to hear about. Clay thought that this class would help provide him future career opportunities. All in all, this class was very fun to be a part of and learning about how to take something that hasn’t been taken care of very well and turn it into something beautiful and something that the whole community can enjoy is a skill and knowledge that everyone should possess.
Fashion, clothes, colors, matching, are all words that would come to mind when someone foreign to the topic hears apparel design. Although, the last thing that would come to mind is that, designing clothes also involves math and science. In this workshop young teens learned how to dye fabrics like wool and cotton along with the math and science behind it. In dyes made of beets, spinach, and rose water the teens dipped their wool and cotton in the buckets of natural dyes. Leaving the fabric to sit for a few minutes before removing it, witnessing the once clean white fabric now different shades of red, green, and pink.

It’s questionable as to why something like dying fabric would have to do with science and math, but that is a topic that can easily be explained. When making a dye bath all is needed is 2 simple ingredients, raw materials and water. Simple as it may be, it’s still important to use one part raw material to two parts water - information given to us in the Natural Dying The Science and Math handout.

Preparing the fabric to be dyed is another, much more complicated process. A process where words like protein fibers, and cellulose fibers, words that sound rather scientific come into play.

When a student asked, “Are people surprised that there is math and science involved?” the teacher’s answer was, “I had a graduate student, this was at another university, and she said, don’t students realize this is just geometry? And I said no they don’t, and I thank you not to tell them”. The important message to get out of this question is that when someone is doing what they love it’s difficult to realize the things that are hated and struggled with. It’s also important to realize that math and science are skills needed everywhere, even in places no one thought they would for in example, apparel design.

Jump into 4-H-Tucker Glick

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Exploring Careers
Loren Bywater

Do you ever wonder what career would fit best for your personality? The exploring careers class was a fun way to discover new jobs and opportunities for upcoming college students and even students still in high school. During this class the students got onto career finder and researched careers they were interested in and the pathways to get to that job.

There were lots of interactions between all the students and the teacher of the class by sharing what kind of careers they were interested in. Autumn Fowler, a Minidoka County Chaperone, learned from this class, “A way for young adults to explore what they are good at with a quiz. It is okay to switch your major, and that college advisor is here to guide you in whatever you need. Your future is an open book and the pages are always turning.” There was lots to learn about our future in careers in this class and it was very helpful to many who attended.

Rec Center Leadership
McKenzie Denton

The rec center leadership workshop helped establish teamwork and trust for yourself and others. The group of young individuals in this group were very eager to start it off today after an amazing experience yesterday. A lot of the workshop attendees said that their trust for each other had grown a lot from the previous day. The group started out with an exercise that was a game that had them all pulling on a rope and if one person messed up or let go the rest were down. This exercise helped them focus on trust.
District Competitions  
Shasta Ockerberg  
Let’s get ready to rumble! That’s right, District Competitions have been going on throughout the week, and let’s be honest, everyone is pumped to show their pride and try to win points for their district.

Throughout the week, delegates have been capturing their experience here at STAC and spreading their memories for the Social Media Challenge, where the Activities Director will choose the photo that best represents the topic for that day. On Tuesday night, during the Variety Show, the districts went head-to-head in a Lip Sync Battle, with the Northern District snatching the win for that challenge.

As the rest of the week begins to wind down, more competitions will take place, such as a dance battle, a photo scavenger hunt, and the designing of the new district flags. But only one district in the end will reign as champions. Who will it be?....

Entertainment/Variety Show  
Shasta Ockerberg  
Things are not what they appear, especially when it comes to magicians and delegates with abnormal talents. On Tuesday night, the conference was visited by Silverwood Theme Park magician…. And his assistant …… Together, the duo switched places in a closed box, helped levitate a table, and even made their stage hand disappear, not to mention the multiple card tricks that blew away the minds of the delegates. Many are still befuddled by the magic that took place before their eyes. But what else blew away the minds of the audience were the amazing acts and talents of the delegates who presented themselves in the Variety Show. We had bodily, dysfunctional presentations, cheesy jokes, and singing talents, as well as some of the STAC Steering Committee members finding out that two out of the three Musketeers can’t dance or sing (we’ll let them figure out who’s who). All in all, the Variety Show was just another example of how talented our delegates truly are.
It’s a delegate! It’s a staff member! Nope, it’s just a kid in the Reporting track. Everyone has observed those random kids with their phones out asking a bunch of questions when they show up at a workshop they don’t belong in. You’ll find them walking around campus, looking like they know what they’re doing, but in reality, they don’t know where the heck they are (cough cough, Tucker Glick). This year’s group of six delegates and two staff members are the ones who bring the STAC delegation the awareness of what happens all over campus.

Throughout the week, our track has reported on the numerous workshops as well as the campus tours, district competitions, and main events such as the Clover Banquet and Keynote Speaker Brandon Lee White. This track has composed a number of articles throughout the Gem State News, and we hope everyone enjoys our stories as we have enjoyed this workshop experience.

If you are looking for a great job that keeps you on your toes and lets you play around with a bunch of cows all day, then you are in for a treat. The University of Idaho Dairy Center is a home to about 220 dairy heifers that live happily in their very clean and comfortable bedding. Yes, it might be a small dairy farm, but if you want to learn more about taking care of dairy cows and feeding livestock just take a quick 2 mile trip off of the UI campus on over to the Dairy Center to learn more. The Dairy Center produces about 15,000 lbs. of milk every day from their cows in their wonderful milking parlor. They also produce about 12,000 lbs. of manure every day!

Now if you ask me that is a lot of poop for only about 220 cows. With this manure the Dairy Center spreads it on their fields so they can feed the calves and cows.

Currently they have a few calves in their possession that were born at the end of April and are almost weaned off of their milk. If you are into growing dairy cows and milking then I would strongly suggest heading on over to the UI Dairy Center because they certainly know their facts when it comes to keeping their farm clean and healthy for their herd.
Thank-you for joining us! We look forward to seeing you again next year!
Special thanks to the University of Idaho Extension and Idaho 4-H, Idaho 4-H State Teen Association officers, Steering Committee and all of our leaders, chaperones, collegiate 4-Hers and staff for their help in making this event possible! We couldn't have done it without YOU!