



2017 Know Your Government Conference

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.

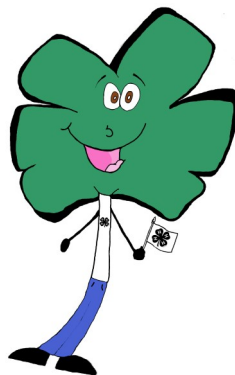
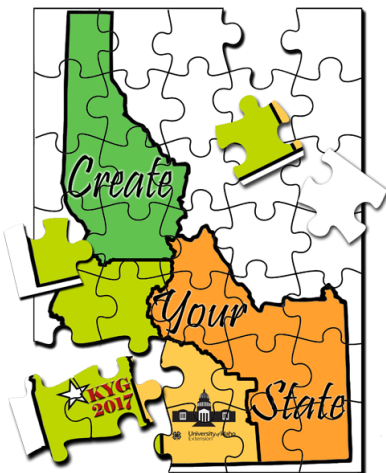
Delegates in the legislative track spend time speaking with legislators and lobbyists, working through mock committee sessions, and try their skills at discussing bills during a mock floor session. Judicial delegates visit the Supreme Court building and visit with a supreme court justice be-

fore learning how a trial works. Part of the 4-Her’s take on the assigned role of court officers, attorneys and judges while others act as the plaintiff or defendant. This concludes on Monday with Steering committee judges presiding over the mock trials.

Delegates have the opportunity to apply for third and fourth year positions. These members are part of the Steering committee who plan and run the KYG Conference. Youth participating in these positions have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills as well as gain valuable experience working in youth-adult partnerships.

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

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To Get More Information About KYG



Facebook– www.facebook.com/ui4hkyg.com



Youtube– <http://goo.gl/jc2gyp>



Instagram- #idkyglover



4-H Website– <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/events/know-your-government>

Bill 111: The Results are In

By: Alyssa Hantsen

In today's world, drugs can be found at any high school. As they run rampant, drugs rope many teenagers into the following problem: they come to school under the influence and then leave campus to get another high. Is there a way to prevent high schoolers from getting into drugs and coming to school high? Kassidy Ross has an idea on how to fix this problem.

This winter, a bill is hitting the Know Your Government floor to make drug testing mandatory for all high school students rather than just the ones participating in sports. Ms. Ross, through Bill 111, proposes that drug testing take place every three months by random pick with the expulsion of students who refuse to participate. If a student is found with drugs in

their system, their parents would be contacted, and a \$100.00 fine would be given. She proposed the bill on the grounds that high schoolers shouldn't be doing drugs.

Also, the previous legislation conveyed the idea that if you are not involved in sports, drugs were okay to use.

Over the last 20 years, drug use has declined in high schoolers. By mandating required drug testing, it could take the amount of illicit drug use down to zero. Vicky Chaires, who is in favor of this bill says, "There would be less drug usage by high schoolers."

However, is mandatory drug testing the answer to the high school illicit drug issue? The Journal of Adolescent Health said while the number of positive tests



went down, it resulted in poorer opinions of the school. An opponent of the bill, Michelle Quinn stated, "It goes against the fourth amendment." This bill isn't the solve all problem law people want it to be.

Kassidy has brought the high school drug issue to the floor with Bill 111. This plausible law could stop the drugs from overwhelming the community. If high schoolers are broken free from drugs, drugs could slowly disappear.

Bill 222: Don't Judge a Book by it's Cover

By: Anna Grasham

Have you ever opened up a book and read something you wish you hadn't? Bill 222, by Malissa Meline, hopes to prevent this from happening. After all, movies have ratings, so why not books?

"I'm a bookworm and I've bought books before that I thought would be really good and ended up having situations that made me really uncomfortable, so I wasn't able to finish them," says Malissa Meline. Bill 222 would rate books in Idaho

public libraries by four different maturity levels: Child Safe (CS), Pre-Mature (PM), Mature (M), and Mature Adult (MA). The rating system for new books would be determined by publishers. Books already in school libraries would be subject to rating at a local school level by the same system.

There are many supporters of this idea. A poll on Debate.org says 69% support the idea that books should be rated in some form or shape. Supporters believe it would protect children from mature books and keep them from being introduced into school libraries. They say it would take pressure off of parents when it comes to monitoring what their kids are reading. People in favor of rating books want to know what they're getting into before they start.

The other 31% are convinced that

rating books is a bad idea. Critics of the rating system argue that what a child reads is between them and their parents. They say it's wrong to prevent someone from reading and learning. Critics also bring up the point that labeling books doesn't prevent people from reading them. Publishers might give books that should be mature, a lower rating level so more people would read them. Critics also view book rating as a form of censorship.

Bill 222 would definitely change how books are chosen. Instead of judging a book by its cover, students would be able to judge them by their ratings. While there is opposition, supporters are adamant that ratings are a good idea. What do you think? Should books in Idaho public school libraries be rated?



Bill 333: Ban the Caffeine Buzz

By: Kaitlin Mirkin

You're sitting in History class, listening to your teacher lecture about the importance of the Battle of Saratoga. Much to your dismay, you find yourself dozing off in the lesson. If you're like most high school students, you reach for your soda, coffee, or other highly caffeinated beverage to keep yourself awake. However, while you are consuming that "energizing" drink, you probably aren't aware of the impact on your health.

William Harrison is hoping to put an end to those dangers with Bill 333. William's bill proposes a ban on artificially caffeinated beverages in Idaho public schools. This bill would prohibit the sales of caffeinated drinks in schools and concession stands. Anyone who possesses caffeine in school will be fined. The consequences for an infraction of this bill is five dollars for the first, ten dollars to the next three, and twenty dollars for all offenses.

William was inspired to write

this bill while witnessing his friend, who he describes as a "slight caffeine addict", struggle with weight and success in sports. William, on the other hand, gave up drinking these beverages all together. He explains, "After I quit drinking artificial caffeine, it was easier to participate in sports and I felt healthier overall."

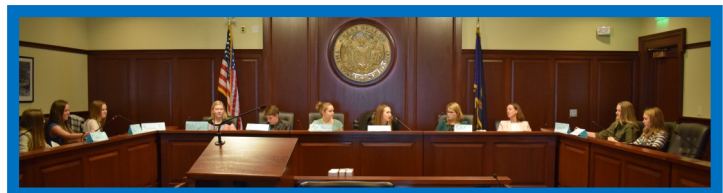
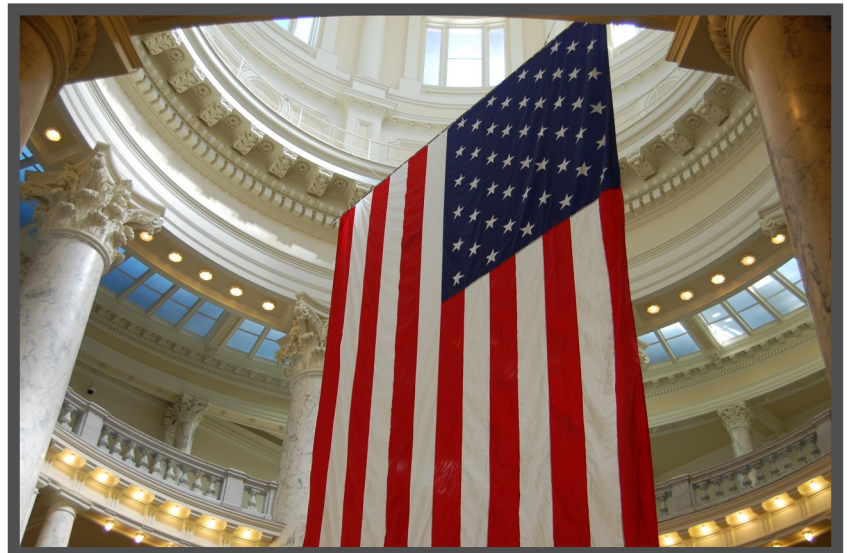
Through his research, Will discovered an article from Medical Daily which states that "coffee, one of the most popular form of synthetic caffeine among students, has actually been known to prevent mental illnesses including dementia and Alzheimer's." On the contrary, Organic Authority explains that caffeine can also cause "...difficulty sleeping, nervousness, heart palpitations or nausea...". With facts to support both the favoring and opposing sides, the lobbyists will have a large collection of data to support their position on the bill.

William feels an artificial caffeine ban is important to KYG dele-

gates because some of them may be health conscious, and removing these drinks from their diet is an easy way to improve their health. He worries others may be addicted to these beverages with no idea on how they are jeopardizing their health.

Riley Hayes opposes the bill. She believes, "Sugar is the real unhealthy part of these drinks. I think the ban should include natural caffeine, too. I also think that teachers would react negatively to this because they drink caffeinated beverages." KYG delegates have different opinions of the bill whether or not it should be passed.

Although there are mixed feelings about the bill, William is confident the delegates will enjoy and express their opinions about the bill.



Bill 444: Care for the Critters

By: Kylee Chamberlain

When you look outside and see a stray animal, do you feel sorry for them and want to take them home, or do you turn your head and walk by? According to Ms. Bates, sponsor of Bill 444, every animal should have a home or should be in a animal shelter .

Tracie Bates wrote this bill because she hates seeing helpless animals and wants to help them. Tracie's County does not have an animal shelter and when she finds a stray, she must take the animals to a different county. However, the animal shelters are always full, resulting in euthanization.

The positive points about this bill are more county shelters which would lower costs on euthanization. The negative aspects about the bill are trying to find out where the funds would come from for the shelter operations and government taking away responsibility from the animal owners.

The Idaho Humane Society An-

imal Care and Control Division says that “when you have a animal shelter it helps keep diseased animals away from the public thus protecting citizens.” The job of the an animal rescue person is to find animals that have been left alone or abandoned and take it to a shelter. If you find a pet and take it home, you need to be aware that the animal might not be current on their shots or be family friendly thus putting your family at risk. However, you could go to a shelter and adopt an animal that would fit your family.

If the bill passes it will provide proper care and treatment for the animals by professional staff. The streets will be cleaner and they will be less crowded. The animal shelters will have better control on overcrowding. Costs will be

lower for euthanization.

The lobbyists on this bill are very passionate about this subject. Lobbyist Emma Watts supports this bill and thinks that it is very useful. She believes that “every animal should have a place in someone’s hearts.” Emma hopes that this bill will pass. Lobbyist Charlie Bullock opposes this bill. He thinks that some communities are too small to have a animal shelter in their county due to the expense of building and maintaining an animal shelter.

Whether you are an animal lover or not, this bill could impact you and your county.



Bill 555: Coming Down from the High

By: Ethan Boehm

The purpose of Bill 555 is to reduce the amount of illegal drug use by minors in the workplace. If passed, every minor (anyone under the age of 20), would be required to take a drug test before they could be hired by any company supported by tax dollars. The bill includes three sections. Section 1. states the purpose of the bill. Section 2 .explains that the drug tests will be provided by the employer and that any minor employee may be subject to random drug tests. Section 3 discusses the consequences for a failed drug test.

Merrisa Schwartz is proposing

this bill to stop drug use in teen workers because she believes that it will make it harder to use drugs in a work environment. Ms. Schwartz also hopes that it will shut down the illegal use of drugs. However, she is concerned that depending on the drugs found in the tests, law enforcement may need to get involved which may discourage potential workers and cause a shortage of workers in the workplace.

Tanner Goodsell is the lobbyist for Bill 555 and he thinks the bill is good because it teaches teen workers who do drugs that they won't make it very far in a work-

ing environment. In addition, it should make them stop doing drugs. Tanner thinks that if teens have to take a drug test then adults should have to take a drug test too. It is discrimination to only make teens take the test because adults do drugs as well.

There is a split consensus about Bill 555 as some people think that it will have a high chance eliminating drug use in the workplace. Others think that getting the police involved will scare off potential workers.

No matter the result of this bill, it will be an issue that will continue to affect us.

Bill 777: The Opportunity to Excel

By: Christin Wisniewski

When you have something you are good at, whether it is sports, student council, drama, choir, or band it gives you a place where you can learn to excel and gain confidence. Many schools are providing opportunities to do this very thing. Extracurricular activities provide many benefits for students who wouldn't normally be able to have such opportunities.

Bill 777, written by Janae Swenson, requires students to participate in one extracurricular activity per year while in high school. Any sports or clubs that are endorsed by the school are accepted as extracurricular activities. If a student does not meet these requirements they must complete five hours of community service before graduating from high school.

This program would give high schoolers opportunities to extend their education beyond class-work. Extracurricular activities could help you learn time manage-

ment and give you practice in prioritization in preparation for becoming an adult. They would also be able to explore various interests to find their niche.

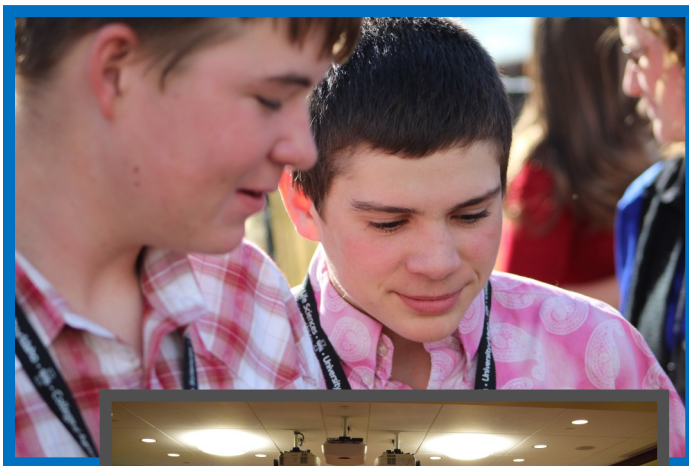
Janae Swenson believes this bill would be instrumental in helping students become more involved in their education and community.

"High schoolers would have more opportunities to find something that they can excel at and raise their self-esteem," states Swenson.

On the other hand, some students are opposed to the prospect of essentially being forced to participate in extracurricular activities. Having a mandatory activity could add pressure and stress to students not used to juggling more than their studies, and would potentially cause them to fall behind in their classes. These activities could also interfere with students family and leisure time possibly

causing relationships to drift apart. Lastly, if the student is not able to participate in any of these activities they would need to complete a minimum 5 hours of community service, which some teenagers may find difficult to complete due to work or prior commitments.

Swenson hopes that with this bill she will promote more involvement in high schools throughout Idaho. Although she does feel that when this bill goes through the committee, several changes will be made by the delegates concerning the specific requirements of the bill. Delegate legislators will review the pros and cons of this Bill and decide if grades and other personal interests are more important than mandatory extracurricular activities during their high school years.



Brandon Lee White: "Own it"

By: Sydney Olson

"It's not what you want, it's what you do about what you want," KYG motivational speaker, Brandon Lee White, amazed all the delegates with empowering messages about taking everything we do and "owning it." Adding his own elements, Brandon also incorporate dance into his messages to add an enjoyable get-up-and-move experience.

Hailing from Kansas City, Missouri, Brandon Lee White, an avid hunter and fisher, wanna-be cook, passionate husband and father, and lover of travel, was born with a speech impediment that made him nearly incomprehensible. This was detrimental to his confidence, but through many friends' help, he overcame this obstacle. He gained confidence and became the student association president; where he visited a conference and was inspired to become a speaker.

Brandon's message,

to "Own it," came from an understanding with himself that he had doubts and embarrassments, but he made the opportunity to accept those marks and own them. From that, Brandon realized he had the responsibility to himself to go after the things he wants and believes in.

The phrase "Own it" means to take the good and the bad about yourself and then accept that and own it. From there, you go on and do something about it. He explained that the greatest thing to own is not the objects in life, but the opportunities. Attending this conference is one of those opportunities that KYG delegates have decided to own.



G O V E R N M E N T Y X P R L
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CAPITOL	CASE	COMMITTEE
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GOVERNMENT	GOVERNOR	JUDGE
JUDICIAL	LEGISLATOR	LOBBYIST
PROSECUTOR	REPORTER	SENATE
SUPREME COURT	WITNESS	

Judicial Case

By: Jessica Jensen

The judicial system is a huge part of our government. This system is how all people receive justice. In court, all are equal.

Know Your Government has a mock trial that they put on every year. This year's case is very unique. Charlie Wright has been charged with Aid and Abet Aggravated Battery, which is a felony. Charlie's partner in crime, Chris Jones, pled guilty and was sent to the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections. What events led to this?

Michael Smith inherited money from his grandmother and Charlie wanted it. While Michael was visiting his girlfriend, Denise Perkins, at her house, Charlie and Chris, wearing ski masks and hoodies, broke into the house with firearms in hand. They commanded Michael and Denise to lie on the floor. During the break

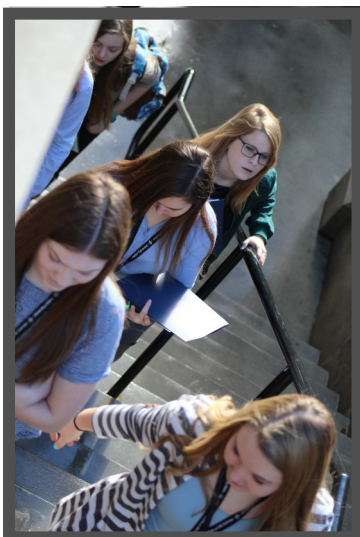
-in, Michael's wallet was taken and he was then shot in the back. Denise's purse was stolen and then Charlie and Chris ran out. Two handguns were found in Denise's bushes outside her house by Officer Black. A right thumbprint, belonging to Charlie Wright, was recovered off of one of the guns. Whether the gun was loaded by Wright or not still needs to be determined. The trial will take place on February 20, 2017. For this mock trial, there will be six courts simultaneously doing this case. Each will have different partici-

pants and results.

Christina "Tina" Schindeley composes the KYG cases each year. Tina draws her inspiration for each year's new and unique case from her experience. The Steering committee judges also give input to Tina on what cases they would like to try. She commented, "It's a very interactive process. I have learned over the years what works and what doesn't. I try to make cases that the delegates will enjoy and understand." She has enjoyed her many years of working with the delegates and

Steering committee judges.

To conclude, the judicial system plays a large part of the Know Your Government program. The conference would not be complete without the judicial trials. Delegates have learned that the court system is a very structured system that makes all equal.



Blast from the Past

By: Jessica Jensen

KYG is a great experience for many 4-Hers. Those who attended usually have a wonderful memory that they will be remembered for their entire lives. Past delegates and Steering committee members from previous years were interviewed on their views and opinions about how the conference went and much more.

First, the result for the favorite workshop was Legislative 54% and Judicial 46%. One of the interviewees, a fourth year delegate, said “Legislative was better.” She was the committee chair and said, “I really enjoyed KYG and having the opportunity to meet important people and learning how their role works into the lives of the people in the state.” One of the people in favor of judicial said, “I’m really glad I came to KYG to experience our court system first-hand.” No matter what workshop you choose, each has its perks and its workdays; however, you will enjoy your time at your workshops that many people have put many hours into making it go smoothly and well.

Other favorite parts of KYG ranged from hotel

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. They also include adult volunteers and University of Idaho faculty and staff.

Many of the youth and adult volunteers who are on the KYG Steering Committee have also participated in other teen activities including Idaho 4-H Ambassadors and the University of Idaho State Teen Association Convention, formerly known as Teen Conference. Youth attending these conferences may not have noticed the important changes happening. This weekend, I had the opportunity to talk with Donna R. Gillespie, the chair of the KYG Steering Committee, about the modifications being made behind the scenes of Idaho 4-H Teen Programs.

rooms and sleeping, to the mock trial, along with the capital tour to going to the mall for the district dinner. Some advice given to future and current delegates are as follows: “Be interactive” (Bryson Grose) “KYG will give you experiences that nobody else will have the opportunity to have. Have fun with it.” (Brittany Jensen) “KYG is a great place to meet people from all over the state. Go!” (Maya Higley). The interviewees would like to wish the future delegates good luck in their workshops and to have fun while doing it. Their advice will be helpful to many delegates and the future planning committee.

To conclude, KYG always has something that everyone enjoys. If you are thinking of going, don’t let there be a doubt in your mind that you will have an amazing time!



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 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.

Gillespie says that the reason for this new plan was, “...we wanted a vision where middle school youth know 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 still is lots and lots of things to do.” The State Teen Association and Steering Committees want them to know there are leadership opportunities that allow them to be involved.

Pieces of the Puzzle: Reporter and Steering Committee



4th Year Members

Sydney Olson, 4th Year News Editor
Shelby Burlile, 4th Year Video Producer
Janae Swenson, 4th Year Speaker of the House
Nathan Hampton, 4th Year Justice

3rd Year Reporters

Anna Grasham Kaitlin Mirkin
Ethan Boehm Jessica Jensen
Alyssa Hansten Kylee Chamberlain
Christin Wisniewski

3rd Year Steering Committee

Kassidy Ross Beth Lindberg
Merrisa Schwartz Ashleigh Evans
Malissa Meline Makayla Koetsier
William Harrison Moira Taber
Tracy Bates-Orgill Dailee Jo Hogge



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