

By: Representative Bell

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE ARKANSAS 4-H
PROGRAM ON OUR YOUTH AND TO CELEBRATE 4-H DAY ON
FEBRUARY 24, 2015.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE
ARKANSAS 4-H PROGRAM ON OUR YOUTH AND TO
CELEBRATE 4-H DAY ON FEBRUARY 24, 2015.

WHEREAS, February 24, 2015, is recognized as 4-H Day; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is the premier youth development program conducted by the University of Arkansas Systems, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service; and

WHEREAS, through nonformal, science-based, experiential education activities, 4-H participants gain knowledge and enhance life skills enabling them to become positive, productive, capable and compassionate members of society; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas 4-H program fosters an innovative “learn-by-doing” approach with proven results, and 4-H is committed to building outstanding leaders with marketable skills to succeed in today’s global society; and

WHEREAS, findings from the Tufts University 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development indicate that, when compared to their peers, young people in 4-H



make more civic contributions to their communities, have significantly lower drug, alcohol and cigarette use than their peers, are 2.3 times more likely to exercise and be physically active, achieve better grades and higher levels of academic competence, are nearly 2 times more likely to make college plans, and are more likely to take part in courses and programs in science, engineering, or computer technology; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization, empowering 7 million young people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, 4-H youth development in Arkansas is more than a 100-year-old tradition; and

WHEREAS, in October 1908, a group of about 65 boys formed the White County Corn and Cotton Club as a way to learn the latest in agricultural technology and enjoy being with friends during the rare times they weren't required to tend the chores at home; and

WHEREAS, the seed planted by that first club provided the roots for a program today reaching 143,879 youth, ages 5-19, across the 75 counties in Arkansas, including rural, suburban and urban youth; and

WHEREAS, the structured learning, encouragement, and adult mentoring provided to 4-H members by 16,374 Arkansas volunteers play a vital role in helping our youth achieve success,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninetieth General Assembly recognizes the positive impact of the Arkansas 4-H program on our youth and celebrates February 24, 2015, as 4-H Day.