



Meet the 4-H State Ambassadors

2020 State Showcase



Oregon State University
Extension Service

The role of 4-H State Ambassadors

State Ambassadors are representatives of the 4-H Program. They promote 4-H to potential members, volunteers, donors and legislators. They demonstrate the impact 4-H has on the lives of young people and their communities.

State Ambassadors are a resource to county and state staff and they help plan and conduct state events as well as provide input on state programs.

As a state ambassador, members build leadership and communication skills, develop self-confidence and model effective youth-adult partnerships.



State Ambassadors doing a team building exercise at an ambassador retreat.



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4-H STATE AMBASSADOR

DYLAN BOICE

Coos County

I have been in 4-H for eight years. This is my 1st year as a State Ambassador. My projects consist of Rabbits, Photography, Expressive Arts, Ceramics, Horticulture, Creative Writing, Public Speaking, and Leadership.

When it comes to 4-H, I enjoy giving back to my community and planning fun events that bring our community and 4-H members together.

Outside of 4-H, I enjoy spending time working with horses, watching Anime, making art, and anything that has to do with animals.

As a State Ambassador, I am excited to expand the work I have done in my community to other communities and counties across the state. I am looking forward to meeting and working with new people. I also hope to learn more about team building strategies and building new relationships.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR **DAISY O'HEARN** Lincoln County

I have been in 4-H for 10 years and have been a State Ambassador for three years. The projects I participate in are archery, shotgun, sheep, goat, poultry and public speaking.

As a State Ambassador I have been given opportunities to practice my public speaking. I have been able to participate in community service projects around the state. And my favorite part about being a State Ambassador is being able to set up Summer Conference.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR **TULLY DAIRE** Clatsop County

I have been in 4-H for seven years. This is my first year as a State Ambassador and my penultimate year in 4-H. My goals this year are to help 4-H adapt to these strange times, give back to a part of my youth that means so much to me and learn all I can while doing it.

My projects are fiber art (weaving), horticulture, poultry, food preservation, foods and nutrition, flower arranging and leadership.



An 8 harness pointed twill.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR

AUDREY VANHOUTEN

Coos County

My 4-H projects are goats, poultry, cavy, sheep (market lamb), rabbits, pigeon, photography, art, designing spaces, communications, educational display, woodworking junior leader, and teen leader.

My favorite part of 4-H is giving back to my community. Whether it be helping the Cloverbuds and younger 4-H members in my club or participating in a community service activity, having the opportunity to help others is so rewarding and is the main reason I love being a part of the 4-H program.

What I am looking forward to the most as a 4-H State Ambassador is connecting with members from all over the state at Summer Conference. I have been inspired by previous Ambassadors to others find their spark for 4-H.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR **HARPER SMITH** Deschutes County

Hi! A bit about me...

Fact: I have been involved in the rabbit, dog, static and leadership project areas. I live in beautiful Bend, Oregon and this is my last year in 4-H.

Fiction: I am a great baker/cook and I like country music.

My advice to new 4-H members: Don't give up! Just remember no one's first presentation, showmanship competition or static judging ever goes smoothly. Your first couple of times will be hard, but you will be all the more satisfied and happy in the future when you prevail against whatever you are struggling with.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR

TRINITY SERAFIN

Benton County

Hi! My name is Trinity and this is my seventh year of participating in 4-H! My current projects are guinea pigs, rabbits, cat, trapshooting, public speaking and leadership.

Being a 4-H State Ambassador has been a goal of mine since I was a Cloverbud starting my 4-H career. I used to be terrified of talking to others about my projects and having to do public speaking. I was envious of how easily the Ambassadors gave presentations and spoke with the public at the State Fair. I saw the impact that the Ambassadors had on youth and I aspired to be the same.



I spent my earlier years in 4-H working on my presentation skills, volunteering in leadership positions, and working with youth in their animal projects to become a more well-rounded leader. The first time I saw the State Ambassadors in action at Summer Conference, I knew that I was ready. It is my hope as a State Ambassador to inspire others to learn new skills and take action in the communities. I hope to make an impact on other 4-H members to become stronger leaders with genuine hearts and determine minds.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR

SHELZZA DEATON

Benton County

This is my first year serving as a State Ambassador and I am excited and a little nervous. As a State Ambassador, I hope to meet youth from other counties, promote 4-H in my community and improve my leadership skills. 4-H has helped me to come out of my shell and it has given me the opportunity to do big and small leadership projects.

I'm just finishing my 6th year in 4-H and I am involved in lots of project areas including: dog, sheep, archery, statics (cooking, sewing and art), STEM, Junior Leader, and County Ambassador. In the past, I have participated in horse, swine and livestock judging.

In 4-H, I enjoy working with my animals and creating my projects. One of my larger projects has been organizing an archery tournament. I have also organized a park clean-up and laser tag for a club bonding activity.

Outside of 4-H, I enjoy playing sports, like volleyball, basketball and softball. I also play the fiddle.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR

FAITH SANCHEZ

Polk County

My name is Faith Sanchez. I am 16 years old and have been involved in 4-H for seven years. I raise dairy goats and participate in County and State Ambassadors. I enjoy working, learning, as well as spending time with friends and family.

As a State Ambassador, I'd like to further my leadership skills and be able to apply them to everyday life, such as goal setting, decision-making and expanding my comfort zone to make a difference in other people's lives.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR JILLIAN LAYTON

Polk County

Hey there! I'm Jillian and I've been in 4-H for seven years. My project areas are family consumer science, expressive arts, designing spaces, horticulture, communications, and fashion revue!

I've been a two-time Western National Round-Up delegate, a National 4-H Congress delegate, Camp Counselor (five years), Polk County Ambassador (five years), junior leader (four years), and a State Ambassador (three years). I love meeting new 4-H'ers and helping others find their spark! My main goal as a State Ambassador is to unite 4-H'ers around the state and make the best of our 4-H program even better.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR

HAILEY MCKENZIE

Marion County

I've been in 4-H for 10 years. I like showing sheep, goats and participating in shooting sports. I hope to learn how to become a better leader and how to keep organized.

Projects I'm in: Marion County Shooting Sports, breeding and market lambs, breeding and market goats. In the past, my projects included rabbits, sewing, crocheting, knitting, photography, horticulture (plants), public speaking, baking, leadership and livestock evaluation.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR **NICOLE VARNER** Marion County

I am a newly appointed State Ambassador for Oregon, and I have been a Marion County Ambassador for two years now. I have been in 4-H for four years. I did not start as early as some people, but I wish I had! My main project in 4-H is sheep, but I also do different static exhibits as well. I am also in Marion County Shooting Sports Archery Club, and I would have made it to the state competition, but unfortunately it was canceled this year.

I have tried multiple different sports, but I never really liked them. Once I joined 4-H, I knew that this was what I was meant to do. It has given me pride, passion and determination. I have developed a series of friendships, and a sense of community I would have never had if it weren't for 4-H.

Becoming a State Ambassador this year is a step out of my comfort zone, but I am very passionate about 4-H. I hope to spread the passion to other kids who might not know what 4-H is about. I want kids out there to have the chance to experience the benefits of 4-H. I want to "Make the Best Better".





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR **CYDNEY STABLES** Yamhill County

4-H Projects: Dairy Cows, Meat Goats, Communications, Junior Leadership, Camp Counseling, Designing Spaces, Horticulture

Leadership Positions: Country Critters Club President, Junior Superintendent for Dairy Cattle and Communications, Yamhill County Ambassador Treasurer, State Ambassador

Hobbies: FFA, Miss Agriculture USA, Basketball, Softball, Floral Design, Adventuring, Livestock Production





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR **IAN BOTTENBERG** Yamhill County

I started 4-H as a fourth grader, just showing a sheep before moving on to a more lucrative project: Market Lambs. In years since, I have become a Junior Superintendent for the fair's sheep barn, a Junior Leader in my 4-H club, as well as a County and State 4-H Ambassador. I am also a camp counselor for 4-H Wild West Camp.

These experiences, especially camp, have done a great deal to make me who I am today. I have learned a lot about things like leadership and teamwork, but in the end, 4-H turned me from a quiet, meek child into a more social, outgoing person, and for that I will be forever grateful. Without 4-H, I would never have become who I am or learned what I have, and that is something I can never replace.

If there is one thing I want to do as a State Ambassador, it would be to promote 4-H to anyone and everyone possible. This program is a fantastic way to learn new skills and make new friends. If I can get at least one quiet, meek child into 4-H, then I know I have succeeded.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR **KEIRA LEINBACH** Clackamas County

My name is Keira Leinbach and I am 16 years old. This is my ninth year participating in 4-H. My favorite projects include raising sheep, leathercraft, and being a member of my County and State Ambassador teams. My hobbies outside of 4-H include basketball, participating in rodeo events and spending time with family and friends.

My goal as an Oregon State Ambassador is to meet new people across the State, learn how to be a better leader, as well as teaching people about what 4-H has to offer. I cannot wait to see what this year has in store and to develop new friendships!





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR

DANIEL JOHNSON

Clackamas County

Hello, my name is Daniel Johnson. I am 15 years old and I live in Sandy, Oregon. I have been in 4-H for nine years. I show goats, sheep, rabbits, cavy and pigeons. I am also involved in the HEARTH Program along with shooting sports and multiple community service projects, including Meals on Wheels, Wrapped in Love and the Adopt-A-Road Program.

This is my first year as an Oregon State 4-H Ambassador; however I have been a member of the Clackamas County 4-H Ambassador team for two years. I am a member of the Oregon League of Rabbit and Cavy Breeders, American Rabbit Breeders Association, American Dutch Rabbit Club, Washington State Rabbit Breeders Association and the Pacific North West Rabbit Fanciers.

I am a youth representative on the Clackamas County 4-H Leaders Board and the Clackamas County 4-H Small Animal Advisory, along with being the president of my 4-H club. 4-H has always been a huge part of my life as my family has spent many years in the program. I look forward to the adventure of being an Oregon State 4-H Ambassador!





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR

FORREST FELSCH

Washington County

Benefits of 4-H: 4-H has improved my civic engagement, leadership, and communication skills by providing opportunities and mentors to develop these skills through my project areas.

Project areas: meat and dairy goat, poultry, woodworking, mycology, archery, rifle and gardening.

Community Service: County Community Service Day, Christmas in Dairyville volunteer, county walk-a-thons to fund scholarships, goat milking demonstrations, robotics programming mentor and Memorial Day bugler.

Leadership: Metro Ambassador Parliamentarian, Dairy Creek 4-H Club Treasurer, Hillsboro FFA Secretary, BSA Troop 213 Webmaster and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

Ambassador Goals: I would like to improve and maintain ambassador-led events and develop new events for the state of Oregon.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR

KYLE BRANDT

Washington County

This is my 9th year in 4-H. I'm in rabbits, archery, leadership, and other HEARTH projects.

I like working with my animals, electronics and learning things that I find interesting.

This is my first year as a State Ambassador and I hope to learn practical skills for my 4-H career and my life in general.





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR

DAYTONA M. TRACY

Umatilla County

Hello, I'm Daytona Tracy from Umatilla County and this is my 9th year in 4-H and my first year being a State Ambassador.

My five favorite projects are Poultry, Cavy, Goats, Food & Nutrition and Horticulture. I've competed in Poultry and Cavy for the longest amount of time and Goats starting in the last two years.

I am stoked for all the opportunities I can have as State Ambassador and I am looking forward to meeting as many 4-H members as I can later this year!





4-H STATE AMBASSADOR **JACKIE WITTLER** Joesphine County

My name is Jackie Wittler. This is my seventh year of 4-H. The projects that I am involved in are dog, horse, photography, youth leadership, and community service. I hope that this next year I will be able to be more active as a State Ambassador.

With COVID, I was unable to do a project and hope to be able to make it happen next year. With this added time, I was able to think my plan through more and hope to execute it even better than planned. I love helping out in the community and in school activities.





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4-H State Ambassadors playing for the state legislators at the capitol

