

By: Senators Maloch, Caldwell, J. Cooper, E. Cheatham, J. Dismang, J. English, B. Johnson, D. Wallace

SENATE 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 SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate recognizes the positive impact of the Arkansas 4-H program on our youth and celebrates February 16, 2017, as 4-H Day.