

Leadership Awareness Weekend

Youth learn leadership skill

Public Value Statement

Youth who are inspired to become leaders and are motivated to be civically engaged throughout their lifetime become adults who live, work, and invest in their communities.

The Situation

As North Dakota grows, so does our need for leaders. 4-H is a perfect place to grow leaders. Youth activities with intentionally planned events that improve personal confidence and critical thinking can increase understanding of governmental processes, and grow effectiveness as engaged citizens.

Extension Response

Leadership Awareness Weekend (LAW) is one way 4-H meets the needs of young leaders. North Dakota Legislative Assembly meets biannually during odd-numbered years. During the off-year of 2020, the LAW committee chose to focus on the judicial system and parliamentary procedure. A partnership with the University of North Dakota Law School was created to deliver program content. Youth were allowed to learn about and practice parliamentary procedure, build skills to lead groups, engage with judicial system leaders, argue a court case, participate in a mock trial, give back to the community, and network with youth from across the state.

Impacts

Youth who attend LAW gained skills in

- Understanding how to work with other
- Developing a meeting agenda using the components of an effective meeting
- Running meetings using parliamentary procedure
- Making a motion in a meeting
- Feeling comfortable handling situations of conflict in a meeting.

93% of youth stated they could use the ideas or skills learned about the judicial system.

89% liked or loved the activities.

Feedback

Parents that attended the activities as chaperones noted:

- “My daughter rarely speaks up in public. I was just floored at how well she did in the parli pro demo! She spoke up, was so confident and knew what she was doing.”
- “My kids came away with the understanding that our judicial system is an important part of being an American and that serving on a jury or as a witness is a privilege that should be taken seriously.”
- “I was really surprised with the community of professionals that came together to make this possible.”

Primary Contact

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Resource Links

www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/newsreleases/2020/march-9-2020/4-h-leadership-awareness-weekend-a-success