



Citizenship in Action

February 15-16, 2015

Topeka, Kansas

Highlights: Citizenship in Action is for Kansas youth to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their communities. Delegates will tour the Capitol, get tips on how to meet and talk with their legislators, and discuss how youth can have a greater impact in their communities. Sunday will feature time at the Capitol, legislative sessions, and a dinner and dance at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Monday is reserved for delegates to meet with legislators.

Who Should Register: Any youth 13-18 years old before January 1, 2015. 4-H membership is not required to attend. Registration is dependent upon Local Extension Staff approval

Chaperones: All youth delegates must have a designated, VIP registered, adult chaperone who is at least 21 years of age. **Chaperones will only be responsible for the number of youth delegates they are able to transport between the hotel and the Capitol building up to a maximum of 15 delegates.** Chaperones must be with their delegates at all times.

Registration: Registration is due on-line by January 15 at <http://www.Kansas4-H.org>. Payment and your current Kansas 4-H Participation Form must be in your local Extension office no later than January 15.

Cost: \$165 includes: lodging, a banquet Sunday evening, Capitol Federal Breakfast, snacks and lunch for delegates and legislators on Monday, insurance, and program fees (i.e. printing, meeting room costs, etc.). There will be no refunds if cancelling after January 20. Cancellations before January 20 will result in a \$25 Cancellation Fee.
***Groups who wish to invite their legislators to the Sunday evening banquet at the hotel are encouraged to do so, but will need to RSVP to their local Extension unit and pay \$30 per guest.
*** New for 2015: Youth who wish to have a bed to themselves can make that selection for an additional \$30 during registration.

Attire: Dress for the event will be business attire. Ladies are recommended to wear a business suit with a jacket and a skirt or pants. **Skirts must be at least knee length.** Low-cut blouses and bare shoulders are not acceptable. Gentlemen should wear a business suit or slacks with a jacket and tie. Jeans are not appropriate at the Capitol or at dinner. Participants will be walking all day; comfortable shoes are recommended (no tennis shoes!). **The dress code is important and will be enforced.** Delegates attending will be expected to follow the Kansas 4-H Dress Code (DRAFT) that can be found at <http://www.kansas4-h.org/p.aspx?tabid=420>.

Contacting your Legislator: There are several opportunities for delegations to schedule visits with legislators on Monday morning or during lunch (all legislators will receive an invitation for lunch on Monday); or you can set up another time with your legislator.
In contacting your legislator, remember to:

- Be Polite. Use proper, formal language.
- Be persistent. They get lots of calls & letters so getting a response may be difficult. Just because they don't respond, doesn't mean they don't want to meet with you.
- Be concise. Don't waste their time with an unnecessarily long letter or by not having your main thoughts ready when you talk to them.