

**Youth Engagement Leadership Program (YELP)** youth participants and adult leaders from Bath County, KY share their experiences with the program:

***"What is the benefit of talking with political leaders?"***



"In this opportunity, we get the chance to actually express these ideas, so we can also take ideas from other classmates that do not have these opportunities and pass them on to influential people."

–Lexie Craig



"It had an impact on me. I developed some leadership, and being in this program helps me a lot because I realized what I need to do in order to help my classmates."

–Pashley Griffith

"He really gave us insight on his opportunities in life and what success he's had in taking said opportunities. It was quality advice not just for right now in our lives, but even into our adult years."

–Kaleb Clemons

"It made our state representative feel more connected to the county she represents."

–Terence Clemons, 4-H Agent

## ***“What’s the value of meeting together regularly?”***

“We interact with each other and we learn from each other while other people learn from us as well, while we learn from them.”  
–Pashley Griffith



“The decisions we make in our meetings have the potential to permanently change our communities and make it better.”  
–Lexie Craig

“We see what’s out there in the world when it comes to politics, Bath County, or coming to Nashville which some of us haven’t done before. A wider array of possibilities that comes with being in this setting or group, really intrigued myself and a lot of others in it to join. Making a difference within ourselves and our community.”  
–Kaleb Clemons

“Realizing the effects of things we do. Sometimes we don’t realize it, but when you write it down you actually see how you benefit the people around you.”  
–Lexie Craig

“We’re raising future generations to actually care about the impact they have on their community, and also have the knowledge and power to change.”  
–Lexie Craig



“This is the first time ever there’s been teens in the county that express their views, and people have listened.”  
–Terence Clemons, 4-H Agent



“It gives us an idea of what we can do and what we can accomplish when we grow up.” –Pashley Griffith

“This program is raising future leaders who will listen to the youth and have the potential to make changes within our community.”  
–Lexie Craig

“We want to be sure that we’re creating a starting point for the change that needs to come to our community.” –Kelly Wilson, Community Coordinator Bath Co Schools



**“What could we do to enhance Bath County?”**

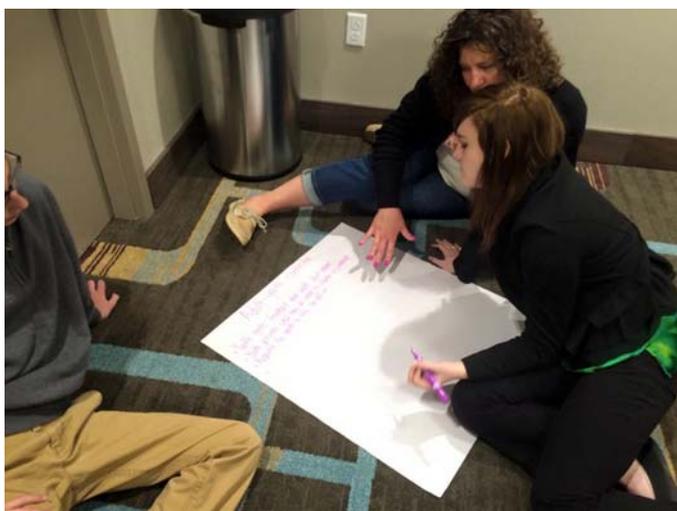
“Some of us think of Bath County as an old run-down farm town. Its rural Kentucky in the foothills of Appalachia. A lot of people try to get out as fast as possible and move on to bigger opportunities. But when they made us think about what there really was in Bath County, it brought a sense of pride to ourselves, to realize there’s a lot more that Bath County has than face value.”

–Kaleb Clemons

**Answer this question, “If they only knew...”**

“If adults only knew what we were capable of, they would see we have a lot to offer.”

–Pashley Griffith



Quotes taken from youth participants and leaders of the Bath County Wildcat Leadership Council.

The Council has been the pilot participant of a program from the University of Kentucky called the *Youth Engagement Leadership Program (YELP)* for the past three years. To learn more about YELP, contact Melissa Bond at [melissa.bond@uky.edu](mailto:melissa.bond@uky.edu)