

By: Representative C. Cooper

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE ARKANSAS 4-H PROGRAM ON OUR YOUTH AND TO PROCLAIM FEBRUARY 28, 2023, AS 4-H DAY.

Subtitle

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WHEREAS, in October 1908, a group of about sixty-five (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 – a club that became the Arkansas 4-H program; and

WHEREAS, while the activities that the participants enjoy may have changed since 1908, the mission of 4-H to help the youth of this country become productive citizens has not changed; and

WHEREAS, the seed planted by that first club provided the roots for a program that today reaches more than one hundred thirty thousand (130,000) youth, ages five to nineteen (5-19), across the seventy-five (75) counties in Arkansas, including rural, suburban, and urban youth; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is the premier youth development program conducted by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and is the only informal education program with a direct connection to the University of Arkansas; and



WHEREAS, through informal, scientific, 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, 4-H is designed to prepare young people to step up to the challenges in their communities and provide youth with the skills to lead for a lifetime; the core elements of 4-H include youth leadership, youth-adult partnerships, life skills learning, and community service; and 4-H members complete hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and citizenship in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas 4-H program fosters an innovative “learn-doing” approach with proven results, and 4-H is committed to building outstanding leaders with marketable skills to succeed in today’s global society, through in-school programs, on military installations, and through after-school programs; 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 and make healthier choices; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the National 4-H Council partnered with Edge Research to conduct a study of all 4-H alumni across the country, and the results found that a 4-H experience correlates with long-term success in life; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization, empowering nearly six million (6,000,000) young people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the structured learning, encouragement, and adult mentoring provided to 4-H members by the thousands of hours given by 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-FOURTH 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 proclaim February 28, 2023, as 4-H Day at the State Capitol.