

# Children's Advocacy Day

## *Participant Reflections*

I would like to start off by first thanking you and the other members of KYA for organizing the wonderful trip to our state's capital. Being able to have your opinion voiced in Kentucky's government is a rare opportunity for anyone, much less an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student. Participating in this event was the most meaningful thing I have ever done in my leadership class for the past four years that I have been in it. Going to Frankfort and speaking with our legislators was more than just a chance to get out of school. It was a unique experience for all us not only to tour the Capitol, but to participate in a working government . . . [and] take part in governing our future.

- Kenny Witt, *Harlan Independent Middle School*

Thank you so much. It was a wonderful day and I am so thankful to you and KYA staff who helped make it all possible for us. It was a truly fantastic learning experience for the students and for me as well. An extraordinary amount of planning went into the event. It was well organized, thanks to you all . . . Thank you so very much.

- Jo Ann Borntager, *Teacher at Harlan Independent Middle School*

My favorite part was getting to go to the Capitol and actually understanding what everything was for, unlike in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, which was the last time I visited the Capitol. We actually got to interact with the things around us, such as talking to Lieutenant Governor Daniel Mongiardo and Senator Brandon Smith. I also like sitting in on the representative meeting, which was very different than I expected. I also thank you for all the previous visits you made to Harlan to help us prepare for Children's Advocacy Day. This made us better prepared for what we had to talk about at the Capitol . . . [and] made our trip more successful and less stressful . . . Thank you for spending your time with us, making our leadership group participants better leaders.

- Zach, *Harlan Independent Middle School*

My students have loved working with you on these issues and they really had great things to say about Advocacy Day. I know that they will want to work for you again.

- Laura Bowling, *Teacher at Eastern High School*

It was a really good opportunity and I am glad that not only we got to go to the Capitol and listen to the legislators talk, [but] we got to talk to them and let them hear what we and other kids in Kentucky have to say. Going down to the Capitol on February 8<sup>th</sup> was the second time I have been. My class and I went when we were in the fourth grade. I remember that we did not do a lot of things I had the chance to do this time. It was time for Kentucky's teens to shine and let them listen to us.

- Madison, *Harlan Independent Middle School*

I had a great time. The entire day helped me to understand what goes on in Frankfort and I have become very interested in it. I think you guys did a spectacular job with everything.

- Ben, *St. Xavier High School*

I really hope we keep in touch and continue to work toward a better Kentucky for the lower-income families. Our experiences that you have made possible made us want to become better advocates for our state . . . At the Capitol, we felt important, like we belonged there, like we could make a difference . . . I'm proud to have been and be a part of an accomplished and experienced leadership group. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity to make a better Kentucky.

- Morgan, *Harlan Independent Middle School*