

## 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."*

### *Young people become adult council members:*



*"I am really thankful for the opportunity I had to be in a position at age 15 to share the youth opinion, and to bring the young adult opinion now as a council member at age 20. I encourage other counties to keep an open mind. It is an awesome experience to represent something as big as Extension."*

### **Amy Wilsdorf**

Boone County Ext. Council Youth Representative,  
2006-08

Boone County Ext. Council Member,  
2011-current

## For More Information

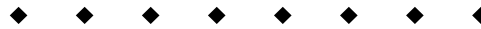
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### **ECYL Website:**

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

### **Youth-Adult Partnership**

### **Resources for Councils:**

<http://4h.missouri.edu/go/programs/yap/>

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
 **Extension**

# ECYL

## Extension Council Youth Leadership

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

## What is ECYL?

The Extension Council Youth Leadership 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 serving 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 15-17 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 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 activities in school
- 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 2-year staggered terms to maintain continuity.

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



*“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.** Do members see value in having younger generations at the table supporting Extension?
2. **Reach a consensus on opening up council roles to younger citizens.** Do council members agree it is time to involve youth and young adults? Are staff supportive?
3. **Contact the County Council Coordinator or ECYL Coordinator** for info on resources to assist your council and to identify next steps (see back panel).

## Resources

- **ECYL module** — a seven-part training series designed to help your Extension Council develop a plan for assigning roles to young people and supporting them on council (see back panel for web link).
- **Training sessions** — request training for your upcoming council meeting or retreat, often led by a team of MU Extension youth and adult trainers.
- **Other councils** — nearly 20 Extension Councils in Missouri have formally added youth and young adults as members, and can share experiences and advice with your county.
- **State events** — annual events including 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.