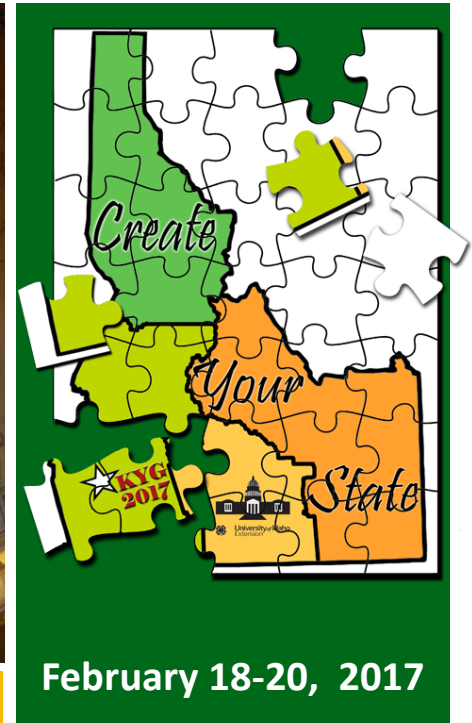


A UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Create Your State By: Sydney Olson

Through hands-on experiences, the Know Your Government Conference provides eighth and ninth graders the opportunity to view the inner workings of the legislative and judicial branches of government at a state level.

Over President’s Day Weekend, 4-H youth from all over Idaho gather in Boise to participate in educational sessions. These sessions are led by government representatives, law personnel, 4-H volunteers and U of I 4-H professionals in order to give youth an inside look at how their Government runs. Delegates in the legislative track spend time speaking with legislators and lobbyists, working through mock committee sessions, and try their luck at discussing bills during a mock floor session. Judicial delegates visit the Supreme Court building and get to visit with a supreme court justice before learning how a trial runs from lawyers them-

selves. They step into those lawyers’ shoes and participate in a mock trial case where delegates work on prosecuting or defending the defendant based on the cases they’re given and the roles they play. For both educational tracks, delegates can step into the positions that are being done professionally in their government. KYG is often the first experience teens have at a state conference where they can enjoy meeting other members from all over the state.

Delegates can also apply for third and fourth year positions where they can look deeper into legislative and judicial processes, or investigate the roles of reporters and the media in our government.

The Know Your Government Conference provides an opportunity where 4-H youth can learn that they have the power to influence their government and be proud of the state they create. 🍀

KYG BY THE NUMBERS

4,922

Youth in KYG 1988– 2017

2018

30th Anniversary of KYG

159

Number of 2017 Delegates

19

Combined hours traveling to the conference

300

Plates prepared for Monday Breakfast





IDAHO

750 plates need to be sold by January 1, 2019 to keep us on track to meet sales goals

To Make the Best Better

Legislation for the Idaho 4-H Plate was passed in 2013. Some FAQ about the plates:

- Where do monies go from license plate sales? 50% of funds help maintain Idaho 4-H Teen Programs 50% of funds stay with the county where the plate was purchased
- 1000 plates need to be sold by year 5
- To date 246 plates have been sold

KYG NEWSLETTER

To print the 2017 KYG news letter
Scan QR code or visit website
<https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/events/know-your-government>



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Changes to Idaho 4-H Teen Programs

By: Kaitlin Mirkin

The Idaho Know Your Government (KYG) Conference is attended by nearly one hundred sixty delegates from all over the state of Idaho. KYG teaches youth about both the legislative and judicial branches of government, along with leadership and other life skills.

Starting in 2016, KYG became one of the three statewide 4-H teen programs planned by Steering Committees. These committees are made up mostly of 4-H youth and include adult volunteers and University of Idaho faculty and staff.

Many of the members who serve on the KYG Steering Committee have also participated in other teen activities including Idaho 4-H Ambassadors and the University of Idaho 4-H Teen Conference. Youth attending these conferences may not have noticed the important changes happening. I had the opportunity to talk with Donna R. Gillespie, Regional Youth Development Educator and the chair of the KYG Steering Committee, about the modifications being made behind the scenes of Idaho 4-H Teen Programs.

Gillespie explains this change by saying, "...we have more youth in Idaho that have a greater voice in the events and conferences in the state." She believes that the youth attending these various events will benefit because they will have leadership roles. Gillespie stated that these new steering committees have created new leadership positions for more youth in Idaho. Steering Committees also plan the District and State 4-H Ambassador events and the annual Idaho 4-H State Teen Association Convention held on the University of Idaho campus in June.

Gillespie says that the reason for this new plan was, "...we wanted a vision where middle school youth are aware of all the opportunities available to them. A lot of times 6th, 7th, or 8th grade is when we lose a lot of kids in 4-H because they think there's nothing to do as a teen. There are still several things to do." The State Teen Association and Steering Committees want 4-Hers to know that there are leadership opportunities that allow them to be involved.

