

4-H Know Your Government

Decision 2024: It's Your Choice



February 17 - 19, 2024
Olympia, WA

Curriculum



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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 2024

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: **Collaboration, Positive Civil Discourse, 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 than 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 people; get along with others.

Responsible Citizenship: Developing individual devotion in response to duties, rights & privileges as a member of a community or county.

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 are about learning the life skills our delegates will need to be responsible citizens and productive adults.** Delegation Leads (adults) facilitate this learning at the local level in pre-conference meetings then Conference Facilitators (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 delegates preparing in other counties. 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.

Before You Begin Having Pre-Conference Meetings:

Internet Access

The meeting location should include internet access as some meetings include videos and activities that require research on the internet.

Guest Speakers

We strongly suggest scheduling guest speakers during your meetings 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). 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.

Read the Curriculum

Being prepared means knowing what kinds of activities are going to take place and what kinds of resources you will need. A minimum is suggested in the Meeting Materials. Some county delegate groups prepare more than others, they usually have a better experience.

Each KYG Pre-Conference lesson plan has three sections 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 Formal Dinner, etc.

2. Elections

These activities are an opportunity for delegates to learn about the election process so they can recognize the different steps as the 2024 Election season unfolds. Delegates will learn about the Electoral College, Instant Run-Off (also known as Ranked Choice) voting, sources of information on candidates and how to identify bias and propaganda.

3. Campaigns

During these activities, delegates will be working together to get their county candidate chosen at the conference as a candidate. 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 day at 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 who 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 candidate to represent the KYG party as a candidate for Governor. Think of the conference as the KYG party convention where the KYG party will choose its candidate to run against other party candidates, like the national Democratic and Republican conventions where they choose their candidates for president.

The 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. 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.**

4-H Know Your Government
Decision 2024: It's Your Choice
Tentative Conference Agenda

Saturday, February 17

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1:00 – 3:00 PM | Registration |
| 3:00 – 4:00 PM | Challenge and vote for top 6 candidates (IRV); AR Meeting |
| 4:00 – 5:00 PM | Check into hotel and get changed into Business Casual |
| 5:00 – 6:30 PM | Welcome, Dinner, and announce top 6 candidates and assign to color group |
| 6:30 – 7:30 PM | Session A: Meet your candidate in your color group |
| 7:30 – 7:45 PM | Break |
| 7:45 – 9:00 PM | Session B: Initial Debate Prep |
| 9:00 – 9:15 PM | Break |
| 9:15 – 10:00 PM | Delegation Meetings |
| 10:30 PM | Lights Out/In Your Room |

Sunday, February 18

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 7:00 – 8:00 AM | Exercise with Jon |
| 8:00 – 8:30 AM | Breakfast on your own |
| 8:30 – 9:00 AM | Session C: Final Debate Prep |
| 9:00 – 9:15 AM | Break |
| 9:15 – 11:00 AM | Session D: Debate |
| 11:00 – 11:30 AM | Travel to Capitol |
| 11:30 – 12:30 PM | Tour at Capitol |
| 12:30 – 3:00 PM | Delegation Afternoon Out |
| 3:00 – 4:00 PM | Session E: Speech Preparation & Practice |
| 4:00 – 4:30 PM | Change into Business Professional |
| 4:30 – 5:45 PM | Session F: Speeches & Voting for Top 3 (electoral college) |
| 5:45 – 6:00 PM | Break |
| 6:00 – 7:30 PM | Fancy Dinner - Announce Top 3 |
| 7:30 – 8:00 PM | Change into Dance Clothes |
| 8:00 – 9:30 PM | Dance - Games - Casual Campaigning |
| 9:30 – 10:00 PM | Delegation Meetings |
| 10:30 PM | Lights Out/In Your Room |

Monday, February 19

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 7:00 – 8:00 AM | Exercise with Jon |
| 8:00 – 9:00 AM | Breakfast Buffet & Check Out of Hotel Rooms - Evaluations |
| 9:00 – 9:45 AM | Session G: Prepare for Campaign Rally |
| 9:45 – 10:30 AM | Session H: Campaign Rallies |
| 10:45 – 11:45 AM | Elect Governor & Closing Ceremonies (Individual voting) |
| 12:00 PM | Grab Box Lunch - Head Home - See You Next Year - Visit Legislators |

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: Initiatives and Referendums
- Activity 14: Business
- Activity 15: Compliments and Appreciation

Meeting 3: Campaigns & Voting

- Activity 16: Teambuilding and Community Building
- Activity 17: Group Agreement Check-in
- Activity 18: Electoral College
- Activity 19: Instant Runoff Voting
- Activity 20: Creating a Campaign Video
- Activity 21: Is that a Fact?
- Activity 22: Business
- Activity 23: Compliments and Appreciation

Meeting 4: Researching Candidates & Campaign Preparations

- Activity 24: Teambuilding and Community Building
- Activity 25: Group Agreement Check-in
- Activity 26: Accessing Information
- Activity 27: Persuasive Techniques
- Activity 28: Campaign Finance
- Activity 29: It's Your Choice
- Activity 30: Campaign Check-in
- Activity 31: Business
- Activity 32: Compliments and Appreciation

*Please submit a candidate letter of intent and photo (jpeg file) and campaign video to the Core Committee by January 31, 2024 (kainoaeb@gmail.com).
See Meeting 2, Page 10.*

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.