

# WANT TO INVOLVE YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

The **Youth Community Perceptions** program helps youth learn to identify needs and opportunities in their community, while working with local leaders to make a difference!

Schools and communities across Kansas have recognized the need to civically engage youth. When youth are involved in their community they:

- » Can see themselves staying in, or returning to, their hometown.
- » Are good stewards to the projects they are involved with, reducing incidences of vandalism.
- » Feel a sense of belonging in the community.

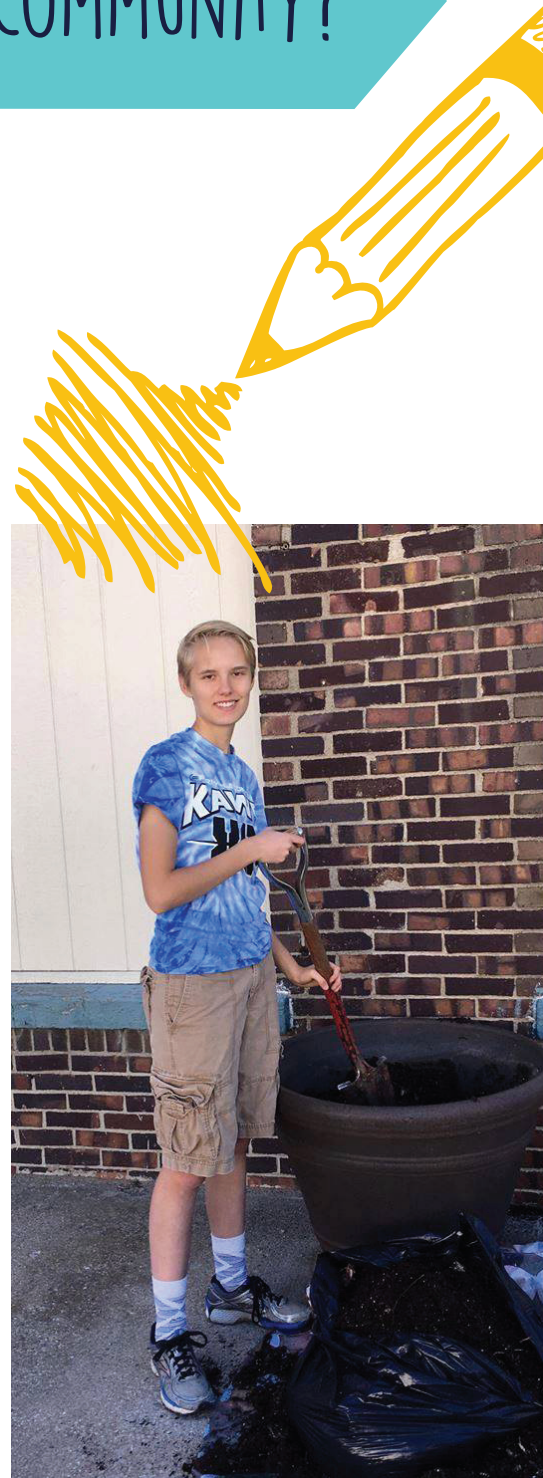
The Kansas State Board of Education recognizes the importance of youth civic engagement and includes it as part of their definition of a successful high school graduate. *"A successful Kansas high school graduate has the academic preparation, cognitive preparation, technical skills, employability skills, and civic engagement to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation."* (Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) Guidance)

**Youth Community Perceptions** is a curriculum which explains the makeup of a healthy community and offers a method for youth to become actively engaged in their community. Youth participate in a community assessment and identify the unique assets and strengths of their community as well as the needs, providing them with an opportunity to engage in community conversations and improvement.

The program assists youth and communities in:

- » Creating opportunities for youth to have a voice in the community.
- » Involving and familiarizing youth with local government and community processes.
- » Bridging the gap between youth, local government, and the community.
- » Participating in a service-learning youth identified project.

By utilizing the curriculum, schools will be able to measure the civic engagement outcomes as required in Section 14 of the final report of the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation.



FOR MORE RESOURCES AND PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION, VISIT:

<https://bit.ly/33GGwGS>

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Community Vitality  
Youth Community Perceptions

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*Youth Community Perceptions is made possible in part by a grant from the Alpha Rho chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi.*

*Youth Community Perceptions is a collaboration between K-State Research and Extension Community Vitality and Kansas 4-H.*