

Kansas Youth Earn Top Honors at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

“There comes a time in a person’s life when you find out who you are and what you’re made of,” said Jake Gibson, a 2008 camp ambassador sponsored Pioneer. “This camp not only helped me figure out what I have, but it showed me what to do with myself and the skills I carry.”

Gibson, along with 28 other high school students from Kansas electric cooperatives, joined youth from Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, July 12-18, 2008, in Steamboat Springs, CO.

During their week-long stay in Colorado, the students created their own cooperative, complete with a board of trustees and general manager selected by the students.

Five of the nine students on the board of trustees were represented by Kansas cooperatives. These student board members were Taylor Diehl, vice president, Flint Hills; Lydia Smith, treasurer, Butler; Haley Holwick, secretary, LJEC; and trustees Donavon Campuzano, Flint Hills; and Claire Thiessen, Rolling Hills. The cooperative board selected Becca Wieneke, Rolling Hills, to serve as general manager of the camp.

Among other activities were legislative presentations, a high voltage display, and a competition to build a transmission line from craft supplies. Students also toured Craig Power Plant and Trapper Mine.

“This camp was a great learning



The Kansas and Oklahoma youth pose on top of Mt. Werner near Steamboat Springs during the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

experience as well as lots of fun,” said Kassie Curran, sponsored by Caney Valley. “I met many great people, and I think I will take things I learned home and use them to help others to be great leaders.”

The high school students attending the trip were selected through a competition by their local electric cooperatives. Students attending and their sponsoring cooperative: Jessie Argraves and Kyle Spade, Alfalfa; Lydia Smith, Butler; Kassie Curran and Jake Fulsom, Caney Valley; Zeke Wischer, DS&O; Cassie Wandersee (ambassador), Donavon Campuzano, and Taylor Diehl, Flint Hills; Kyle Grose and Matraca Mann, Lane-Scott; Haley Holwick, LJEC; Matt Niehues, Nemaha-Marshall; Shane En-

gelken, Ninnescah; Jake Gibson (ambassador), Andy Molina, and Matti Rich, Pioneer; Ethan Mahin, Madison Reed, and Miranda Simminger, Prairie Land; Claire Thiessen and Becca Wieneke, Rolling Hills; Aron Goode, Sedgwick County; Aaron Osner, Sumner-Cowley; Cole Penrod, Twin Valley; Susi Algrim and Chet Skinner, Victory; and Cas Schultz and Heather Weber, Western.

Chaperones were Jerri Imgarten and Josh Schmidt, Victory; Derrick Rutherford, DS&O, and Carrie Kimberlin, KEC.

Elected by their peers to return to camp as the Kansas 2009 Camp Ambassadors were Lydia Smith, Butler; Donavon Campuzano, Flint Hills; and Haley Holwick, LJEC.

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