

Council Quotes



Extension Council Leaders support youth:

"Youth provide a unique perspective that aids in council decision-making."

"Youth open the doors on things we do not know. They have a voice; let us hear what they have to say."

"It is important that we as council youth and adults alike use the talents best suited for each person. That makes committed, passionate members on committees and councils."

"Councils who do not have youth on councils are really missing out. I feel our council is more in tune with what our youth need in our community because of the younger voice."

ECYL Program is beneficial:



"I am grateful for the opportunity I had to share the youth opinion through my role as an ECYL from age 15. Extension and the ECYL Program lead youth to greater opportunities and showcase to them the importance of continuous learning. Counties should strongly consider having youth serve on their councils. I firmly believe both will find it a beneficial experience."

Maria Calvert
Bollinger County Ext. Council Youth Representative
2012-2015
Missouri 4-H State Council Representative
2015-2016

For More Information

Steve Hennes
State 4-H Specialist
4-H Center for Youth Development
University of Missouri Extension
1110 S. College Ave., Room 142
Columbia, MO 65211
Phone: (573) 884-6618
E-mail: HennesS@missouri.edu



Mark Stewart
Director of Off-Campus Operations
Regional Operations and Council Development
University of Missouri Extension
109D Whitten Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
Phone: (573) 882-8986
E-mail: StewartM@missouri.edu



ECYL Website:
<http://extension.missouri.edu/extcouncil/ecyl/>

ECYL Resources:
<http://4h.missouri.edu/ecyl/main>

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
 **Extension**

ECYL

Extension Council Youth Leadership



***Engaging Future Leaders
of MU Extension Today***

What is ECYL?

The Extension Council Youth Leadership (ECYL) program supports County Extension Councils in diversifying their membership to include youth and young adults on councils.

Through ECYL, councils gain fresh ideas, new energy, and generational insights from youth and young adults. Having young people serve on councils leads to enhanced dialogue and decision-making, and increases council linkages to other youth and adults in the community.



Councils participating in ECYL take steps to add youth ages 14-17 in non-voting capacities, and young adults ages 18-25 in elected and/or appointed voting positions. Councils strive to integrate these youth-adult partnerships into their ongoing council leadership development efforts.

ECYL is a practical step councils can take to broaden community representation and bring new voices to the table. By involving younger citizens as supporters of Extension now, councils foster the development of homegrown community leaders for the future.

Youth on Councils

Each county sets its own criteria for which youth ages 14-17 serve on the County Extension Council. Criteria that counties frequently use include:

- Youth 4-H leadership/involvement
- Youth FFA leadership/involvement
- School or community affiliation
- Youth extracurricular activity involvement
- Junior Leader roles (County 4-H Council)
- Other leadership roles (club or council officer)

Most ECYL counties have two or more youth who serve in 1-2 year staggered terms to maintain continuity.

The ECYL program also assists counties with methods of identifying and engaging young adults ages 18-25 to serve on councils. Young adults are recruited by counties and serve on equal terms as other voting members.



“ECYL is helping more youth to become aware of what Extension is and does in the county.

*We have some who are asking,
“How can we serve on council?”*

First Steps

1. **Talk it over with your council.** Are members aware of the value in having younger generations at the table supporting Extension?
2. **Reach a consensus on opening up council roles to younger citizens.** Are council members ready to involve youth and young adults? Are staff supportive?
3. **Contact the County Council Coordinator or ECYL Coordinator** for information on resources to assist your council and to identify next steps (see back panel).

Resources

- **Training Resources** –see the training topics under Council Leadership Training on the Extension website (see back panel for web link), or request training for your upcoming council meeting or retreat, often led by a team of MU Extension youth and adult trainers.
- **Youth Orientation Packet**—includes information for youth on their role as an ECYL and gives them a better understanding of Extension. (see back panel for web link).
- **Other councils** — over 40 Extension Councils in Missouri have formally added youth and/or young adults as members, and can share experiences and advice with your county.
- **State events** — annual events including Legislative Day, Youth Civic Leaders Summit (March) and Council-to-Campus (June) can help your council enhance team-building and youth-adult partnerships among members of all ages.