

MISSOURI YOUTH CIVIC LEADERS SUMMIT

Program Summary - April 5-7, 2019

Sponsored by: Monsanto Company, Missouri Community Betterment, and the Missouri 4-H Foundation



Ninety leaders of all ages gathered for the 2019 Missouri Youth Civic Leaders Summit, April 5-7, near Camdenton. Youth and adult teams attending the conference represented youth-adult partnerships from 20 county 4-H programs and Missouri Community Betterment groups across the state.

Event organizers say the "LIFE: Game On!" theme of the summit chosen by youth planning members, took on even more meaning when the original conference in March had to be cancelled due to a large snowstorm across the region.

"Life happens," said Teresa Snyder, MCB executive director and conference coordinator, "but the planning team, presenters, Windermere staff, and community groups all came together and found a way to hold the event one month later. It was not easy, but rescheduling the summit actually gave students and adults an even greater chance to show resilience and to work together toward a common goal."

Chet Sisk, social futurist from Denver, Colo., kicked off the weekend, speaking on how the world is changing, and key trends every leader should follow to stay out in front.

Brad Lademann, coordinator of the Missouri Afterschool Resource Center, engaged students in thinking about career paths and beyond, and how activities in and out of school prepare them for life.

Brandon Lee White, Own It Movement speaker from Kansas City, got attendees moving with interactive dance demonstrations and messages about responsibility, character, and leadership.

As out-of-state guests for the weekend, LaPorte/Porter County 4-H teens from Northern Indiana shared fundraising, community service, and teens-as-teachers program examples with their peers.

Summiters participated in breakout sessions on youth empowerment, inclusive leadership, juggling life's stresses, and career preparation. They joined in afternoon on-the-spot service projects, making a variety of items ranging from baby hats for premature infants to meal placemats for homebound seniors. 4-H and MCB donated the items to local service agencies after the conference.



Teams wrapped up the weekend by each planning and presenting a civic engagement project they intend to implement in their local communities during 2019.

Youth conference hosts included high school students serving on the Missouri Community Betterment youth advisory board, and 4-H teens from the Urban West Region (Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties). Youth hosts poured months into pre-conference planning, and co-facilitated many of the weekend activities alongside adult planning team members.

RESULTS

As a result of their participation in YCLS, youth/adult team members reported the following on a post-survey:

Learning Objectives	%
I am more aware of style and qualities as a teen/adult leader.	95%
I believe youth and adults can work together effectively.	95%
I am involved with a team that has a plan to strengthen youth-adult partnerships.	91%
I am motivated to exercise leadership and involve others in the	92%
I understand how to become engaged in the community with meaning, purpose, and impact.	93%

Responding to a “leadership challenge” issued to every YCLS participant, youth said that within the next year...

Leadership Challenge	%
I will seek out a role or position of leadership in the next year	88%
I will set a goal that stretches my leadership abilities (goal).	85%
I will spend time with a leader I respect or admire (shadow).	83%
I will receive leadership advice and support from an adult I know	78%
I will share my new knowledge with my club or community	95%
I will contact an organization/local official to get support for a	73%
I will look into college/education that builds my natural gifting/	73%
I will explore jobs/careers that use my natural gifting/passion.	88%



Photos courtesy of Mizzou 4-H and YCLS Adult Team Leaders
(University of Missouri Extension 4-H Center for Youth Development)



YCLS Team Projects Planned for 2019

- Food Insecurity Volunteer Program
- Outdoor Education for Youth
- Veterans of Hope Project
- First Aid Kits for Extension Offices
- FUNdamental Shacks
- Get AgEd—Agriculture Literacy Project
- Outdoor Classroom Project
- Farm Heritage Tour
- River Clean Up
- Birdhouses for Nursing Homes
- Pound Improvement Project

