

COUNTY GOVERNMENT – MARY LEE KONZ

This program was started to give governmental instruction to all high school students with a goal to create an informed citizen who would become active in the area of government which most closely affects the everyday life of the individual. The County Government Day program expands the learning experience to all high school students and brings the process down to the local level.

The American Legion and its Auxiliary were selected to become the sponsoring organizations of the program. This led to the creation of the corporation known as “Cornhusker Boys’ and Girls’ County Government, Inc. “ Although it is a joint program, the staff of the Department of Nebraska, The American Legion, is charged with the responsibility of organizing and supervising the program in all counties. Because of this, the Department Activities Director of the Legion needs to be notified of the date and chairman of the program in each county. He has forms available at no charge to be used in your county’s program such as Certificates of Election and Oath of Office. There is a power point presentation available on a CD which explains County Government and the program. This is available from either the Nebraska Association of County Officials website: nacone.org or their address is: Jon Edwards, NACO, 625 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. The CD costs \$10.

Each county is responsible for their program and may adjust it to fit their needs. Students are encouraged to file for an office and campaign for it during class time. Then they are given the opportunity to visit the office to which they were elected for instruction on how that office functions. Speakers and “mock” trials are often part of the day.

General guidelines:

1. Form a planning committee and include the County, Post, and Unit Commanders and Presidents, County courthouse representative, school representative, and possibly your County Service Officer if he is involved.
2. Contact all involved and the American Legion Department Activities Director Brent Hagel-Pitt at (402) 464-6338 - regarding time and date.
3. Follow through with your planning. Give the students a chance to critique the program. These will give you tips for next year’s program. Keep good records to help with planning in the future also.
4. PUBLICIZE!!

CITATION POINTS - 5 points assigned

5 pts...Unit assisted and/or conducted County Government Day program and notified American Legion Activities Director, Brett Hagel-Pitt of the date and time.