

By: Representatives D. Douglas, Hillman, F. Allen, Baltz, Beck, Bentley, Bragg, Branscum, Brown, Cozart, Fortner, Jean, Magie, McElroy, McNair, S. Meeks, Pitsch, Shepherd, Sullivan, D. Whitaker

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE ARKANSAS 4-H PROGRAM ON OUR YOUTH AND TO CELEBRATE 4-H DAY ON FEBRUARY 16, 2017.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE ARKANSAS 4-H PROGRAM ON OUR YOUTH AND TO CELEBRATE 4-H DAY ON FEBRUARY 16, 2017.

WHEREAS, February 16, 2017, shall be recognized as 4-H Day within the State of Arkansas; and

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

WHEREAS, through nonformal, science and research-based, and 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 times more likely to exercise and be physically active, achieve better grades and higher levels of academic competence, are nearly 2 times as 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 6 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 resulting in their learned agricultural practices being adopted by their counterparts; and

WHEREAS, the seed planted by that first club provided the roots for a program today reaching 151,517 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 NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize the positive impact of the Arkansas 4-H program on our youth and celebrate February 16, 2017, as 4-H Day.