



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Washington County Extension Service
245 Corporate Drive | Springfield, KY 40069

Washington County Teen Leadership



A Note to Our Supporters, Volunteers & Partners

Thank you for supporting Teen Leadership! Leadership has always been vital to the success and growth of our society. The goal of the program is to develop each participant's interpersonal and professional leadership skills. Many people have helped our leaders to learn and succeed. Please continue to read about our activities during the 2021-2022 Teen Leadership program.

Learn More about Teen Leadership

Washington County Schools and the Washington County Extension Office partner each year to offer the Teen Leadership program for high school juniors. Students must apply for acceptance into the program and express an interest in developing their leadership skills. Program coordinators meet with Teen Leaders each month throughout the school year for days focused on various aspects of the community. Team building, personal development activities and assignments are incorporated into the program as well. We could not achieve the goals of Teen Leadership without the help of our community and state partners.

2021-2022 Teen Leaders

Raegan Abell
Sarah Beth Dean
Paige Frantz
Madison Long
Ashley Lyons
Belle Murphy
Malissa Sallee
Catie Taylor
Madison Taylor
Ally Willis
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Program Coordinators

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Teen Leadership Assignments

Introductions

Goals: *introduce the teen leaders, build community awareness*

Teen leaders created a photo presentation of family, friends, school, their heritage, local businesses, agriculture, new construction, their favorite places, things they want to change & things they want to remain the same in Washington County.

School Board Meeting

Goals: *learn about the school board & how it functions*

Attend a school board meeting. Most teens attended as a group in September 2021 and met with the superintendent to discuss current issues.

Service Hours

Goals: *community involvement, gain new experiences & perspectives, build compassion & competence*

Each student is required to complete at least 3 community service hours.

Real Leaders

Goal: *recognize the characteristics of leadership in the real world*

Teen leaders chose one real leader & gave a short presentation on that person. Real leaders could be family, local leaders, artists, politicians, athletes, business owners, etc. Teens included the following:

- Information about that leader
- The leader's purpose or goal
- The people the leader influences
- Characteristics the leader displays
- The leader's True Color personality

Community Leader Interview

Goal: *learn about community organizations & leadership*

Teen leaders chose a community leader to interview from a civic organization.

Welcome Retreat

Goals: team building, communication & public speaking

Retreat activities included:

- Ropes Course and Team Building Activities at the Asbury University Challenge Course
- Teen Leaders' Introduction Assignment Presentation
- True Colors Personalities with Cabrina Buckman



The Teens Learned:

"It's okay to fail before you succeed"

"I learned how to communicate, work together, and problem solve"

"Washington County is a very special place to me and always will be"

"I had the opportunity to learn more about my heritage"

"I learned that the true colors give others a glimpse into who you are as a person. It allows you to communicate with others according to their true colors"

Leadership Traits the Teens saw this Day:

- Communication
- Helping Others
- Creativity
- Compassion
- Listening
- Taking the Initiative

Wellness Day

Goals: learn about self-care practices and preventing substance misuse

Activities and speakers included:

- Finishing True Colors with Cabrina Buckman
- Physical, Social, and Mental/Emotional Wellness with Cabrina Buckman
- Mental Health with Chuck Stamper, UK Extension Special Projects Coordinator
- Wellness Review Team Competition
- Substance Misuse Communication with Alex Elswick, UK Extension Specialist for Substance Use Prevention and Recovery



The Teens Learned:

"I learned that all of the areas of wellness are intertwined, for example physical activity can improve mental health"

"I learned how the brain works/functions and a variety of ways to deal with mental and emotional stress"

"that social reform is one of the most effective methods of drug prevention"

"It [wellness day] helped me a lot. It helped me to realize that almost everyone struggles and it showed me new ways to help take care of my mind"

Leadership Traits the Teens saw this Day:

- Vulnerability
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Courage
- Responsibility
- Understanding

Agriculture Day

Goals: *learn about local agriculture and career opportunities*

Activities and speakers included:

- Visit Riney Dairy
- Fruit and Vegetable Production with Nash Farms
- Careers in Agriculture with Taylor Graves, Washington County Extension Agriculture Agent
- Visit Schwarts Shearing to learn about Value Added Agriculture



The Teens Learned:

"How dairy farms are often operated in addition to one of the ways we get our local dairy"

"Technology for crop farming has evolved to create the best product available"

"There are agricultural jobs ranging from livestock farming to graphic design"

"I learned about how the sheep are cared for, what they use them for and how you can turn a valueless good into something with value"

Leadership Traits the Teens saw this Day:

- Communication
- Engagement
- Volunteering to Help
- Working with a Team
- Not Being Afraid to Try Something New

Business & Industry Day

Goals: learn about local industries and careers

Thanks to Daniel Carney & the Springfield-Washington County Economic Development Authority (SWEDA) for planning this day!

Activities and speakers included:

- Leadership Activity with Melissa Richardson
- Local Economic Overview with Daniel Carney
- Michter's Distillery Virtual Tour
- Visit Innovative Tooling Solutions
- Visit Lebanon-Springfield Airport
- Chamber of Commerce with Lora Justice



The Teens Learned:

"There are lots of job opportunities right here in Washington County"

"Springfield factories bring a lot of jobs and people to the area"

"Kentucky plays a huge part in the bourbon industry"

"That tools for factories must be made with extreme precision"

"All the different occupations involving aircrafts, not just flying from airport to airport"

"The Chamber connects businesses together"

Leadership Traits the Teens saw this Day:

Strategic Thinking
Asking Questions
Branching Out
Communication
Working Effectively with a Team

Local Government & Media Day

Goals: learn about local government and media

Activities and speakers included:

- Leadership Activity with Melissa Richardson
- Visit City Hall to speak with Mayor Wakefield and Jessica Hart, City Clerk
- Visit Springfield Police Station and Dispatch Center
- Visit 1816 Courthouse to speak with Judge Graves
- Newspaper Media with Jane Kleyn, Springfield Sun Editor
- WCTV with high school students who help to plan and create the school news program



The Teens Learned:

"Learned about how the mayor and city clerk work together to help build our community"

"Learned all about how 911 calls are taken and learned about how they do different procedures"

"How the county's money is spent and how it is decided"

"Steps they take to write a story, then having it in the newspaper"

"Learned about how they [WCTV] film and get news out to the school/the purpose"

Leadership Traits the Teens saw this Day:

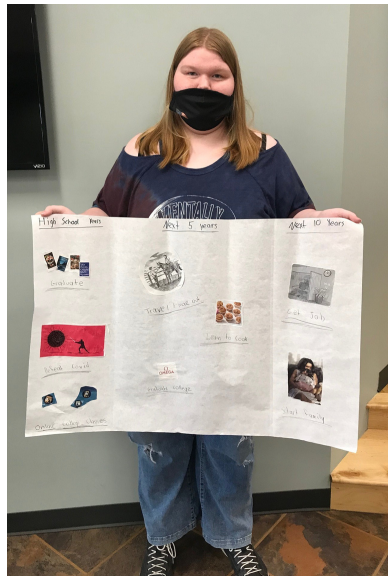
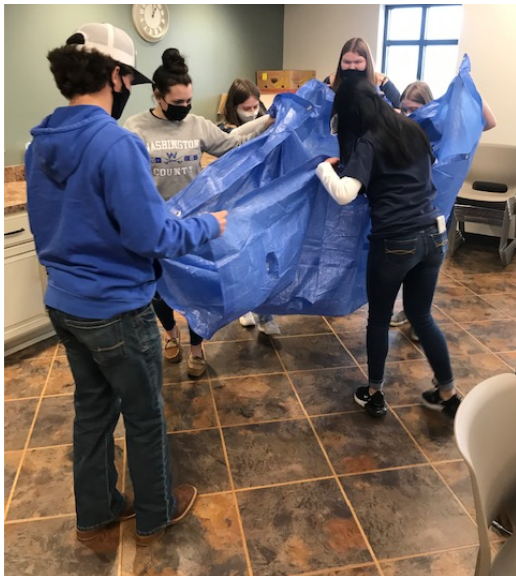
Decision Making Skills
Public Speaking
Integrity and
Accountability
Adapting to Change
Communication

Financial Management Day

Goals: learn about financial management and setting goals for the future

Activities and speakers included:

- Visit Springfield State Bank to tour and learn about online banking and security protection
- College Expenses and Scholarships with Tracy Abell, WCHS Guidance Counselor
- Money Habitudes and Goal Setting Posters with Cabrina Buckman
- Team Activity with Melissa Richardson
- Insurance with Sue Blair, Shelter Insurance



The Teens Learned:

"How to navigate and protect my financial savings"

"How we need to think of tuition and programs we want to study when we decide to start choosing colleges"

"There are thousands of scholarships available to help pay for college"

"What kind of spender I am and what challenges that can bring and the positives"

"Learned many things about insurance and how you can grow up with not much of anything and still be very successful"

Leadership Traits the Teens saw this Day:

- Responsibility
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Money Management
- Organization
- Having Morals

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

State Government Day

Goals: learn about state government and how it works

Thanks to Jennifer Smith for planning the day!

Activities and speakers included:

- Reviewing Current Bills with Allison Carney
- Visit Capitol
 - Tour Capitol
 - Meet with Representative Kim King, Senator Donald Douglas and Senator Jimmy Higdon
 - Committee Meetings
 - House and Senate Sessions



What the Teens Learned & How They Used It:

"I now have a better understanding of what goes on in our government system"

"I have used my knowledge to tell people about how our government works"

"I have been more aware of how much of an impact our government has in our life"

"I better learned how our government works and how it affects us every day"

"I learned how the government in my state works, allowing me to be more aware of what goes on in my state"

"I learned the importance of communicating with representatives"

Health and Emergency Services Day

Goals: learn about health and emergency services and career opportunities. Thanks to Joe Carpenter, WC Rescue Commander, for planning this day!

Activities and speakers included:

- Visit Flaget Hospital to tour services and learn about career opportunities; learn about Air Methods medical transport services and tour helicopter
- Mock car crash rescue at Lewis Auto Salvage with Springfield-WC Rescue and WC Ambulance Service



The Teens Learned:

"Learned about a lot of different departments in the hospital that I never knew existed"

"There are a lot of job opportunities in healthcare"

"Learned about how they [Air Methods] care for patients in the helicopter"

"It takes teamwork to get a patient to safety"

"An ambulance is an emergency room on wheels"

"Taught us how they [EMS and Rescue] help with patients and the tools they use"

Leadership Traits the Teens saw this Day:

Communication

Teamwork

How People Can Use Different Skills and Qualities in Their Jobs



Graduation Day

Goals: *practice teamwork skills and public speaking*

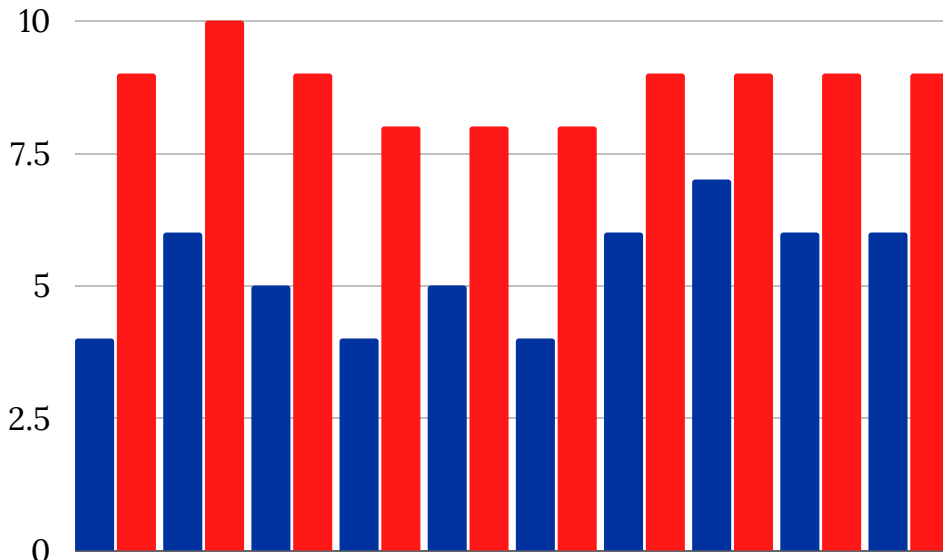
Activities and speakers included:

- Breakout Room at Countdown Games
- Real Leader Assignment Presentations
- Award Certificates



Teen Leaders ranked their leadership skills on a scale of 1-10 before and after the program:

■ Before the Program ■ After the Program



The Most Important Thing the Teens Learned in the Program:

"That working together will always solve problems"

"How to work as a team"

"Different people communicate in different ways and all ways are equally important"

"How to utilize teamwork"

"Anyone can be a leader"

"An expansion of my leadership skills"

"I learned that being a leader can come with challenges, but it always pays off in the end"

"How to be an effective leader"

"Don't be afraid to step up and give your ideas"

"More communication skills"

"Team building skills"

What is Leadership?

We asked the Teen Leaders to define leadership in their own words. Here are their responses:

"leadership is the ability to help others succeed & display a positive attitude while helping"



"leadership is being able to set an example for others to help them be successful & achieve all their goals"



"leadership is the ability to better yourself while setting an example for others"



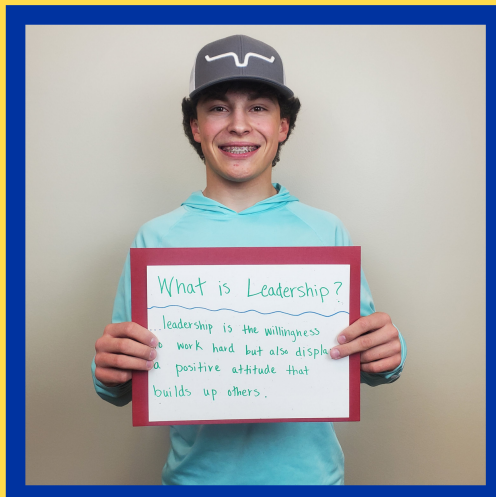
"leadership is taking the initiative to make the world a better place"



"leadership is the ability to care for others, as well as being able to take care of yourself"

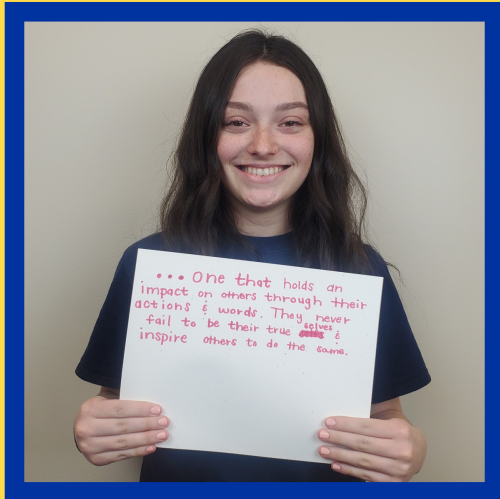


"leadership is the willingness to work hard but also display a positive attitude that builds up others"

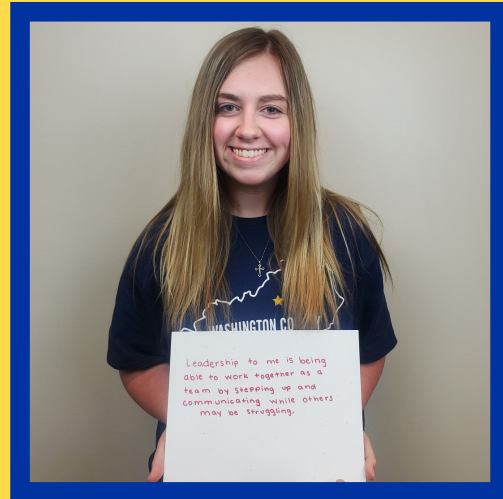


Leadership Continued

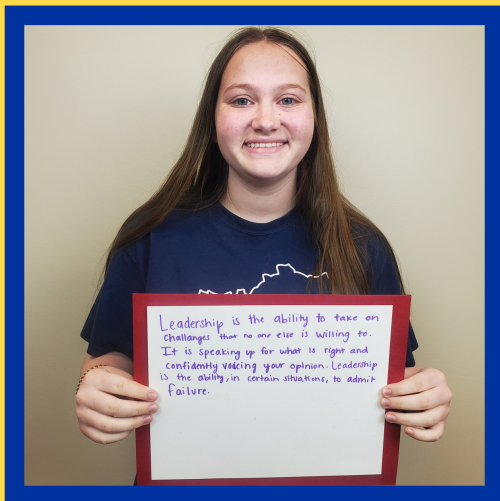
We asked the Teen Leaders to define leadership in their own words. Here are their responses:



"...one that holds an impact on others through their actions & words. They never fail to be their true selves & inspire others to do the same."



"leadership to me is being able to work together as a team by stepping up & communicating while others may be struggling"



"leadership is the ability to take on challenges that no one else is willing to. It is speaking up for what is right & confidently voicing your opinion. Leadership is the ability, in certain situations, to admit failure."



"leadership is the ability to influence others to inhabit characteristics of a leader whether is it being caring & compassionate to making logical decisions"

We asked the teens how they would explain Teen Leadership.

Their responses included:

“
A good way to
learn about the
community
”

“
It is very fun and
adventurous and can help
you get out of your
comfort zone
”

“
High school
juniors participate
in activities that
teach them about
the world and
build their
leadership skills
”

“
An opportunity
for teens to
expand their
leadership
skills
”

“
Learning how to be the best
person and leader possible
”

“
This program builds
character and
provides much
guidance for the
future
”

“
Explore
different
career
opportunities
and see how
you can
impact the
community
”

“
A program
that introduces
new leadership skills
and strengthens
old ones
”

“
A program that builds
leaders who are ready
for everyday life
”



*"Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts.
It is about one life influencing another."*

-John Maxwell

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