

# Kentucky Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



## Online Resources for Teens

The following online resources are good starting points for teens looking for “positive risks” to explore. They are illustrative of what is available nationally as well as locally.

### **4-H USA!**

**[www.4husa.org](http://www.4husa.org)**

4-H is the youth education branch of the U.S. Cooperative Extension Service. (Each state and county has access to a County Extension office for both youth and adult programs.) Stressing experiential projects and service, 4-H helps young people learn by doing. The 4-H website offers youth a chance to express themselves through listservs, chat rooms, and the posting of personal writings. The site includes links to other youth development organizations and to over 150 curriculum samples and project ideas for experiential learning in various areas (such as Environmental Education and Earth Science, Personal Development and Leadership).

### **Do something !**

**[www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)**

Do Something is a nationwide network of young people taking action to change their own communities. It sponsors the Kindness & Justice Challenge, a Community Connections Campaign, and the Brick Awards. Its website offers program descriptions and wide-ranging opportunities for expressing student voice—from contests, polls, and discussions groups to the posting of young people’s stories, essays, poetry, and artwork.

### **Idealist.org!**

**[www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org)**

A project of Action without Borders, Idealist.org aims to build a world where all people can live free and in a healthy environment. The site is a clearinghouse for information, job openings, volunteer opportunities, internships, events, and resources posted by nonprofits in 153 countries. A special teen section offers information and extensive links regarding volunteer opportunities and starting and funding projects. Particularly impressive is the directory (with links) of organizations started by youth.

### **In the Mix!**

**[www.pbs.org/inthemix](http://www.pbs.org/inthemix)**

In the Mix, a weekly PBS television series produced by teens for teens, gives young people a voice on topics that matter most to them—from money management, media literacy, and politics to body image, dating violence, and school reform. The website posts an online program catalogue for ordering videotapes, with selected titles available with Spanish subtitles. Home pages for show topics include video clips, transcripts, resources, and advice from experts and other teens. Also available for teachers and parents are lesson plans and discussion guides on a variety of topics.

### **Servenet.org**

**<https://www.volunteermatch.org/volunteers/>**

SERVEnet.org is the premier website on service and volunteering. Through SERVENet, users can enter their zip code, city, state, skills, interests, and availability and be matched with organizations needing help. SERVENet has over 6,000 registered non-profit organizations, 35,000+ service projects and over 52 million volunteer opportunities available. It is a program of Youth Service America (YSA), a resource center that partners with thousands of organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people 5 to 25 to serve locally, nationally, and globally.

### **Teen Ink!**

<http://www.teenink.com/>

Teen Ink is a monthly print magazine, book series, and website, all written by teens for teens. The website posts over 15,000 pages of student writing, which ranks among the best on the Internet. The youth writing spans every genre: fiction and poetry; reviews of books, music, movies, and colleges; interviews with the likes of Maya Angelou, George Lucas, and Colin Powell; personal essays and commentaries. The site posts the current issue of the magazine Teen Ink, plus various contests, weekly polls, "Top 5" lists, and a gallery of art and photography.

### **Tolerance.org**

<https://www.tolerance.org/>

A web project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, tolerance.org sponsors a nationwide program called Mix It Up, which believes in the power of youth to create and sustain real change. It provides ideas and tools to help teens break the walls of division in their school and community. Its Mix It Up Grant program has supported more than 100 youth-led projects. Each year, more than 3 million teens nationwide participate in its Mix It Up Lunch Day. In Mix It Up Dialogues, teens discover the power and art of crossing social boundaries.

### **YouthActionNet**

<https://www.youthactionnet.org/>

Looking for a way to build a website or publish work from a youth web page? Look no further. This dynamic website, created by and for young people, spotlights the vital role that youth play in leading positive change throughout the world, and also creates a space for youth web-publishing. One can also find information here on volunteer, educational, scholarship, grant, and job opportunities.

### **YouthNOISE !**

[www.youthnoise.com](http://www.youthnoise.com)

An initiative of Save the Children, YouthNOISE empowers young people to improve their own and others' lives through philanthropy, service, and policy. The website provides articles, "Top 10" lists, and factoids to inform young people about issues ranging from youth violence and teen pregnancy to homelessness and body image. Toolkits and other tips offer practical advice on how to work with Congress or get involved at home, and a database (searchable by zip code) details local volunteer opportunities. The site identifies grant, scholarship, and giving opportunities. (YouthNOISE raised \$10,000 for an Afghan girls' education effort.) Contests, quizzes, polls, and discussion boards, plus space for essays, poetry, and reflections, offer multiple forms for youth expression.

### **SEE ALSO:**

#### **What Kids Can Do, Inc.**

[www.whatkidscando.org](http://www.whatkidscando.org)

The WKCD website, this includes over one hundred stories of young people making a difference in their schools and communities, collections of student work and youth voices on a wide range of topics, and an extensive resource directory. A special feature called "Kids on the Wire" gives daily news from around the country involving adolescents. It covers teen activities in the areas of citizenship and voice, community action and service, environment, historic preservation, media and art, science and health, technology, and tolerance and understanding. WKCD posts new content every six weeks.

**Source Note:** Resources created by: **MetLife Foundation**, established in 1976 by MetLife, supports programs that increase opportunities for young people to succeed, give students and teachers a voice in improving education, develop partnerships between schools and communities, and strengthen relationships among parents, teachers and students.