

“Mifflin County 4-H Local Government Day”

1. **Goals and Objectives:** The goal of this event was to help empower our youth in the community to become civically involved and become contributing members of society. This programs objective was to provide the opportunity for the youth to lead the conversation and ask the questions, to feel as though their place in the community is important and the things they do actually affect change and the residents in a positive way. The goal of this program was to get the youth involved in the local governmental process and to be introduced to the processes our local government takes in supporting the county and people who live here.
  - a. **Civic Education-** This event gave the youth the firsthand experience in meeting the officials that are making the changes and decisions in our county. It gave them the confidence to ask questions and how they can get involved. They learned what county commissioners do and how they affect things like taxes, borough decisions and aid that businesses get throughout the community. They were also able to meet and interact with our State Senator and a State Representative who instructed them on ways the democratic process works from local to regional to statewide and how they can get involved by attending town hall meetings and commissioner meetings. They learned that their voice matters.
  - b. **Civic Engagement-** The different agencies talked to the youth about the changes that they are making to improve the lives of residents in the community. They learned about events and activities that happen in the community and how they can get involved in those and help out. Some offices we visited explained to the youth that their main goal is to help certain populations out and what their services do to support those people in our county.
  - c. **Service-** This opportunity allowed the youth involved to have the chance to help during the Veteran’s Day celebrations and provide service to the community by placing flags on veteran’s graves in local cemeteries. These organizations also gave ideas to the youth who were participating ways that they could help provide service to the community through their offices.
  - d. **Personal Development-** The youth were given the opportunity to lead the conversations and ask questions they wanted to know the answers to. This opportunity allowed the older youth to ask questions about jobs and what they needed to in order to gain a position like the official they were talking to someday. Meeting certain officials also helped them understand how their actions

now affect their future. The sheriff's office was particularly enlightening to them in this area.

2. **Target Audience:** The target audience of this event were 4-H and non 4-H members ages 8-18. The program reached 16 4-H members and 1 non 4-H member.
3. **Program Content:** The entire program was centered around attended workshops at our local courthouse. These officials were communicated with prior to this event as to what we were looking for the participants were to learn during their visit. We asked them to help the youth learn how they can get involved with what they are doing and how they as officials work with others in the community to make change happen for our residents.
4. **Delivery Method:** The delivery method of this program was hands-on learning from the officials themselves. Each workshop was conducted within the office where the official worked. This allowed the participants to travel to each office, getting a new landscape for each lesson and being able to be immersed in the environment where each official worked. They were able to see the equipment and working space that the work was conducted in and allowed them to experience the work hands-on. They were each given a packet of questions for each department so they were prompted to learn more and learn how they can get involved in each department. This question sheet helped facilitate the conversations for the participants and helped them cover the scope of information that was intended for this event.
5. **Outcomes/Impact:** Evaluations were provided for each participant for this event. They were asked about their interest in government after attending this event, things they learned and if they have a better understanding of their local agencies after attending. As a result of this program, all 17 participants indicated on their evaluations that they have a larger interest in the governmental process. They also indicated an increase knowledge and awareness of how they can get involved in their local community and affect change. Some of the things indicated that were learned by participants were related to a change in interest in future career because of their interactions with the officials.



“4-H Members get involved in Government

On Thursday March 21, 17 Mifflin County 4-H members spent the day at the Mifflin County Courthouse visiting with many of our local government officials. These 17 4-H members dedicated their day to learning about what who our county officials are and what they do in their job, how they impact Mifflin County as a community and how they can get involved. They visited offices like the Mifflin County Sheriff's Office, the Geographic Information Systems Office, Veteran's Affairs, Public Safety Office and the Mifflin County Commissioners Office. We also had visits from our District Attorney, County Detective, Court Reporter, Common Pleas Judge and our State Senator Jake Corman and State Representative John Hershey. The 4-H members were tasked with investigating the ins and outs of each official's job and offices. They were able to learn about our 911 call center, events that happen in their communities, how a court room operates and is conducted, how our state representatives advocate for our rights at a state level and learn how they map our county geographically using drones. The Mifflin County 4-H is proud to offer opportunities for our 4-H members to become civically engaged in their county and learn new ways they can give back and get involved in opportunities these offices offer. Through 4-H civic engagement programs, youth learn about civic affairs, build decision-making skills and develop a sense of understanding and confidence in relating and connecting to other people. These life skills help grow 4-H youth into true leaders. If you want to learn more about how you can get involved in the Mifflin County 4-H program, call the Mifflin County Extension Office at 717-248-9618 today.

The Mifflin County 4-H would like to thank the following offices and staff members for taking time out of their day to support the program and the youth who were in attendance: James Drayer and the Mifflin County Sheriff's Office, Laura Simonetti and the GIS Office, Christine DeArment and the Veteran's Affairs Office, Phil Lucas and the Public Safety Office, Aaron Gingrich Common Pleas Judge, Alice Marshall-Arnold Court Reporter, District Attorney Chris Torquato, County Detective Craig Snyder, Mifflin County Commissioners Rob Postal, Kevin Kodish and Steve Dunkle and our State Sentaor Jake Corman and State Representative John Hershey.

*Administered in Pennsylvania by Mifflin County 4-H-Penn State Extension, 4-H is a community of more than 6 million young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. Penn State Extension 4-H youth development educators in all 67 counties throughout the commonwealth administer local 4-H programs through non-formal education and outreach. To find your local program, visit the Penn State Extension website at <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/4-h>.”*

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