

JULY 2021

Illinois Youth Leadership Team

Second Quarter Report

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About the Illinois Youth Leadership Team

From planning and leading the Illinois 4-H Jr. Leadership Conference, to walking the halls of the Illinois State Capitol talking to legislators, to representing Illinois 4-H at state and national events throughout the year, the Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team provides an invaluable “youth voice” to our University of Illinois Extension State 4-H program.

The Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team involves 15-22 4-H members and recent 4-H alumni (ages 16-21) who coordinate and assist with various area and statewide 4-H activities. Team members are involved in planning and implementing the Illinois 4-H Jr. Leadership Conference; assisting behind the scenes with events such as Illini Summer Academies and Illinois State Fair; serving as the training team for the Speaking for Illinois 4-H program; and serving on various statewide 4-H committees and boards (i.e. Illinois 4-H Foundation Board of Directors, Illinois Farm Bureau Youth Education Committee), among other duties.

The Youth Leadership Team offers 4-H members and recent 4-H alumni an opportunity to give back to the 4-H program while further enhancing their leadership skills. The Team is actively involved in assisting the State 4-H Office in planning, implementing, and evaluating various 4-H events and activities; representing Illinois at National 4-H Conference; and serving as a youth voice of the Illinois 4-H Youth Development Program.



What have we been up to since January?

WELCOMING FIVE NEW MEMBERS



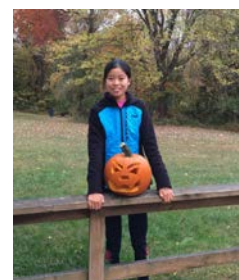
Carina Engst

Braylee Gilmore



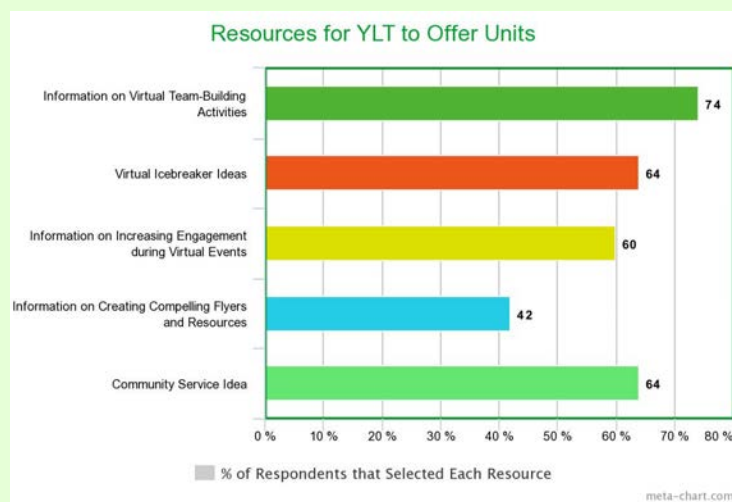
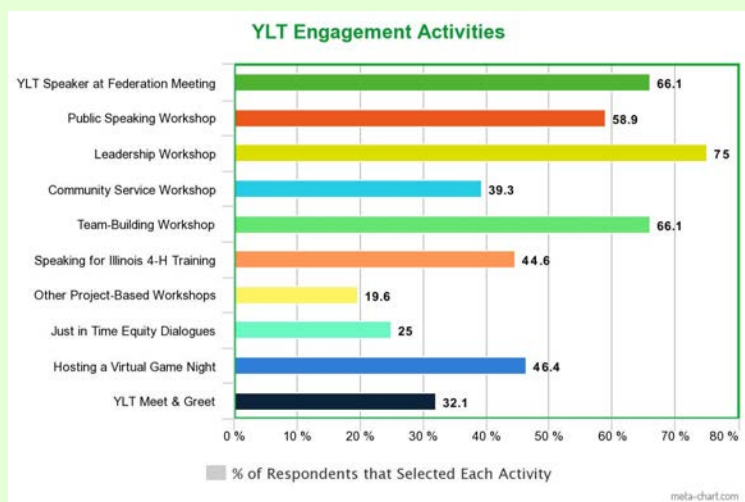
Gracie Prose

Ross Vancil



Michelle Wang

COLLECTING AND ANALYZING THE RESULTS OF THE YLT ENGAGEMENT SURVEY



Additional ideas on how YLT can best serve unit 4-H:

"Connect YLT to the county level. I think more youth would be interested if they knew it would benefit their county."

"We'd just love to connect the dots for kids. Basically giving additional knowledge of all that YLT has to offer to them and the other opportunities to serve through 4-H."

"Come and speak to our youth about scholarship opportunities. Help us find ways to recruit and keep teens. We currently compete with so many sports, how can we help parents understand that 4-H is current and impactful?"

"Marketing materials featuring YLT members would be helpful to encourage middle and high school members to remain involved in 4-H. Videos or possibly letters to members encouraging them to stick with the program as more demands on them begin to occur. As staff we can talk about the benefits of 4-H, but it will have a different impact coming from a peer."

UTILIZING SURVEY FEEDBACK TO STRUCTURE NEW COMMITTEES

Resources will be distributed to unit and local representatives as they are completed.

Virtual Activities Committee

Purpose: To create a resource to be distributed to unit contacts to subsequently be distributed to youth leaders in the unit containing various virtual community service and team building activities that could be utilized to boost youth participation.



Speaking for Illinois 4-H Curriculum Update Committee

Purpose: To update the current SFI4-H curriculum to include virtual standards including tone, camera angles, and virtual etiquette and to make the training overall more engaging, relevant and beneficial for the youth.

Statewide Virtual Game Night Committee

Purpose: To brainstorm ideas and work out the logistics of planning a statewide virtual game night which would be targeted towards senior 4-H members that are no longer eligible to attend the Junior Leadership Conference.



College & Career Readiness Training Committee

Purpose: To create a resource for senior 4-H members addressing material related to college and career readiness including, but not limited to, interviewing skills, networking, resume building, and application responses.

Unit YLT Speaker Planning Committee

Purpose: To create a request-based system to connect YLT members to local extension staff whereby YLT members can be requested to serve in various capacities such as giving a presentation, hosting a workshop, leading an activity, etc.



What is next for YLT in the Third Quarter?

As summer is currently in full swing and August is steadily approaching, YLT members are going to be busy!

Volunteering at the Illinois State Fair



Including:

- Setting up the Orr Building
- Assisting at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Twilight Parade
- Serving as Project Assistants and Judges
- Assisting with Social Media and Public Relations
- Volunteering at the Ag Day Breakfast
- Assisting with the Sale of Champions



Preparing for the JUNIOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE set for October... more information to come



In conclusion...



As always, thank you for your time and commitment to the Illinois 4-H program. If the Illinois Youth Leadership Team can serve you or the youth of your district or county in any way, please reach out to us.

THANK YOU!

"I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world."

2021 Leadership Team

Meet the dedicated leaders of this year's Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team



*Beth Warden
Chairperson*



*Andrea Miller
Vice Chairperson*



*Julia Heller
Secretary*



*Caleb Grover
Reporter*



*Krish Nangia
Social Chair*



*Katie Duitsman
YLT Advisor*



*Johnna Jennings
YLT Advisor*