



# *What to Expect During Citizenship Seminar*



**2023 Montana 4-H Citizenship Seminar - January 15-17, 2023 - Helena**

Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development

210 Taylor Hall, PO Box 173580

Bozeman, MT 59717

Contact Christine Sommers-Austin at 994-3504 or [c.sommersaustin@montana.edu](mailto:c.sommersaustin@montana.edu)

for more information

# Before the Event

- Committee assignment based on the content of your bill.
- Random assignment to the green (majority) or white (minority) party, designated by a dot on the binder you receive at registration.
- The 4-H Legislature consists of only senators.

# When You Arrive

## History Bowl

- Three rounds
- Round 1 during registration on paper
- Rounds 2 & 3 during the event
- Rounds 2 & 3 using Kahoot or Jeopardy



# During the Event

## Caucus and Leadership

- Party *caucusing* to develop a platform and elect party leaders (A *party platform* is a general statement that represents what the party believes in or promotes).
- *Elect a majority leader*. This person presides over the proceedings, along with the President of the Senate.
- *Elect a whip*. The whip takes a census of its members to determine how they intend to vote on specific bills.
- *Elect a minority leader*. The minority leader works closely with the majority leader to discuss which legislation its party will/will not support.
- *Elect a minority whip*.
- The *President of the Senate*, constitutionally, is the Vice President of the United States. This person is appointed from the Leadership Team.
- A *president pro tempore* serves in the Senate president's position when he/she is absent. This person is the senator with the most seniority. This person is appointed prior to the event.

# Committee Leadership

Senate party leaders assign people to committees based on their experience, knowledge, and loyalty. The party leaders also name committee chairs. The “ranking member” of a committee is from the minority party. This person does not have real power unless their party becomes the majority.

- The Senate Majority Leader assigns someone to *chair the committee*.
- The Senate Minority Leader selects a *ranking member*.
- Committees select a *secretary* who is responsible for making bills amendments and reading bills to be forwarded to the full 4-H Senate.

# Committee Work

The chair of your committee creates an agenda based on the bills that have already been assigned. S(he) decides the order in which bills are heard. Every bill is read to the entire committee by the bill’s sponsoring Senator. This is the also the “public hearing” and when 4-H lobbyists can testify for or against a bill.

- Sponsoring Senator *reads his/her bill*.
- *Public testimony*
- *Debate* (lobbyists may not offer comments during this process).
- *Propose amendments*
- *Vote* to move the bill from committee to the Senate floor (or not). Approximately 2-4 bills from each committee will be referred to the 4-H Senate floor.



## Lobbyists

Interested parties, not acting as 4-H Senators, may testify for or against a bill. Because the committees meet at the same time, if a lobbyist wants to testify on more than one bill and the bills are in different committees, s(he) should be prepared to move from one committee to the next and make the committee chair aware of the intention to testify.



# Mock Legislative Session

- The majority leader *presides* over the senate proceedings.
- Senators must get *permission to address the Senate floor*. Once given the floor, they can speak for as long as they choose and can propose any amendment to a bill even if it is not relevant to the bill at hand.
- The committee chairs work with their respective leaders (leaders and whips) to *ensure that a bill will be passed* by a majority of its membership when it gets to the full Senate.

## Legislative Breakfast

Legislative Breakfast starts on Monday night. During dinner, you will learn what to expect during the next morning's breakfast. You will sit with your respective counties during the dinner and breakfast.

Citizenship Seminar continues Tuesday after breakfast. Participants will hear from elected representatives and inspirational leaders, engage in a service-learning project, and tour area sites such as the Capitol.



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