Decision 2020
Use your Voice, Cast your Vote

February 15 - 18, 2020
Olympia Center, Olympia, WA

Curriculum
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What is the 4-H Know Your Government Program?

Know Your Government (KYG) is a civic education program with a four-year rotation of topics: The Legislative System, The Judicial System, Elections, and Citizenship and Media. This year we will explore the topic of Elections. It is important to remember though, that KYG is much more than learning about running a campaign. In fact, one could argue that it is little about that. **KYG and 4-H is about learning the life skills our delegates will need to be responsible citizens and productive adults.** County leaders facilitate this learning at the local level in pre-conference meetings and Conference Facilitators (CFs), trained teen leaders, facilitate the application of the learned skills at the statewide conference in Olympia.

**Pre-conference meetings**

**Purposes**
1. teach the skills
2. provide the tools
3. prepare for the project at the KYG Conference

By the end of the pre-conference meetings, your delegates will have an experience that is similar (not necessarily identical) to those of other delegates. These similar experiences will provide a common foundation for all delegates, regardless of geographic, political or other differences.

Learning something new and working with other delegates with different perspectives can be uncomfortable. Pre-conference meetings are a way to help delegates feel comfortable about what will be happening at the conference so they feel safe to experience something new.

**Guest Speakers**
*We strongly suggest scheduling guest speakers during your county sessions who can bring a little more life to this subject. Invite elected officials or a campaign manager to meet with your group. Ask them to address their political party affiliation, why and how they chose it and/or recommend tips for conducting a campaign. If possible, invite a county party chair to discuss the role of party conventions in electing officials.*

*Have each of your delegates prepare one or two questions for the speaker. After the speaker has finished, lead a discussion on what the delegates learned (reflect and apply). After the speaker has left, ask the delegates open-ended questions such as, What did you think about that? What new things did you learn? Encourage the delegates to express their opinions and draw their own conclusions.*

**Internet Access**
The committee suggests that the meeting location include internet access as some meetings include videos and activities that require research on the internet.

There will be three tracks to follow during the pre-conference meetings identified by these colors:

1. The meeting essentials
2. Elections
3. Campaigns
1. **The meeting essentials**

Each meeting begins with a team building activity and ends with a compliments/closing activity. Short-changing these activities to focus on the other activities will actually slow your progress. Group work is highly dependent on trust and it is through these activities that trust is built. Other activities include creating ground rules, looking at the life skills related to this topic, talking about what is happening at the conference, inviting your legislators to the Legislative reception, etc.

2. **Elections**

This strand of lessons will be an opportunity for delegates to learn about the election process so they can recognize the different steps as the 2020 Election season unfolds. Delegates will also learn about the Electoral College and Instant Run-Off voting.

3. **Campaigns**

During these activities, delegates will be working together to get their county candidate chosen at the conference as the KYG Party Governor candidate. Think of the conference in February as the KYG party convention where the KYG party will choose its candidate to run against other party candidates, similar to the national Democratic and Republican conventions where they choose their candidates for president. There will also be lessons for delegates to explore sources of information on candidates and how to identify bias and propaganda. Part of the work in these activities will be to create a campaign display for your county’s candidate to be used on the first night on the conference to help others learn about your candidate.

**Statewide Conference in Olympia**

**Purposes**

1. bring high school students from across the state to build relationships with people whom are different from themselves by working on a group project
2. apply the skills learned through the pre-conference meetings
3. strengthen the connection between youth and our political and social networks through education, experience, application and inspiration

Delegates attending the conference will be part of the 4-H KYG Party and will be participating in the 4-H KYG Political Convention. At the political convention, delegates will select a county candidate to represent the KYG party as a candidate for Governor.

A value of 4-H KYG is that it provides the opportunity for our delegates to explore new ideas and perspectives in a safe and encouraging environment. If it were only about learning how elections work, 4-H would not bring delegates from around the state together. This program would stop at the county level. We encourage delegates with different views to work together, not to change each other’s minds, but to learn from each other. Encouraging discussion when people disagree and providing an opportunity to explore the issue in a non-threatening way demonstrates to the delegates that they can disagree on an issue but still work together. Ideally, these discussions will help delegates explore why they carry a certain belief and assist them in putting their own beliefs into practice.

At the conference, we want to empower delegates to influence change in their community. The conference is an opportunity for delegates to practice the skills they have learned, apply their knowledge to unknown situations and reflect on how they did. It is the ‘what now’ piece of the 4-H Model: **Do, Reflect and Apply.**
Mission Statement of WSU 4-H Know Your Government

The 4-H Know Your Government (KYG) Conference serves to strengthen the connection between youth and our political and social networks through education, experience, application, and inspiration. 4-H KYG Values:

1. Inquiry
2. Regard for others
3. Respect/Cultural Competence
4. Positive Communication
5. Strengthening personal values

The topic and activities experienced through the 4-H KYG conference are all vehicles to provide the opportunity and framework to develop these values.

Educational Objectives of 4-H KYG 2020

This year, participants will explore the election process. During pre-conference orientation, participants will learn about how elections work in Washington, campaigning, different types of voting, and how to research candidates. At the conference in February, delegates will nominate a KYG party candidate.

From orientation training and conference participation, the KYG committee believes delegates will learn all or some of the following:

- Understand Washington’s election process
- Identify political parties and describe their role in the process
- Discover resources that help voters learn about candidates and what they believe
- Learn about different voting systems and practice instant run-off voting and the electoral college
- Learn how to get a candidate elected through building support among peers
- Recognize bias and propaganda in campaign messages
- Strengthen focused life skills: Teamwork, Conflict resolution, Responsible Citizenship

Collaboration: Work, along with others, toward a common purpose; share leadership

Positive Civil Discourse: discuss political issues civilly with people who hold different views that yourself

Remember: 4H is a ‘safe place’ to do this.

“Young people need the space and encouragement to form and refine their own positions on political issues, even if their views happen to be controversial. We must adopt a generally tolerant and welcoming attitude toward this process of developing and expressing a political identity.” (National Youth Survey, data pg. 23)

Conflict resolution: Find and apply creative and nondestructive ways to resolve differences between two or more persons; get along with others

Positive Citizenship: Developing individual devotion in response to duties, rights & privileges as a member of a community or county
Message from the 4-H KYG Core Committee

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 core committee or other coordinators 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 but the best way to contact people who can help is **via an app called Slack**. Please contact Dorothy Elsner about getting set up on Slack so you can get help during the pre-conference activities and so you are ready for the conference in February as this app is our primary communication tool.

As background, when the Core committee plans each conference, they begin with the end and work backwards.

1. Select what they hope the delegates will gain as a result of the conference (which life skills, what products, etc.)
2. Decide what activities are needed at the conference to demonstrate these gains (what work needs to be done to strengthen life skills and produce the product)
3. Determine basic/foundational knowledge all delegates need to be successful in participating in the activities at the conference
4. Create the pre-conference curriculum that includes activities that lead to a project that demonstrate mastery of the skills needed for the conference

4-H KYG is just one of many statewide civic education opportunities. Core committee members regularly meet with other education programs (YMCA, etc.) to ensure that a wide variety of programs available for youth in Washington. As a committee, we focus on reaching students that have an interest in learning more about government but may not have the experience or time other programs require.

Because of this focus, the pre-conference curriculum cannot make any assumptions of knowledge on the part of the delegate or the coordinator. We have found that over the years, coordinators are learning right along with the delegates and we encourage this! However, we also encourage you to consider the ability and level of your group. You will know better than anyone what they need to be successful through the curriculum. **To prepare, we suggest that you visit the websites referenced in the curriculum prior to the meetings.**

Objectives of Orientation Meetings

- Build trust
- Learn about the election process
- Learn about political parties and their part in the process
- Work together to create a campaign to get your candidate chosen
- Learn about different types of voting
- Research resources that help voters learn about candidates
- Strengthen focused life skills: Teamwork, Conflict resolution, Responsible Citizenship

1. The meeting essentials

Often adult leaders will feel this is ‘fluff’ and not necessary to waste time on during the meeting. WE ENCOURAGE YOU NOT TO DROP THESE PIECES! As noted above, this format and philosophy is
crucially important to the youth gaining and retaining more of the civic educational content, and strengthening not only the focused life skills, but many more life skills as well.

From research that has been gathered over the years, we have adopted the premise and practices of the “Chaperoning for Life Skill Development Curriculum” developed by Brian Brandt, Associate Faculty with Washington State University Extension. From the research that Brian has collected, **if the students are going to gain as much as possible from the learning experience, it is critical that pre-conference meetings include the following pieces, that there is an intentional focus on life skills, and that reflection and application are provided.** The purpose of 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 discussions. When running a youth meeting, resources that make conducting a meeting easier will ultimately lead to an increase in learning and make the chaperone’s role easier. The following is a summary of that work and how we will be utilizing it through the curriculum this year:

**Teambuilding or Community Builders**
*Purpose:* fun activities to begin your meeting; 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.

**Group Agreement**
*Purpose:* To create a safe learning environment where groups work on behaviors that support success. Group will establish an agreed-upon code of behavior, which identifies what behavior the group individuals expect from each other in order 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 meeting facilitator or in this case the KYG County Coordinator is to create an atmosphere of learning. Practicing intentional life skill focus, experiential learning, Do-Reflect-Apply, and positive youth/adult partnerships will help create the positive learning.

**Business:**
*Purpose:* Prepare delegates by discussing the details of KYG: scheduling meetings, logistics, travel, locations, registrations and payment, etc.

**Content**
*Purpose:* to teach the civic learning material and other subject material in the curriculum.

**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 chaperones 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 provides 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 the **What? So What? What Now?** questions to help 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 about 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?”

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 activities so they can focus on those. We feel the activities provide topics all delegates need familiarity with in order 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.

Facilitation skills will also be important for these activities. Here are some helpful facilitator tips and tricks.

**Facilitation Tips:** [http://www.acphd.org/media/114415/facilitation_tips.pdf](http://www.acphd.org/media/114415/facilitation_tips.pdf)

**The Discussion-Friendly Classroom**
[https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/publications/civil-discourse-in-the-classroom/chapter-3-talk-it-over](https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/publications/civil-discourse-in-the-classroom/chapter-3-talk-it-over)

1. Choose limited, achievable goals.
2. Intersperse discussion with other activities.
3. Establish ground rules.
4. Give everyone something to say.
5. Pay attention to classroom layout.
6. Build in debriefing sessions.
7. Don’t just teach – train.

**7 Tips for First-time Facilitators**
[https://uxmastery.com/7-tips-for-first-time-facilitators/](https://uxmastery.com/7-tips-for-first-time-facilitators/)

1. Learn from others
2. Practice, practice, practice
3. Be prepared
4. Don’t hurry the group
5. Give them closure
6. Embrace the nerves
7. Have fun
Saturday, February 15
3:00 – 4:30 PM Challenge Activities
3:30 – 4:30 PM Chaperone Meeting
4:40 – 5:00 PM Break to Set Up Candidate Materials (Gym)
5:00 – 6:30 PM Dinner (Speaker)
7:00 – 8:00 PM Session A: Candidate Meet & Greet
8:00 – 8:15 PM Break
8:15 – 9:15 PM Session B: Breakout Introductions & Caucusing
9:15 – 10:00 PM County Meetings & Caucusing
10:30 PM Lights Out

Sunday, February 16
8:30 – 10:00 AM Session C: Instant Run-off Voting for Top 10 Candidates
10:00 – 10:15 AM Break
10:15 – 12:15 PM Session D: Political Strategy Rotation
   • Canvassing
   • Social Media
   • Branding
   • Fundraising
12:15 – 12:30 PM Break
12:30 – 1:30 PM Lunch
1:30 – 3:30 PM Session E: Strategy Application & Implementation
4:00 – 7:30 PM County Night Out
8:00 – 9:00 PM Session F: Reception with Candidates (top 10)
9:15 – 10:00 PM County Meetings/Caucusing
10:30 PM Lights Out

Monday, February 17
8:00 – 9:45 AM Session G: Top 10 Candidate Speeches; IRV for Top 3
10:00 – 12:00 PM Capitol Tours/Civic Education Day on the Hill
12:30 – 3:30 PM Lunch & Community Service
4:00 – 5:00 PM Preparation for Legislative Reception
5:30 – 8:00 PM Legislative Reception: Session H: Top 3 Candidate Speeches at the Capitol
8:30 – 10:00 PM Dance & Pizza
10:30 – 11:00 PM County Meetings/Caucusing
11:00 – 11:15 PM Lights Out

Tuesday, February 18
8:30 AM Breakfast Buffet Open
9:00 – 10:30 AM Session I: Electoral College for Final Candidate & Closing Speaker
Orientation Activities

Meeting 1: Introductions, Citizenship, Electoral Process
Activity 1: Introductions and Teambuilding
Activity 2: Overview of KYG
Activity 3: Building a Group Agreement
Activity 4: Citizenship: What is a good citizen?
Activity 5: Electoral Process
Activity 6: Who Represents Me?
Activity 7: Business
Activity 8: Compliments and Appreciation

Meeting 2: Political Parties & Campaigns
Activity 9: Teambuilding and Community Building
Activity 10: Life Skills and Group Agreement Check-in
Activity 11: Political Parties
Activity 12: Political Campaigns
Activity 13: Business
Activity 14: Compliments and Appreciation

Meeting 3: Campaigns & Voting
Activity 15: Teambuilding and Community Building
Activity 16: Group Agreement Check-in
Activity 17: Electoral College
Activity 18: Instant Runoff Voting
Activity 19: Creating a Campaign Website
Activity 20: Is that a Fact?
Activity 21: Business
Activity 22: Compliments and Appreciation

Meeting 4: Researching Candidates & Campaign Preparations
Activity 23: Teambuilding and Community Building
Activity 24: Group Agreement Check-in
Activity 25: Campaign Finance
Activity 26: Initiative and Referendums
Activity 27: Propaganda
Activity 28: Time to Vote
Activity 29: Campaign check-in
Activity 30: Business
Activity 31: Compliments and Appreciation

Please submit a candidate letter of intent and photo (jpeg file) to the Core Committee by January 31, 2020 using Slack so your candidate’s information can be part of the Voter’s Pamphlet at the conference.
**KEY TERMS**

**Electoral College** - A body of 538 electors chosen by the voters in each state to elect the President and Vice President. Each state is allocated as many electors as it has Representatives and Senators in the United States Congress.

**General Election** - a regularly scheduled local, state, or national election in which voters elect officeholders.

**Independent or non-party politician** - an individual not affiliated to any political party.

**Initiative** - a procedure by which a specified number of voters may propose a statute, constitutional amendment, or ordinance, and compel a popular vote on its adoption.

**Instant Run-Off Voting** - Uses ranked ballots to simulate a traditional runoff in a single round of voting.

**Majority Party** - Major political parties’ candidates received at least 5% of the total votes cast for President in the last election. Currently, only the Democratic and Republican Parties have major party status. All other parties are considered minor political parties.

**Minority party** - in Washington State any political party or organization whose nominees for President and Vice President failed to receive at least 5% of the total votes cast at the last (2016) presidential election.

**Open Primary** - Voters choose candidates for each office without regard to party.

**Party Affiliation** - Identification with a political party’s platform and/or candidate.

**Primary Election** - a preliminary election in which voters of each party nominate candidates for office, party officers, etc.

**Political Party** - An organized group of people with common values and beliefs who try to get their candidates elected to political office.

**Referendum** - the principle or practice of referring measures proposed or passed by a legislative body to the vote of the electorate for approval or rejection.

**Top 2 Primary** - in Top 2 Primary, candidates may declare their political party preference. However, a candidate’s stated preference is not an endorsement by the party.