

Thinking Outside The Barn

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Chances are you don't have to be in high school to know what FFA is. However, actually knowing what FFA does is a different story. This year for Kit Camp FFA members and it's officers wanted to promote and show what FFA really is by hosting a petting zoo with goats. Many organizations promote their program by hosting information tables and giving out flyers at Kit Camp, but FFA wanted a more interactive approach to appeal to the freshman.

"We had a couple of meetings before the school year started and we talked about bringing some of the animals up to school so the kids could kind of see what [FFA is] about and how they can get involved," Senior and FFA Vice President Lauren Clinch said. However, it took more than just deciding to have a petting zoo; there were many different steps of approval FFA had to get first. Members had to get approval from their goat sponsor at Centennial, Dr. Edge, bring in supplies and bring in their goats. "It was actually a little bit more difficult than we anticipated," Sophomore and FFA Sentinel Payton Williams said. "It took a lot of time but I definitely think it was worth it. It really gave us a lot more publicity and that's what we were hoping to do." The petting zoo attracted many freshman who were interested in petting the goats and possibly hearing about FFA.

"A lot of people were interested in the goats, so I think it really helped out," Senior Sam Zike said. "It was really fun to bring [goats] out and show them to everybody because they always hear 'Oh we have rabbits, we have goats, we have the lambs and the cows,' but it's never a real experience for them."

FFA Members encourage freshman that FFA can be for everyone. "Anyone could come in and tell us what they like we could find a spot for them to do it through FFA," Williams said. "I play basketball and I'm in it, so we have athletes do it, we have kids in DECCA do it and we have kids that are just in FFA and so I love how it brings a bunch of different people together who all can love agriculture who all love FFA."

Members also recognized the importance of agriculture in today's society.

"Anything we eat, or what we wear, it all comes from agriculture so being a part of an organization that promotes that," Clinch said. "[FFA] is student led and just a really good experience, it looks good on college resumes and applications. It's just a really good organization to be in and I would recommend for anyone to be in it."



- See more at: <http://wakelandaccess.com/student-life/2015/08/28/thinking-outside-the-barn/#sthash.W0n1g4Ka.dpuf>