

By: Senator Gilmore

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE ARKANSAS 4-H PROGRAM ON THE YOUTH OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND TO PROCLAIM 4-H DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL ON MARCH 4, 2025.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE ARKANSAS 4-H PROGRAM ON THE YOUTH OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND TO PROCLAIM 4-H DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL ON MARCH 4, 2025.

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, and this club became the Arkansas 4-H program, with the four (4) "Hs" standing for head, heart, hands, and health; and

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

WHEREAS, the seed planted by the White County Corn and Cotton Club provided the roots for a program that today reaches more than one hundred forty-four thousand (144,000) young people in school enrichment programs and over two hundred fifty-eight thousand (258,000) young people ages five to



nineteen (5-19) in all program areas across the seventy-five (75) counties of Arkansas, including young people from rural, suburban, and urban areas of the state; and

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

WHEREAS, the core elements of 4-H include youth leadership, youth-adult partnerships, life skills learning, and community service; and

WHEREAS, 4-H members complete hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and citizenship in a positive environment in which 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-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 through in-school and after-school programs and on military installations; 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 showed 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 SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate recognize the positive impact of the Arkansas 4-H program on our youth and proclaim March 4, 2025, as 4-H Day at the State Capitol.