

**4-H Know Your Government 2019**  
***“Citizenship and Media”***

*Changing the World One  
Conversation at a Time*



**February 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
**The Olympia Center, Olympia, WA**

**4-H KYG COORDINATOR PACKET**

**Dear KYG Conference County Coordinator,**

*Thank you for your involvement in the Washington State Know Your Government Program. This exciting annual event give 4-H teens an opportunity to better understand our state government, visit Olympia, and learn firsthand about citizenship.*

*We cannot overemphasize the value of your county's pre-conference meetings to prepare youth for a successful 4-H KYG experience in Olympia. We have created a Curriculum Packet, which offers ideas and suggestions to help you with this job. It includes plans for five orientation meetings. Use the lesson and activities in their entirety or break them into segments that will work best for your group. Included again this year, is a focus on intentional life skill development. Please emphasize these activities and reflections.*

*With the revision of 4-H Policies last year, please carefully look at what is included in this packet; several things are different from last year. Please don't hesitate to contact the core committee with questions.*

*Selection of your county delegates is important, since the 4-H Know Your Government is an intense, four-day experience. Your county may bring as many delegates as you like, but it is important that the youth are prepared for, and able to handle the responsibilities involved in being at a conference. **Delegates must be in 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above on Oct 1, 2018** Younger youth are NOT eligible to attend the conference, but may participate in county orientation/learning sessions and anticipate attending 4-H KYG in the future. We will be using 4honline again this year for registration, so if a teen is not in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade the system will not let them enroll. In conjunction with the County 4-H Youth Educator, County Coordinators will determine the eligibility requirements (i.e., attendance at all orientation meetings, participation in meetings, etc.).*

*Including several adult 4-H volunteers to prepare your delegation is helpful especially with a large delegation; we suggest a 1/10 ration of adults to teens. The adults that accompany the delegation to the conference should be part of preparing the delegation in pre-conference meetings and intend to be a part of the entire experience in Olympia. Any adult serving as an Adult Resource, must be enrolled as a 4-H Certified volunteer. Adult Resources will be needed on hand every day in our new venue.*

*The Core Committee has worked hard to provide information to help you better understand the curriculum and conference. However, personal experience is always the best teacher. If you are new to 4-H KYG, you have not yet experienced a conference and some of this may be out of context for you. Please call a member of the KYG Core Committee with any questions you have because we want you to have a positive experience. Email addresses and phone numbers are listed in the Coordinator Packet.*

*Thank you for choosing to be an integral part of this learning experience. It is our hope that all delegates enjoy and grow from this year's conference. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.*

## **A Glance at KYG**

Know Your Government (KYG) is a hands-on learning conference focusing on a specific aspect of government. The conference topic and curriculum change yearly to keep it relevant to current events and issues. The KYG Core Committee takes charge of this curriculum and organizing the conference each year.

While at KYG, youth participants are engaged in a series of hands-on activities that generally lead to a large-group, culminating product. Often the conference agenda expects youth to assume roles/jobs to be fully engaged in their project. The county Adult Resources are the key to their success through preparing, practicing, and helping them carefully select their responsibilities.

For a young person to register for KYG, he/she must first enroll at 4honline, and becoming a member of your 4-H county program. It is recommended that participants be enrolled during the pre-conference meetings. The cost for Hotel and Registration will be combined into one amount this year, one easy payment. Look for firm deadlines for this payment. This fee is paid by each delegate and Adult Resource volunteer.

Because each year is different, it is important to review the orientation curriculum and take note of the specific learning objectives. These identify the skills that delegates will need to function effectively and confidently while at KYG. The curriculum includes suggested activities that you may incorporate to make the experience 'hands on' to assist the youth in developing life skills.

In preparation for KYG, youth must participate in county-run orientation sessions. The Curriculum Packet outlines the learning objective for each of these orientation sessions. A County Coordinator, who is certified 4-H volunteer, typically facilitates the county orientations, in conjunction with other 4-H Certified volunteers (Adult Resources)

During the Conference in Olympia, County Meetings are scheduled to take place at the end of each day, just before delegates go to their own rooms for the night. The purpose of the County Meetings is a time for the delegates to reflect and apply lessons from the day, go over the agenda for the next day, and make sure they get into their own rooms by lights out.

In our effort to encourage Responsible Citizenship, students at the KYG Conference will participate in a scheduled community service opportunity. All details will be provided to you prior to the conference.

A unique aspect to the conference, is meeting with district Legislators. Annually we host a Legislative Dinner. In 2018, we held a Legislative Reception; we will hold that event again in 2019 with some changes, All members of the Washington State Legislature are invited to attend, ready to meet with the delegates from their district. This is a time for legislators to learn about 4-H and for delegates to ask legislators about issues import to them and their districts.

Thank you for joining the Know Your Government project. This is a long-standing conference, rich in curriculum and learning opportunities. Please do not hesitate to contact us for support and/or direction throughout your county orientations. Enjoy this series of activities and we'll see you in Olympia!

Sincerely, 4-H KYG Core Planning Committee

## **KYG Core Planning Committee**

Each committee member is responsible for a specific aspect of Know Your Government. If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate committee member.

Alex Laughery WSU State Teen Extension Coordinator <a href="mailto:alex.laughery@wsu.edu">alex.laughery@wsu.edu</a> 509-901-9047	Dorothy Elsner WSU Conference Support Adult Resources Liaison <a href="mailto:Dorothy.elsner@wsu.edu">Dorothy.elsner@wsu.edu</a> (360)630-4032	Melissa Beard Curriculum Resource Liaison <a href="mailto:melei@stnfordalumi.org">melei@stnfordalumi.org</a> 360-402-0582
Emily Adams Washington State 4-H Development Director Emily.adams2@wsu.edu 208-874-3276	Jessica Laughery Legislative Liaison <a href="mailto:Jessica.laughery@gmail.com">Jessica.laughery@gmail.com</a> 509-552-0197	Carlie Arreola 4-H Collegiate Lead <a href="mailto:carreola17@my.whitworth.edu">carreola17@my.whitworth.edu</a> 509-480-3792
Mathew Ubachs Geek Guy/Tech Support <a href="mailto:Ubachsmathew520@gmail.com">Ubachsmathew520@gmail.com</a>	Jon Gabelein Education Specialist <a href="mailto:jgabelein@whidbey.com">jgabelein@whidbey.com</a> 360-661-3744	FaceBook/Instagram You can also reach out to us on social media

### **What Really Counts (e.g. what will help the teens get the most from this adventure?)**

#### **Youth Adult Partnerships**

The 4-H Know Your Government Program and its success is dependent on the contribution offered by our many coordinators and adult resources throughout the state. Because of this, it is natural that the fostering of youth-adult partnership is one of the foremost objectives of KYG.

*“Understanding Youth/Adult Partnerships, youth empowerment, the benefits of planning with youth as partners, and adult leadership styles are beneficial for all the adults that work with youth and who work on projects and events aimed at youth. The success of your 4-H programs will often hinge on the attitudes and beliefs you and your volunteers take towards young people. How you see them – as capable or incapable – will establish a precedent in all that you do in your program. There are many perceptions that adults have about the involvement of young people in programs designed for their benefit. These perceptions influence how we choose to involve them in decision making process” (WSU 4-H Youth Development Volunteer Training Module II: Positive Youth Development (pg.217))*

When developing a youth/adult partnership, the most effective way is to view *youth as resources*. The perspective acknowledges that adults and young people can share any leadership and decision-making roles involved. This may mean that both young people and adults need to learn the skills necessary for shared leadership. One of the key ways we can encourage this in 4-H is by considering youth as full

partners and resources in our work; adults and youth working together in all kinds of ways, from decision-making to program planning. **We want to view youth as resources to our programs and consider participation as part of their responsibility.**

Adults play a key role in supporting youth involvement. *This is not an opportunity for us to stand by and watch.* We must be involved in creating safe spaces and structures that help youth in the process of becoming full partners. As we seek to build life skills through this 4-H program, please implement some of the following suggestions as you partner with your county delegates:

- Include the delegates in the implementation of this curriculum
- Ask for their assistance by having them lead discussions and/or facilitate the meetings
- Ask for their input with technology; they use many tools daily that adults seldom use.
- Ask them to contact local speakers or develop a list of questions to ask experts
- Ask for one to oversee your 'breakfasts' by setting up a list of items needed and they having other members sign up to contribute

**For a student to gain as much as possible from the learning experience, it is critical that pre-conference meetings include the following pieces,**

- 1. A structured meeting**
- 2. Intentional focus on life skills development**
- 3. Reflection and application opportunities are provided**

The structured meeting is to provide a consistent process for engaging youth in activities and discussions that will increase participation and a positive learning experience. By having a consistent meeting structure, youth become comfortable with the process and more engaged in the discussion. When running a youth meeting, resources that make conducting a meeting easier will ultimately lead to an increase in learning and make the Adult Resource's role easier.

The following is a summary of how we will be utilizing these pieces through the curriculum this year. The outline in the KYG Curriculum includes all these piece. Please do not 'skip' any of them.

***Teambuilding or Community Builders:***

Purpose: fun activities to begin your meetings; help members to get to know each other better and feel comfortable with each other to foster a sense of group connection. Even if your members know each other already, these introductory activities set a great, relaxed, environment for learning and begin the process of creating a safe environment in which the group can learn to give and receive support. This is an excellent way to give older KYG delegates a chance to lead some of the activities

***Group Agreement:***

Purpose: To create a safe learning environment where groups work on behaviors that support successes. Groups will establish and agreed-upon code of behavior, which identifies what behavior the group individuals expect from each other to work together effectively and safely. This declaration of working rules or principles fully values each group member.

***Learning Support: Life Skills, Experiential Education:***

Purpose: Improves learning and keeps the focus on life skill development. One role of the KYG County Coordinator/Adult Resources is to create an atmosphere of learning. Practicing intentional life skills

focus, experiential learning, Do-Reflect-Apply, and positive youth/adult partnerships will help create the positive learning.

***Content:***

Purpose: to teach the civic learning materials and other subject support materials in the curriculum.

***Business:***

Purpose: Business items include all the details of KYG: scheduling meetings, fundraising, logistics, travel, locations, registrations and payment, etc.

***Compliments and Appreciations:***

Purpose: reinforce positive events and experiences and build a caring and supportive environment. Focus is on what each one does personally, and collectively, to help the group get along, produce the outcomes, and have a great experience. When Adult Resources and participants point out what is working well, group members notice and appreciate their strengths and positive contributions, which foster continued positive behavior. Chaperones should model this behavior by observing what the group does well and praising the group for their strengths and achievements, both big and small.

***Closing/Reflection:***

Purpose: Provides meeting closure and provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on their experiences from the day, as well as what they learned and what ideas they have for learning improvement. These reflection exercises are usually calm, relaxing activities that finish the day on a positive note. **Reflection exercises should include: What? So, What? What Now?** To help the group members make meaning out of direct experience.

- **What?** Describe an event or experience; for example, “WHAT happened in our meeting, or your interview, or researching on the internet today, or with your assigned life skill today”.
- **So, WHAT?** Highlight the meaning or impact of the experience; for example, “So, WHAT did you learn in that activity or that life skill? “
- **Now WHAT?** Connect the experience to a next step; for example, Now WHAT will you do with that learning or life skill? Where, how, when will you use it?”

***You may ask, “Do we really have to do everything in this curriculum?”***

Every year, someone mentions how ambitious the pre-conference curriculum is, in that there is too much to do. Inevitably, someone asks us to highlight the important activates so they can focus just on those. **We feel the activities provide topics all delegates need familiarity with to participate fully at the conference. Knowing time is precious; the curriculum focuses only on the things delegates need to know to:**

- Become familiar with the content of the civic focus for this year
- Learn and practice the skills outlined in the program goals/objectives
- Be prepared and confident to use the knowledge they have gained and skills they have learned at the conference on a new and more challenging project/problem
- Intentionally strengthen and practice the focused life skills

## **What Adult Resources (Really want to Know)**

### **What can we expect at the conference?**

We call this a working conference. The conference is designed with a 'final challenge' from the content they've learned and skills they've practiced at their county meetings. The curriculum helps you to prepare your delegation. The more they are prepared, the better chance they have to be successful.

### ***What happens at the ADULT RESOURCE (AR) meeting?***

The meeting is held on the first night in Olympia to share emergency numbers, find out county meeting rooms, review important rules, and answer questions. We are asking all Adult Resources (ARs) to be involved this year in supportive ways; so, you'll need to be informed, pay attention to what is going on, go to sessions, and be available. All Adults should plan to attend this meeting.

### ***What happens during county meetings at the KYG Conference?***

County meetings are an opportunity for your group to review the day and talk about the next day. An agenda will be provided for teens in your group to lead the meetings each evening. Conference Facilitators or CFs are assigned to visit your county meeting nightly, to get feedback and answer questions. They will reinforce many of the principles that you have already been practicing during your pre-conference county meetings.

Adults should plan to be at these meetings mostly as an observer. Please allow the Conference Facilitator (CF) to interact with the delegates, this is a valuable part of their learning as well and something they look forward to doing each evening. Most counties meet in the one of the Adult Resource's rooms. Larger delegations can request the use of a meeting room.

### ***Who is on the 4-H KYG Core planning team and what is their role with KYG?***

The Core team is a mix of WSU 4-H Program Coordinators and 4-H Certified volunteers. **Collegiates are now called Conference Facilitator LEADS,(CFL) who are KYG alumni, but not necessarily in College**, and Conference Facilitators (CFs)- high school teens- also contribute to the planning and facilitation. The planning team is responsible for the whole KYG Program- including preconference county meetings and the conference in Olympia. They brainstorm objectives and goals for each topic area, create ideas for conference structure tied to objectives and goals, updates curriculum tied to conference preparation, has a full understanding of curriculum and conference agenda, and integrate community members and organizations in volunteer and speaker roles. Planning starts in May for the following year.

### ***What are Conference Facilitators (CFs) and what do they do?***

The teen leaders, or Conference Facilitators, are past KYG delegates that are looking for an advanced leadership opportunity. They work through an application process, and are selected by the 4-H Core Committee. Application and selection is in the fall. Please encourage youth in your delegation to apply next year. CFs usually attend their county pre-conference meetings to get familiar with the curriculum. CFs also attend an *intense* three-day planning/training weekend. They plan the agendas for the breakout sessions, lead the sessions, introduce speakers, and make announcements at meals. They assist with challenge activities, and anything else to help the conference run smoothly.

### ***Why do we have to wait until the conference to find out the delegate's role or committee assignment?***

While every county has the same opportunity to prepare for the conference, we know that some delegates are more prepared than others. To give all delegates equal opportunity for success at the conference; we wait to reveal assignments or roles until they get to Olympia.

### ***Policy Reminders:***

- All Adult Resources that are attending Know Your Government Conference need to be enrolled/Certified Volunteers. If you have any questions about getting enrolled and certified please reach out to your County Extension office, Alex Laughery, or Dorothy Elsner.
- Reporting Volunteer Hours (7.10): By policy, volunteers are required to report their hours through the WSU Extension Volunteer Hours Database for all services provided within the WSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program.
- Chaperones (8.2): A chaperone is someone who will have independent supervision of a 4-H youth/member overnight. For state events, chaperones must be 21 years of age. For regional or national events, chaperones must be at least 25 years of age. **All chaperones must be enrolled and Certified 4-H volunteers who have successfully completed the screening process.** The expected adult to youth ratio is 1:10.
- Adult and Youth Interactions (13.1): WSU Extension Faculty/staff, Volunteers are to avoid where possible, being alone with a single youth. **Youth and adults are not to stay in the same sleeping quarters.** WSU Extension Faculty/Staff, Volunteers will not, under any circumstances, discipline youth using physical punishment or by failure to provide the basic necessities of care, such as food, water or shelter. WSU Extension Faculty/staff, Volunteers may not engage in a romantic relationship with any 4-H member.
- When Traveling with Youth (13.3): When traveling with youth, it is recommended WSU Extension Faculty, Staff, and volunteers
  - Travel with at least two or more youth
  - Require permission from parents for youth to travel with said adult
  - Drop off youth by two's or more at an agreed upon meeting site thus not leaving adults with one single youth
- Overnight Trips (13.3.1): It is recognized that there are special concerns regarding overnight trips and the following are to be followed:
  - Youth are to sleep in gender quarters they identify with; genders sleep in separate quarters
  - Youth are chaperoned by same sex chaperones
  - Youth and adults are not to stay in same sleeping quarters
  - Adult conduct regular room/bed check
- Understanding Trip and/or Event Policy (13.3.4): All organizations work under a set of policies and guidelines. **Prior to any activity or event, all chaperones and WSU Extension Faculty/Staff should understand these policies and guidelines.** Whether a code of conduct, WSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program Policy, an events special rules/policy, or an informal list of rules, **it is imperative to understand what is expected of the youth as well as the adults in attendance.** In addition to general discipline procedures, a clear understanding of reporting incidents should be discussed prior to the event. This may include completing any reports and notifying any paid staff as well as other parties of an incident.

## **How to Prepare**

Aside from conducting the County Orientation Sessions for your delegates, there are a few other tasks that need to be addressed.

1. Conference Registration: Doubletree Inn Olympia and the Core Committer will work closely together to assign rooms to our delegates and Adult Resources. We will be intentionally assigning delegates to rooms with members from other counties. Adults if you have another Adult you prefer to room with we can take Adult requests only. **The cost is Early Registration \$295 and Late Registration \$340**
2. County Night Out: During the conference, time is scheduled for your county to have some time together. This will be on **Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup>**. During this time, you may have dinner, explore Olympia or enjoy some recreation. Capitol Mall is open until 6 pm, if that is your county's choice.
3. Legislative Appointments: **Meeting with your legislators is strongly encouraged.** Often this one meeting has the most impact on the youth attending the conference! You may schedule an appointment on Saturday before check-in at the hotel or after the conference on Tuesday. We realize that many legislators may be attending the reception, but a visit for more in-depth discussion, will also be valuable. For information, go to: <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/legislature>.
4. Cell Phone Etiquette: Delegates should be aware of cellular phone etiquette, knowing not to have phones in "ring mode" at any time during KYG. We recommend that cell phones stay 'off' to be accessed only at break times only. Remember, citizens may not have cell phones on in a court room. Cell phones will be confiscated if misused repeatedly. This policy applies *also* to Adult Resources. We realize that taking photos of the delegation on your phone is handy, but please do not sit in a session using your phone, feel free to step out of the room to do important communication. This skill should be practiced at pre-conference county meetings.
5. Dress Code: Appropriate attire for Know Your Government is described below. Note the events and what is appropriate. Please review these guidelines carefully and help the delegates understand why this is important for KYG.
  - Business/Professional:
    - For Girls: Skirt or slacks with an appropriate blouse or shirt and dress shoes or boots. Low cut in the front or back of tops are not acceptable. See Through items that reveal a girl's undergarments are not acceptable. Dress denim and khakis are acceptable. No athletic/tennis shoes or flip flops. No miniskirts even with leggings.
    - For Guys: Slacks, shirts with ties, dress shoes or boots. Dress denim and khakis are acceptable. No athletic/tennis shoes. Please, no hats other than those that respect religious or cultural tradition.
  - Business Casual:
    - For Girls & Guys: Suits for some roles are very appropriate. Slacks, khakis or nice jeans (no holes, no sagging – must be worn around the waist), buttoned shirt, polo shirt, or sweater. Girls may wear suits, dresses or skirts.

- Casual
  - For Girls & Guys: Jeans (no holes, no sagging – must be worn around the waist), khakis, capris. T-shirts, sweatshirts, or sweaters; clean tennis shoes; no short skirts, cutoffs or shorts, or flip flops/slippers. Jeans with excessive designer rips and tears are not acceptable.
- DO NOT BRING:
  - Miniskirts of any kind, leggings with short dresses/long shirts, tube tops, halter tops, one-shoulder tops, strapless tops/spaghetti strap tops; anything that exposes midriff, navel, back, or cleavage; see through or muscle shirts; clothing that advertises alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or drugs; clothing that has vulgar, obscene, or offensive messages or images; weapons, illegal substances. Yoga style or exercise tops and pants that are too tight and revealing- body forming clothing.

6. Fundraising Ideas:

- Ask local service clubs such as Lions Club, Rotary, or Kiwanis for support; be sure to offer a presentation of what you learned when you get home.

## County Coordinators Job Description

County coordinator takes the lead for information, county meetings, working with 4H Faculty/staff, and planning for the KYG County Meetings. The other Adult Resources on the team take direction from the County Coordinator. You will be demonstrating GREAT team work to your students.

### **DESCRIPTION OF JOB:**

Teaching and guiding delegates through an educational county meetings designed to prepare them for full participation in the 4-H

Know Your Government Conference. You will guide delegates through the process of registration and other arrangements related to attending KYG.

### **DUTIES OF THE JOB:**

- Recruit interested 4-H members.
- Plan and implement county orientation sessions for delegates. This will include deciding for a meeting facility and having supplies/teaching tools ready.
  - **Attend county pre-conference sessions.**
- Work with your county 4-H Educator/Program Coordinator in determining county eligibility and participation requirements.
- Handle **4honline** registration, travel, hotel, and additional arrangements.
- Be informed about the Know Your Government Conference's Code of Conduct, policies, and procedures. Communicate these policies to the delegates and manage the enforcement of them. Coordinators will be contacted at any hour, day or night, if there is an infraction of the Code of Conduct.
- Required ratio of adults to delegates is chaperone per 10 delegates. Also, chaperones much match the sex of your teens.
- Collect and review the Code of Conduct agreements with delegates. You will be contacted day or night if there are infractions of this code.
- At the conference you will be Chaperone/Adult Resources for the entire delegation; not just your own county delegates
- For drivers transporting delegates, obtain and carry with you signed Registration/Parental Consent and Release forms
- Attend the Adult Resource Meeting at the beginning of the conference.

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Not currently enrolled as a 4-H youth member of the 4-H program
- Be at least 21 years of age
- Currently enrolled as a Certified 4-H Volunteer meeting the criteria in the revised Washington State 4-H Policy
- Have attended at least one Know Your Government Conference, if possible
- Demonstrate previous positive experience working with 4-H youth at a local and/or state 4-H event

- Interest in or knowledge of our youth development through civic engagement
- Time available for orientation program and conference attendance

**RESPONSIBLE TO:** The Washington 4-H Program, who is responsible to the youth of Washington State 4-H program, County Faculty/Staff, State 4-H Program Director, and WSU Extension.

- We will also be using a fun smartphone app called SLACK for on the spot communication and sharing or information. **PLEASE** send your email address to [dorothy.elsner@wsu.edu](mailto:dorothy.elsner@wsu.edu) and she will send you an invitation. SLACK can be accessed on smartphones, tablet, desktop and lap top computers.
- Use the Olympia map link as well for around town <http://des.wa.gov/capitol-campus-interactive-map> can be easily loaded on your smartphone.

## **Important Dates to Remember (Look at all important dates)**

Please note that these dates below are set in stone and there will be no expectations if information is turned in late, with the changes that are happening this year we have to have firm conformation of numbers to make this Conference a successful one!

- County Coordinator orientation at Forum or Coordinator Training Webinar (details to be announced) is mandatory for all Adult Resources

## **KYG Estimate of Expenses**

1. Registration Fee: Included in the registration fee is the Conference Materials, Lodging, T-Shirts, and Meals (Saturday Dinner, Sunday Lunch, Monday Lunch, and Legislative Reception. Sunday Dinner is County Night Out, allowing your delegation to eat dinner on their own at one of the many area restaurants or by ordering in.
  - Early Registration: \$295
  - Late Registration: \$340
2. Miscellaneous: Estimated cost; real totals should be discussed with your County Coordinators and parents
3. Gas: Don't forget to budget for gas to help whoever is driving you
4. Spending Money: This might be for traveling meals or County Night Out

## **Registration Instructions (students and adults)**

1. You must be enrolled through 4Honline.
  - If you already have a 'family profile' then you can go on to the KYG Registration
  - If you are new to 4-H please set up your family profile and enroll at: <http://wa.4honline.com>
2. Register for Know Your Government using the directions below
  - To finalize your KYG Registration you must:
    - Register for Know Your Government
    - Submit payment to your KYG County Coordinator or 4-H Extension Office
3. 4-H Faculty or Staff: For your KYG registration, please contact Kristi Axell at [kisti.axtell@wsu.edu](mailto:kisti.axtell@wsu.edu) or 509-358-7960

## **Hotel Information:**

DoubleTree by Hilton:

- Address: 415 Capitol Way, Olympia WA 98501
- Phone Number: 360-570-0555

Dear School Administrator and Faculty:

I am writing to inform you of an educational opportunity made available to one of your students on February 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Washington State University Extension, 4-H Youth Development will be hosting the **2019 4-H Know Your Government Conference—** “, in Olympia, Washington.

At the conference this year, delegates will participate sessions with other youth from across Washington State. Through pre-conference orientation, participants will learn about the Legislature and how it works with the other two branches of government; the executive and judicial branches. They will also learn how a bill becomes law in Washington State. At the conference in February, teens will take on the role of lobbyist. Delegates should learn that many bills are product of compromise and negotiation. For example, for a bill to pass through both chambers, the supporters of the bill must take in the consideration of many groups. A bill that may make perfect sense to a delegation may have very different implication for a family in another area of the state or business owner right next door.

From pre-conference county meetings and conference participation, the 4-H KYG committee believes delegates will have the opportunity to learn all or some of the following:

- Familiarity with the Legislative process;
- Realization that democracy requires responsible citizenship/participation and teamwork;
- Experience with parliamentary procedure
- Knowledge of his or her state legislative district, and an awareness of issues that affect his or her district leading to responsible citizenship
- Life Skill Development with an intentional focus on:
  - Accepting Differences: Treating people who are different from me with respect
  - Decision Making: Choosing among several alternatives
  - Responsible Citizenship: Developing individual devotion in response to duties, rights, and privileges as a member of a community or country

Delegates will also actively participate with their state legislators as well as tour of our State Capitol. Our 4-H curriculum is revised each year to reflect the most accurate information possible. It also meets the state educational standards for the Civics Graduation Requirement.

\_\_\_\_\_ has been chosen for participation in this event through a county selection process. Your cooperation is needed to allow this 4-H youth to attend. It is my hope that you will excuse \_\_\_\_\_ from class(es), on February 19th, **2019** to participate in the WSU 4-H Know Your Government event.

If you need more information about the program or have questions regarding the educational value of such an experience, please contact Alex Laughery: [alex.laughery@wsu.edu](mailto:alex.laughery@wsu.edu) or 509-901-9047 or Dorothy Elsner: [dorothy.elsner@wsu.edu](mailto:dorothy.elsner@wsu.edu) 360-428-4270