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2024 CAPITAL EXPERIENCE

Youth from across the state participated in a two-day event at Capital Experience, sponsored by the Kentucky 4-H Foundation and KAE4-HA. The evening before, 128 4-H'ers gathered for an educational seminar. This gave them the opportunity to think of conversations and topics they would like to speak on, prepare to tell their 4-H story, and learn etiquette when

meeting legislators. Wednesday, 412 4-H youth gathered in the Capital building. The Foundation sponsored 4-H polos for all youth and agents to wear during Capital Experience, everyone looked professional while supporting this amazing organization. Some of the things the youth got to do during this experience were sit in on the House Ag Committee Meeting, tour the Governor's Mansion, hear remarks from the First Lady of Kentucky, have one-on-one meetings with their legislators, and learn about Kentucky Government.



Upcoming Events

- June 11th-14th Teen Conference
- June 12th Friends & Alumni Mixer
- August 15th-25th Kentucky State Fair
- August 15th Ice Cream Social
- August 16th Donor Appreciation Breakfast
- October 12th UK Round-Up
- October 6th-12th National 4-H Week

Kentucky Volunteer Forum

The Foundation was very proud to sponsor the Kentucky Volunteer Forum. Over 1,200 individuals attended this event. Volunteers and extension staff will be able to bring a wealth of knowledge back to their county programs to continue to impact the youth of our Commonwealth and equip them with tools to help them thrive and be successful. We also had the chance to hear many volunteer's "why" they volunteer in their communities.



Alumni Thriving- Amelia Iliohan

Kentucky 4-H programming was vital to my development as a person and a professional. I am now working for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture as an associate director of events and member engagement. In this position, I work directly with the commissioners, secretaries, and directors of agriculture in all 50 states and U.S. territories. In this role, I also plan and implement domestic and international events to bring forth these agriculture leaders to discuss current and future issues facing agriculture in the United States and beyond.



The opportunities I was provided through KY 4-H programming enriched my development in a way that wasn't prioritized in rural America. These opportunities led the way for me to graduate top of my class at the University of Kentucky, live in Washington D.C. and Argentina during college, and push for challenging but meaningful roles in Washington D.C. I have now worked at three of the best agriculture organizations in the U.S., representing American agriculture at an international level. I've visited 35 states, 16 countries, and four continents. All of this would not have been possible without the investment of Kentucky 4-H volunteers, leaders, and the Foundation. From a young age, I was encouraged to ask meaningful questions, listen while leading, and keep an open mind to the opportunities of the world.

Be Kind Campaign

Be the ripple that starts the wave,

be kind

Because of the generous donation from former Governor Matthew G. Bevin, Kentucky 4-H is celebrating kindness by rewarding rising seniors who are kind with the Governor Matthew G. Bevin Kindness Award. 4-H'ers have the opportunity to nominate other 4-H'ers for this award. Only youth can nominate and be nominated, and any 4-H'er is allowed to submit a nomination of a Junior they feel has shown Kindness. Each youth can nominate an individual one time. The Junior with the most nominations will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship. State Leadership Boards got to make this award their own, by creating a tagline, a logo, and spreading kindness!

Friends + Alumni Mixer

YOU ARE INVITED!

Kentucky 4-H Teen Conference 2024

CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF TEEN CONFERENCE AT THE FRIENDS + ALUMNI MIXER

Heavy Appetizers
June 12th, 5:00-6:00 pm
Great Hall of the UK Student Center

Parking is available in the Limestone Parking Garage and walk across the Pedway to Student Center.

RSVP BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE OR EMAILING JESSICA PATTERSON (JESSICA.PATTERSON@UKY.EDU)

Please RSVP by June 5th



ILLUMINATE 4-H
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY



Dr. Rachel Guidugli,
Assistant Extension Director for
Kentucky 4-H Youth Development

The Kentucky 4-H Program is buzzing with energy this time of year as summer activities are just around the corner! Personally, the summer means a lot to me because twenty-seven years ago I began my 4-H career when I attended 4-H Summer Camp for the first time. At that time, I had no idea the transformative experiences I would encounter through my 4-H career. I just wanted to participate in Sally Down the Ally and Polar Bear Plunge. As I progressed through the program and fell more in love with the values of the organization, I realized that the people around me in 4-H were my champions and truly changed my life. I remember as a State Teen Council Member my quote on the screen at Teen Conference that year was, "I hope I can change the life of a child." Although the summer is exciting, I always try to take the chance to pause and appreciate the vast history our organization holds. This year, as I reflect on my goals as a young person in 4-H and now as the University of Kentucky 4-H Program Leader, I'm overwhelmed by the appreciation I have for the dedicated professional staff, volunteers, and donors who truly change the life of children every single year through Kentucky 4-H. This summer holds a special milestone, we celebrate 100 years of 4-H Teen Conference. I hope this milestone brings about a flood of memories of our beloved organization. Whether those are memories through the eyes of a participant, parent/guardian, professional, volunteer, or donor. This community has made our history what it is today.

For over 100 years, 4-H has continued to prepare young people for the future through high-quality transformational youth development experiences for all.

Just take a moment to celebrate the difference 4-H makes:

95%

of youth reported 4-H has helped them identify things they are good at

80%

reported that 4-H helped them explore career options

50%

reported that 4-H has helped them with college decision-making

66%

said 4-H helped them see how science can help solve everyday problems

75%

of youth reported that they like helping people in their community

The times may have changed since 4-H members brought their tent to 4-H Week or danced and cheered in Memorial Hall, but the fact that Kentucky 4-H continues to "make the best better" remains the same. Thank you for your continued support as we provide opportunity for all youth to participate in 4-H.



Our very own Executive Director, Melissa G. Miller, was honored at the Kentucky Volunteer Forum by receiving the Friend of Kentucky 4-H Award.

Surprisingly, as a youth, she was not a 4-H member, but that has not wavered her dedication to the support of Kentucky 4-H. Melissa has served the Kentucky 4-H Foundation for 9 years now and has encouraged our alumni, donors, and many others to believe in the power of 4-H and the impact that it makes on youth and volunteers across the Commonwealth.

Melissa's self-proclaimed passions include faith, family, and farming, in that order. Melissa gets things done. She is highly organized, driven, and goal-oriented. In addition to excelling at being a wife, mother, and farmer, she is also an incredible friend.

In appreciation of her dedication and service to 4-H, promoting donor opportunities, recognizing legacy families, funding youth development experiences, and being a stalwart supporter of volunteerism, Melissa G. Miller is recognized as the 2024 Friend of Kentucky 4-H.



Do you want to support Kentucky 4-H?

Scan this code to donate or contact Nick Nash (nna261@uky.edu)



Emerald Gala

The 7th annual Emerald Gala was a wonderful evening of fellowship with good friends, and supporting the 4-H youth of Kentucky. This year we had a chance to hear from the 2023 Emerald Winners, how 4-H has impacted their lives, and their future plans. Keith L. Rogers was presented the Honorary Emerald Award for his dedication to 4-H and Kentucky Agriculture. At the end of the night, we raised just over \$90,000! Thank you to our generous sponsors and supporters, and a special thank you to our exclusive Emerald Sponsor, Heritage Bank, without your support, the night would not have been possible! Because of this night, we can fund opportunities for 4-H Youth in the Achievement Program and other areas.

The 4-H Achievement Application requires youth to keep records covering the member's involvement in five areas. The Kentucky 4-H Foundation provides numerous scholarships to college and Teen Conference based on the 4-H Achievement level and sponsors amazing trips to Washington D.C, for the Emerald achievement winners, and to Atlanta, GA for Gold achievement winners.

Thank you for a wonderful evening!



What a year it has been for Kentucky 4-H! As I reflect on my state officer team's term, I cannot help but think of the stories that we have told through our mission of #illuminateKY4H. From the east region to the west region, we have had the pleasure of meeting 4-Hers who are passionate about the Kentucky 4-H program and what it has done for them. The diversity of 4-H allows young people to experience a majority of things, but there is a challenge in highlighting the individuals in every program area. However, I can say with confidence that my officer team and I have truly embodied the mission of illuminating the stories of Kentucky 4-H as we have connected with young people of all ages at local, regional, and state-wide events. From attending the Ohio 4-H Conference to the Kentucky 4-H Juntos Program, connections have been made and kindness has been shared with the young people of our commonwealth through our great program!



Mollie Kate Webb
2023-2024 Kentucky 4-H State President

While the year is coming to a close for the 2023-2024 Kentucky 4-H State Officer team, the fun isn't over yet! We are excited to attend the 100th Annual Kentucky 4-H Teen Conference this June where we will have the pleasure of illuminating a multitude of impactful 4-H stories. I'd like to take the time to thank you for your support in allowing us to tell the stories that we do! Without the support of the Kentucky 4-H Foundation and the incredible people who make up our great extension program, we would not be where we are today. So as for me and my officer team, thank you for an incredibly impactful year. Because of your support, we have been encouraged to be intentional about our year of service, and that mentality has served us and the Kentucky 4-H Program incredibly well.

Ice Cream Social

Kentucky 4-H Foundation would like to Welcome these new faces!



Nick Nash comes to us from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in the Commissioner's Office as the Executive Aide. Nick graduated from the University of Kentucky where he studied Political Science. Nick brings new ideas and is eager to grow the network of the Foundation.

"I am extremely excited to join this impactful organization, The role Kentucky 4-H plays in shaping the next generation of leaders in Kentucky cannot be overstated and I am looking forward to helping them achieve their goals."

Nick Nash, Development Director

Morgan Barnes formerly worked as the Advancement Associate and Intern for the Foundation. She served as the Kentucky 4-H Secretary in 2020 and has been involved in 4-H throughout her life. Morgan graduated from the University of Kentucky, studying Agriculture Economics and Business Management.

"Not only has 4-H shaped me into the individual that I am today, but it has made an impact on countless youth's lives. I am excited to help make an impact and for this new chapter with this amazing organization!"



Morgan Barnes, Communications Director

The Light that sparked an Emerald Winner

Growing up in a rural western Kentucky county, the bright lights of neighboring cities seemed spectacular to me; let alone those of our nation's capital. Thanks to the opportunities afforded me by Kentucky 4-H and sponsored by the Kentucky 4-H Foundation, though, not only did I experience the lights of Washington, D.C., but I also discovered a light inside of myself.

That little light was first kindled by my 4-H agent, Leslea Barnes when I was a middle school student. With her guidance, mentorship, and innate ability to "make the best better" in every person she's around, I grew in my 4-H journey. Being selected to lead our state 4-H program as its president in 2022-2023 was one of the most impactful experiences of my life. It was rivaled only with being chosen as an Emerald recipient last year by the Kentucky 4-H Foundation. Of course, the scholarship that accompanied it was appreciated so greatly, but for me, the pride in being associated with this award was the true merit of it.



I recently returned from Washington, D.C., along with other Emerald winners. The experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to immerse myself in the culture of our nation's capital, learning not only about our government but also about the rich history and tradition of our great country. From visiting the Capitol and Lincoln Memorial to spending time at The Smithsonian, Arlington National Cemetery, and Gettysburg, I was intentional to soak in every moment of the trip and indulge in a time of fun and fellowship with my 4-H family.

Magalee Blazina, 2023 Emerald Award Winner



Honorary Emerald Award Winner

Keith L. Rogers

Keith L. Rogers is a lifelong 4-Her being a participant in 4-H from a young age; through his career path; and his dedication to his treasures. Keith served as the Kentucky 4-H State President in 1977-78, was a member of the State Teen Council and participated in 4-H camping, tractor driving, gun safety, leadership, and citizenship.

Keith's family was inducted into the Kentucky 4-H Family Hall of Fame in 2023 for their dedicated service to the organization.

Keith grew up in Sonora, a small community in Hardin County, where his family farmed Silver Dew Stock Farms, a diversified farming operation. Today he is the president and CEO of Silver Dew Farms, LLC.

Keith's own agricultural experience filtered into his career as he began work for Congressman Ron Lewis. During his tenure, he managed district offices, staff, and all aspects of operations to accomplish the Congressman's constituent services objectives all while establishing and maintaining professional relationships and serving as the liaison with elected officials, businesses, and agricultural and community leaders.

In 2003 Keith became the Executive Director for the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy where he led Kentucky's historic agricultural diversification efforts. Here he served as the CEO of the Agricultural Development Board, KY Agricultural Finance Corporation, and Tobacco Settlement Trust Corporation.

His love for 4-H continued as he became the Executive Director of the Kentucky 4-H Foundation in 2008. Here he turned a struggling organization into one of the best-recognized state 4-H Foundations in the country. In seven years, he tripled the overall financial support of the Foundation and increased financial assistance to the county programs from less than \$15,000 to over \$220,000 annually. Through his leadership, he led the effort on a national level for a 4-H alumni outreach program. During his tenure, he also secured an independent 501c3 non-profit status for the Foundation, negotiated an operating MOU with the UK College of Agriculture, Food & Environment, of which we still work today, and developed numerous programs to support 4-H members, awards, and trips including the Achievement Program.

In 2016 he joined the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as the Chief of Staff for Commissioner Ryan Quarles. Keith led more than 200 KDA employees and served as the Department's point of contact for farmers, ranchers, and agricultural organizations in Kentucky. His role also involved implementing department initiatives including strategic planning, legislative priorities, agricultural promotion programs, regulatory operations, and more.