

Anita Sewell

Durham County 4-H

August 14, 2014

Most of our young youth today are focused on getting new iPhones, new clothes for school, and celebrity gossip. These things are somewhat important to our lives but, we need to have more focus on what's occurring in our county government because their decisions can affect our lives and our family lives. Such examples are our community, individual rights, and leadership.

The decisions that are made by our county politicians have a direct effect on our community, where we learn, work and strive for excellence. For instance, a county's change in schooling budget can have a negative effect on student public transportation, the quality and healthiness of the food provided in schools, as well as the accessibility of books and supplies.

Having the necessary skills to articulate what you believe, is necessary for being a proactive citizen. We come in contact with many different opinions as we interact with other. Becoming involved in county politics allows you to voice your opinion on politics and to learn from those whose views maybe different from yours.

Opportunities to become a leader didn't begin as an adult. Having the courage to step outside of your comfort zone and speak on matters that affect more than just you begins when you choose to take those opportunities. Part of being a leader is using critical thinking in order to find solutions for problems. The mark of a true leader is taking the initiative to excel and to assist others.

These are just a few of the ways that being involved in our county government and policy making is beneficial. When we take the time to look beyond our own world and broaden our horizons only then we achieve greatness.