Meeting 1

- Teambuilding
- Create group agreement
- Learn about the KYG conference
- Discuss registration requirements
- **❖** Learn about citizenship, election process and who represents you

Estimated Time: 3 hours

Prepare in Advance:

1. Talk to the Experts

The new delegates may want to hear from the experienced delegates about the agenda items that are not related to sessions. Have your delegates who have attended KYG before to talk about Challenge, Delegation Enrichment Time (formerly County Night Out), Delegation Meetings (formerly County Meetings), Formal Dinner (formerly Legislative Reception), Community Service, etc.

2. Future Voter Program

Review <u>www.sos.wa.gov/elections/future-voter-program.aspx</u> prior to meeting. The program allows people who are 16-years-old or older to pre-register to vote. You may have delegates interested in learning more.

Materials Needed

- 1. Internet access
- 2. Computer(s) for videos and research (encourage delegates to bring their own if they have them)
- 3. Copies of handouts
- 4. Flipchart paper and pens for group agreement

The meeting essentials

Elections

Campaigns

Activity 1: Introductions and Teambuilding (15-20 minutes)

Use an icebreaker/teambuilding activity; either the one listed below or one of your own.

- 1. Clear away desks or tables and have students find a partner, then circle up as a group.
- 2. Have the partners look at each other and, according to an attribute (e.g. whoever has shorter hair, more jewelry on, the most blue on) separate themselves. The person with the shorter hair stands on the inside of the circle, facing the longer-haired partner. There are now two circles- one inside the other with the inside circle facing the outer one.
- 3. Give the pairs something to share with each other about themselves:
 - a. One of the highlights of your school year so far
 - b. Something you are looking forward to about KYG
 - c. A strength you will bring to your county team. The strength should begin with the same letter as your first name. ("My name is Dede and I bring Dedication to the group.")

- 4. After the sharing, have one of the circles rotate to the right or left by two or three people. Each person will then have a new partner and a new opportunity to discuss another topic.
- 5. If your group is small, do the above activity as a group in a single circle.

 Adapted from: Journey Toward the Caring Classroom by Laurie S. Frank. (2004)

Activity 2: Overview of the KYG Program (10 minutes)

Engage with Questions

This Conference is going to be about elections. What do you currently think about elections? What would you like to know? Do any of you vote yet? Have any of you registered to vote yet? (Currently anyone 16 years old can pre-register to vote).

Discuss the mission of KYG found on **page 3 of the Curriculum Introduction Section**. "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."

Also, discuss the educational objectives and specifically the life skills for KYG and for this specific conference also on **page 3 of the Curriculum Introduction Section**.

Ask students to consider these goals as they head into building a group agreement.

Refer to **pages 4 and 5 of the Curriculum Introduction Section** to discuss that your team will be creating a campaign to get a candidate nominated as the KYG party candidate for Governor. Through this project, delegates will learn about the election process, so they are a better informed voter. During the conference sessions, delegates will be in groups with people from other counties working to get their group candidate elected, again as a way to learn about elections.

Talk to the Experts

The new delegates may want to hear from the experienced delegates about the agenda items that are not related to sessions. Have your delegates who have attended KYG before to talk about Challenge, Delegation Enrichment Time (formerly County Night Out), Delegation Meetings (formerly County Meetings), Formal Dinner (formerly Legislative Reception), Community Service, etc.

Share about the 4-H Know Your Government Program from your experience or the information shared in this curriculum. Also, refer to the **Tentative Conference Agenda in the Handouts Section on page 7**.

Activity 3: Create a Group Agreement (20 minutes)

Explain to the delegates that, we are going to need to be a team for this KYG Adventure while assuring that each individual can learn and grow individually. A group agreement can fulfill these goals. Everyone needs to feel physically and emotionally safe so each of us will be willing to take risks, such as trying new ideas. Our group agreement- or sometimes called 'ground rules' - will help each of us know what to expect and what is expected of us. One of the life skills we are focusing on this year is collaboration or working as a group. Your group agreement can aid you to strengthen this skill. This can be 'the glue' that holds our group together.

Discuss:

- What things would make this group/county delegation work well for you?
- What makes this a safe and respectful place for us to work in?
- What would make this group a good space to learn?

Encourage response by:

- People call out points, which are written up on flipchart paper for everyone to see; or
- People write their comments on pieces of paper and group them together on the wall; or
- People talk about the question in pairs or small groups and then feed this back to the whole group.

When you have drawn out people's ideas, go through the list one by one and check for clarification before adding to your final list. **Ask for examples of what it looks like in action.**

- Take for example "it's alright to disagree" how would this work practically? You could add "... by challenging what a person says, not attacking the person themselves."
- Another example is Confidentiality. This is also quite vague and you will need to discuss, 'what people understand by it and what level of confidentiality they expect from the group.'
- Respect, is a common one; but what does that look like for your group?

Finally, **check for agreement** on all the points from the whole group. Reach agreement and have someone in your group neatly write your 'Group Agreement' on poster board.

Please display your Group Agreement at each of your Pre-conference Delegation meetings, and at your evening delegation meetings.

So that your delegation will have 'ownership' in the group agreement, it is best to have them go through the process above to determine their own guidelines. However, here are some ideas that may help:

Be here. Be present mentally, physically, emotionally.

Be safe. Create a level of safety so that people are able to relax and feel comfortable. What might that look like?

Speak the truth. Share your thoughts openly and honestly. Speak from your own experience, Accept others' experiences and views as valid to them.

Pay attention. Listen to what others say and focus on their ideas.

Recognize your own bias and try to set it aside.

Have Fun!

Activity 4: What is a Good Citizen? (30 minutes)

Look at the poster adapted from the League of Women Voters on page 8. The League is a nonpartisan organization interested in encouraging citizens to advocate and participate in democracy.

- 1. Have each delegate choose an action and think about what that action means for them and for democracy (5 minutes).
- 2. Have them get into groups of 3 or 4, assign someone to be a timer and go through the following protocol for each action:
 - a. Person 1 reads their action out loud to the group with no explanation
 - b. Person 2 shares their thoughts as it relates to the action (1 minute)
 - c. Person 3 shares their thoughts as it relates to the action (1 minute)
 - d. Person 4 shares their thoughts as it relates to the action (1 minute)

- e. Person 1 shares their thoughts as it relates to the action and what they heard from the rest of the group (3 minutes)
- f. Repeat for each action/person
- 3. Have delegates share ideas and learnings with the large group.

Activity 5: Elections: How they Work (45 minutes)

Show the video: Teach with TVW: Voting in Washington (10 minutes):

http://www.teachwithtvw.org/voting-in-washington-module/or

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=v8qhe5C2UIs

Background on elections:

<u>Federal races</u> elect the United States President and Vice President, U.S. Senators, or U.S. Representatives

State races elect state executive, legislative and judicial officials

Local races elect offices for county, city and other local positions.

Washington statewide elections are held to choose our federal senators, our state executives such as the governor, and Washington State Supreme Court Justices. Local elections include all other elected positions. Some local elections are by district (congressional, legislative, Court of Appeals), county (sheriff, prosecuting attorney, Superior Court), city or town (city council) or within a city (school board).

Hand out copies of 5 Ways Voting is Unique in WA on page 9.

1. Washington uses a "Top 2 Primary." In Top 2 Primary, candidates may declare their political party preference. However, even if a candidate has stated a preference, it is not an endorsement by the party. In fact, candidates can (and do) make up their own parties! Every third Tuesday in August, Washingtonians may vote for any candidate, regardless of the candidate's party preference. In some states, voters must declare their affiliation to a party when they register, and may only vote in that party's primary. In a Top 2 Primary, the two candidates who receive the most votes in the primary will advance to the General Election in November regardless of party preference. It is possible for two candidates with the same party preference to both advance to the General Election.

2. No Party Affiliation

As a Washington voter, you do not declare a party affiliation. This allows you to vote for any candidate in the Primary, regardless of their party preference.

3. Online voter registration

Washington offers online voter registration. Register to vote or update your address at www.myvote.wa.gov

4. Vote by mail

Washington State votes by mail. We are the second state in the nation to eliminate poll sites. A ballot is mailed 18 days before each election, ensuring you have time to cast an informed ballot without waiting in line.

5. Voter's Pamphlet

Only a few states produce a Voters' Pamphlet like ours. In Washington, a pamphlet is mailed to every household before each General Election in November. For more about voting to www.vote.wa.gov

The Tuesday after the first Monday of November is Election Day nationwide. In the General Election, voters make their final selection for representation.

In Washington, local, county and city representation is typically decided in odd-year General Elections, while federal and state candidates usually appear on the ballot in even years.

After some votes have been counted, some races are too close to call. If the first vote count results in less than a 0.5% difference in any race, all ballots are automatically required to be counted again by machine. If the results are still less than 0.5% difference, the ballots must be counted by hand.

Hand out Counting your Ballot on page 10 and have delegates partner up to review and discuss.

Source: Teaching Elections in Washington State published by the Office of the Secretary of State. https://www.sos.wa.gov/_assets/elections/mock/teachers%20guide%20curriculum%2010.08.2018.pdf and TVW

Reflect:

- Some people vote regularly. Others vote rarely, if at all. If voting is so important, should people be fined or punished in some way for not voting? Why?
- Local elections and special elections can have the biggest impact on our daily lives but have the lowest voter turnout. Why? What are the barriers?
- People aged 18-24 are the least likely to vote. Why do people in this age group let others decide important issues by not voting when many have different opinions and values than older Americans?
- Under Washington's Top 2 Primary, both candidates in the General Election can be from the same party. In your opinion, is this better or worse for encouraging voter turnout?
- Minority voters in other states can face long lines at poll sites. What challenges does our vote by mail system present to minority voters?
- Some states allow "same-day registration," meaning voters can register and vote at the
 polls. Because Washington votes by mail, our voters must register in advance so they
 have time to receive a ballot. Which is better for young voters: more time to register or
 more time to vote?

Apply:

- If you are 18, go register to vote. https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx
- If you are 16, sign up for the Future Voter program. https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/future-voter-program.aspx

Activity 6: Who Represents Me? (20 minutes)

- 1. In the US, we have a system of government called a **representative democracy**, meaning we choose leaders to make decisions on our behalf. To make sure our leaders continue to represent the best interests of our communities, we periodically vote to retain our leaders or elect new leadership.
- 2. In Washington, any registered voter can run as a candidate for public office. But some offices have additional qualifications to be a candidate.
 - a. See handout **Who Represents Me? on page 11** and discuss why there are these additional qualifications for certain offices.
 - b. Do the delegates agree with these qualifications?

- 3. The candidates you vote for depend on where you live. For example, every voter nationwide helps choose the president and vice president, because they represent the entire country. But only Washington voters can choose Washington US senators or our governor. And some leaders represent just your district, such as your US representative or your state legislators. You also have county elections to decide leaders like your sheriff, and city elections to choose your council members.
- 4. The US Congress meets at the US capitol in Washington, DC. There are 100 US senators; every state gets two. The number of representatives each state gets depends on the state's population. There are 435 members of the US House of Representatives. After the 2010 Census, Washington was awarded a 10th representative.
- 5. Washington's Legislature meets at our state Capitol in Olympia. Washington is divided into 49 legislative districts; each district gets one state senator and two state representatives.
- The bipartisan Washington Redistricting Commission meets every 10 years to draw new boundaries, ensuring that each district has roughly the same number of voters and are equally represented in Congress and the Legislature.

Source: Teaching Elections in Washington State published by the Office of the Secretary of State. https://www.sos.wa.gov/_assets/elections/mock/teachers%20guide%20curriculum%2010.08.2018.pdf and https://www.iCivics.org

Scavenger Hunt (If you are out of time do page 13 together and ask the to do the rest at home)

Hand out the blank two-page worksheet called **Who Represents Me? on pages 13 and 14**. Have delegates use their devices to find the information for the worksheet and interesting facts about the elected officials. When the worksheet is filled out, have delegates share the names of who represents them, as there may be differences, (delegates may live in different districts) and the interesting facts. Have the group vote on the most interesting fact found.

Activity 7: Business (15 minutes)

Talk with delegates about the registration process. Discuss ideas for fundraising.

Activity 8: Compliments and Closing (10 minutes) Compliments:

Showing appreciation and giving compliments are not one in the same. One can appreciate someone by saying things like, "thank you," "great job," or even "you're the best," but a compliment takes it a step further by explaining the value the person provided that made you appreciate them. Compliments are a form of structured gratitude, which has proven extremely beneficial in positive youth development.

'Adult Resources' (Delegation Coordinator and Chaperones) should model giving compliments by observing what the group does well and praising the group for their strengths and achievements, both big and small. Spend a minute 'praising' your delegates as a group. You might recognize their attentiveness, creative ideas, willingness to share, diligent work or great attitudes. This is the first step towards valuing the group as a whole and individuals.

Closing:

Have delegates partner up and share the following:

- 1. WHAT happened in our meeting today?
- 2. SO WHAT did you learn in that activity?
- 3. NOW WHAT will you do with that learning? Where, how, when will you use it?

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

Tentative Conference Agenda

Saturday, February 1:00 - 3:00 PM 3:00 - 4:00 PM 4:00 - 5:00 PM 5:00 - 6:30 PM 6:30 - 7:30 PM 7:30 - 7:45 PM 7:45 - 9:00 PM 9:00 - 9:15 PM 9:15 - 10:00 PM 10:30 PM	Registration Challenge and vote for top 6 candidates (IRV); AR Meeting Check into hotel and get changed into Business Casual Welcome, Dinner, and announce top 6 candidates/color groups Session A: Meet your candidate in your color group Break Session B: Initial Debate Prep Break Delegation Meetings Lights Out/In Your Room
Sunday, February 7:00 - 8:00 AM 8:00 - 8:30 AM 8:30 - 9:00 AM 9:00 - 9:15 AM 9:15 - 11:00 AM 11:00 - 11:30 AM 11:30 - 12:30 PM 12:30 - 3:00 PM 3:00 - 4:00 PM 4:00 - 4:30 PM 4:30 - 5:45 PM 5:45 -6:00 PM 6:00 - 7:30 PM 7:30 - 8:00 PM 8:00 - 9:30 PM 9:30 - 10:00 PM 10:30 PM	Exercise with Jon Breakfast on your own Session C: Final Debate Prep Break Session D: Debate Travel to Capitol Tour at Capitol Delegation Afternoon Out Session E: Speech Preparation & Practice Change into Business Professional attire Session F: Speeches & Voting for Top 3 (electoral college) Break Fancy Dinner - Announce Top 3 Change into Dance Clothes Dance - Games - Casual Campaigning Delegation Meetings Lights Out/In Your Room
Monday, February 7:00 - 8:00 AM 8:00 - 9:00 AM 9:00 - 9:45 AM 9:45 - 10:30 AM 10:45 - 11:45 AM 12:00 PM	Exercise with Jon Breakfast Buffet & Check Out of Hotel Rooms - Evaluations Session G: Prepare for Campaign Rally Session H: Campaign Rallies

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY? VOTE!

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SHARE OUR FUTURE BY CHOOSING WHO WILL LEAD US, BUT THERE IS SO MUCH MORE...
AND NOT ALL OF IT IS ABOUT GOVERNMENT.

THINK ABOUT THE BIG PICTURE: TO LIVE IN A GOOD SOCIETY, WE NEED TO BE GOOD PEOPLE - PEOPLE WHO:

- RESPECT EACH OTHER EVEN WHEN WE DON'T THINK ALIKE
- KEEP OUR MINDS OPEN TO NEW IDEAS
- TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER AND THE NATURAL WORLD THAT SUSTAINS US

HOW CAN WE DO ALL THAT?

TRY TO BE A PERSON OF GOOD CHARACTER

SOMEONE WHO IS HONEST, KIND, HARD-WORKING, AND WILLING TO WORK TO OVERCOME OUR FAULTS AND FACE UP TO OUR MISTAKES.

OF DEMOCRACY

MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE BASIC IDEAS AND PRINCIPLES

YOU CAN ALWAYS LOOK UP THE DETAILS LATER. BUT YOU NEED A SOLID UNDERSTANDING OF WHY REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IS SO IMPORTANT.

THINK ABOUT COMMON GOOD AND ABOUT INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

BECAUSE THE BASIC CHALLENGE OF DEMOCRACY IS FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN WHAT'S GOOD FOR EACH OF US AND WHAT'S GOOD FOR ALL OF US.

QUESTIONS ARE MORE POWEFUL THAN OPINIONS

QUESTION EVERYTHING. ASK HARD QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE ANSWERS YOU GET.

LOVE TO LEARN

BECAUSE KNOWLEDGE GIVES US THE UNDERSTANDING TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

BUILDING SAFE, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
WHERE PEOPLE LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER
BEGINS AT HOME - YOUR HOME, AND
YOUR NEIGHBORS' HOMES.

LEAN TOWARDS CIVILITY

EVEN WHEN PEOPLE ARE MEAN, CORRUPT, OR HATEFUL - WE HAVE TO REMEMBER HOW MUCH PROGRESS OUR COUNTRY HAS MAD, AND STAY FOCUSED ON LIVING UP TO THE IDEALS IN OUR CONSTITUTION.

DON'T WASTE TIME HATING GOVERNMENT

BECAUSE BLAMING OTHERS WON'T MAKE
IT BETTER, PERIOD. WHEN YOU SEE A
PROBLEM, LEARN ABOUT IT AND THEN
JOIN WITH OTHERS TO HELP SOLVE IT.

LEARN SCIENCE

SO THAT WE CAN MAKE SURE NEW SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES BENEFIT ALL OF US AND THE PLANET WE LIVE ON.

PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE OF YOUR COMMUNITY

BY VOLUNTEERING, CARING FOR COMMON SPACES, PARTICIPATING IN CIVIC EVENTS OR HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED. COMMIT TO WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS.

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

THERE IS A MIDDLE GROUND WHERE WE CAN ALL POSPER, AND DEMOCRACY THRIVES IN Cooperative action for the largest Number of People.

TAKE ACTION

WHAT MAKES DEMOCRACY WORK IS

PARTICIPATION. ALL THE PROGRESS WE'VE

MADE, FROM ENDING SLAVERY TO EXTENDING

VOTING RIGHTS TO EVERYONE, HAPPENED

BECAUSE PEOPLE TOOK ACTION FOR CHANGE.

WAYS VOTING IS UNIQUE IN WA No party affiliation **Top 2 Primary** As a Washington voter, Washington uses a Top 2 Primary you do not register by system, rather than a party party affiliation. This nominating system. In our Top 2 allows you to vote for any Primary, the two candidates who candidate in the Primary, receive the most votes advance regardless of their party to the General Election regardless preference. of their party preference. Vote by mail Online voter registration Washington State votes Washington offers online voter by mail. We are one of registration. Register to vote or three states in the nation update your address at to eliminate poll sites. A www.myvote.wa.gov. ballot is mailed 18 days before each election, ensuring you have time to cast an informed ballot without waiting in line. Voters' Pamphlet Only a few states produce a Voters' Learn more about voting at Pamphlet like ours. In Washington, a pamphlet is mailed to every household before each General WWW.VOTE.WA.GOV Election in November.

COUNTING YOUR BALLOT Your county receives your ballot Your ballot is sorted Deposit your ballot in an official drop box by 8 p.m. Election staff scan on Election Day, or return the envelope bar code your ballot by mail - but to find your signature make sure it's postmarked in the state database. no later than Election Day! Your signature is verified The signature on your ballot is compared If the signature doesn't match to the signature on your voter registration or is missing, election staff will contact you before your record. If the signature matches, you are credited for voting to ensure only one ballot is processed. ballot is counted for you. Envelopes are separated Your ballot is reviewed The return envelope is opened, Election staff review every and the security envelope ballot to verify voters followed is removed. The envelopes the instructions. If a ballot are separated to ensure the can't be read by the scanner, secrecy of your vote. the votes are copied onto a new ballot. Your ballot is counted **IN THE 2016** Starting at 8 p.m. on Election Day **General Election** all ballots are counted. Ballots will be counted over the next several days. 3,363,440 ballots were counted in Washington State

Who Represents Me?

All candidates for public office must be registered voters, but some offices have additional qualifications:

Federal Offices	Term	Additional Qualifications	Office Descriptions
President	4 years	 35 years old Natural-born citizen Permanent U.S. resident for 14 years 	The chief duty of the president is to ensure the laws of the nation are faithfully executed. This duty is largely performed through appointments for thousands of federal positions, including secretaries of cabinet-level agencies and federal judges (subject to confirmation by the Senate). The president is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces, has the power to sign and veto (reject) laws passed by Congress, and makes treaties with foreign governments (with Senate approval).
U.S. Senate	6 years	30 years oldResident of the state they representU.S. citizen for 9 years	The Senate has several exclusive powers, including consenting to treaties, confirming federal appointments made by the president, and trying federal officials impeached by the House of Representatives.
U.S. House of Representatives	2 years	 25 years old Resident of the state they represent (but not the district) U.S. citizen for 7 years 	The House of Representatives and the Senate have equal responsibility for declaring war, maintaining the armed forces, assessing taxes, borrowing money, minting currency, regulating commerce, and making all laws necessary for the operation of government.
State Offices			
Governor	4 years	• 30 years old	The governor is the chief executive officer of the state and makes appointments for hundreds of state positions, including directors of state agencies (subject to confirmation by the Senate). The governor has the power to sign or veto (reject) legislation, and annually submits a budget recommendation and reports on state affairs to the Legislature.
State Attorney General	4 years	Pass the Washington Bar Exam	The attorney general serves as legal counsel to the governor, members of the Legislature, state officials, and more than 230 state agencies, boards, commissions, colleges, and universities. The Office of the Attorney General enforces consumer protection statutes and provides public information about consumer rights and fraudulent business practices.
State Supreme Court Justice	6 years	Licensed to practice law in Washington	The Supreme Court hears cases from Courts of Appeals and other lower courts.

Who Represents Me?

President of the United States Name: Party: Mailing Address:	US Senator #1 Name: Party: Year Term Expires: Mailing Address (in DC):
Website contact page: Phone numbers:	Mailing Address (in WA):
Identify and explain which method YOU would feel most comfortable using?	Website contact page where you can leave a comment or send a message:
	Phone numbers:

US Senator #2 Name: Party: Year Term Expires: Mailing Address (in DC):	US House of Representatives Member Name: Party: Congressional District: Mailing Address (in DC):
Mailing Address (in WA):	Mailing Address (in WA):
Website contact page where you can leave a comment or send a message:	Website contact page where you can leave a comment or send a message:
Phone numbers:	Phone numbers:
WA State Governor	State Senator
Name: Party:	Name: Party:
Year Term Expires:	Legislative District:
Mailing Address:	Year Term Expires:
	Mailing Address:
Website contact page where you can	Website contact page where you can
leave a comment or send a message:	leave a comment or send a message:
Phone numbers:	Phone numbers:

State Representative #1 **State Representative #2** Name: Name: Party: Party: Legislative District: Legislative District: Year Term Expires: Year Term Expires: Mailing Address: Mailing Address: Website contact page where you can Website contact page where you can leave a comment or send a message: leave a comment or send a message: Phone numbers: Phone numbers:

Local Elected Officials:

- County Commissioners (3):
- County Auditor:
- County Treasurer:
- County Assessor:
- County Coroner:
- Lower District Judge:
- Upper District Judge:
- WA State Superior Court District Judges (2):