

Radio 2.17.2020

Good Morning!

I am coming to you this morning from one of my favorite 4-H events! I am in Topeka with 240 4-H members including three from Barton County!

We are attending Citizenship In Action which is a two-day annual event giving youth an opportunity to learn about the legislative process and how their voice and participation in decision-making impacts their communities.

They spent yesterday afternoon in work groups for discussion of serious topics such as Mental Illness in America, How do we prevent mass shootings in our communities, or Land Use Conflict – When Country and City Clash.

The evening activities included a banquet and we were fortunate that many of our state legislators make time to attend. Not all schedules allow attendance but we certainly appreciate time to make connections with them. Following the banquet, the 4-H participants traveled to the Capitol for time to debate their issues on the House and Senate floors. Again, many of our legislators make time to attend and interact with the 4-H members. I can tell you that hearing the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge recited in the House or Senate chambers and lead by 4-H alumni who now represent us is quite impressive!

This morning, we travel back to the Capitol for tours, opportunities to observe committee meetings and legislative sessions, as well as small group meetings with the youths' Senators and Representatives. Each delegate is responsible for setting up these appointments.

In addition to practicing communication skills, 4-H members are learning about Business Casual and Business Professional attire as they are required to be in Business Professional attire for the Sunday banquet and Capitol attendance as well as our meetings today. They take representing their counties and their clubs very seriously and I am very proud of how they handle themselves!

We'll be headed home in a few hours and I'm sure I'll have a quiet drive as they catch up on sleep. Hopefully, their heads are filled with dreams of how each of

them will lead their community and, perhaps, someday also hold a seat in the Kansas House of Representatives or Senate.

Thanks for listening. This is Michelle Beran, 4-H Youth Development agent for the Cottonwood District – Barton Co. You can reach me at 620-793-1910 or [mberan@ksu.edu](mailto:mberan@ksu.edu).