

January 15, 2022

Utah State 4-H Office
4900 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84321

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the opportunity to help my community over the past year by stuffing and tying Minkie Monsters for Primary Children's Hospital. This service project was especially close to my heart. A few years ago, I was admitted to Primary Children's hospital, and I know how scary it can be. I hope the stuffed animals brightened the day of a child in the hospital. I also participated in a week-long 4-H service project. On one of the days, we were asked to sit by someone new. I took the challenge and found someone sitting on the "buddy bench." I hope my smile helped ease her burden.

The 4-H program has given me the opportunity to develop the life skill of working hard to accomplish goals with my horse and steer projects. These projects have also helped me to develop the skills of caring for animals, budgeting, and having the courage to overcome my fears. Through my 4-H horse and steer clubs, I am also developing the life skills of leading and serving others and working as a team. My horse 4-H club is working to demonstrate a stick horse rodeo for members of an assisted living community this year as well as cleaning local cemeteries before Memorial Day. I will continue to use each of these skills as I progress in the 4-H program, seek education, and gain future employment.

Early in the spring my project horse, [REDACTED] became lame making him unable to show in the 4-H Individual Horse Shows. I was disappointed because I had set a goal to show him in our county horse shows. I began riding a new project horse, [REDACTED]. Starting over had been very challenging, especially with the events of Bareback and Scurry. Throughout the year, [REDACTED] helped me to overcome my fears of riding and surpass the goal I had originally set as we qualified for the 4-H State Individual Horse Show. [REDACTED] and I also competed and won the State Working Ranch Horse Competition. The following day [REDACTED] was diagnosed with hives and was unable to compete in the 4-H State Individual Show. I was approved to compete on my two-handed horse project. It was difficult to change horses so quickly and the next two days of showing were the hardest days I have ever encountered at a horse show. My horse (being so young) struggled to focus and compete as an experienced horse. [REDACTED] and I had excelled all year in Showmanship, and I was looking forward to doing well in it. When I entered the ring with my young horse, he would not set up for inspection. I tried and tried but was finally excused. I wanted to do so well and things did not work in my favor. However, I continued through the show. I received a blue in Horsemanship and a callback for Bareback in which I placed 8th. This experience taught me how to be resilient, to smile when you want to cry, have courage, and never give up. I am looking forward to returning again this year.

I have two main goals I have based my 4-H experience on for the upcoming this year: (1) compete in the 4-H State Individual Show and (2) show my steer at the [REDACTED] County Fair. I would like to approach these goals differently this year. I want to become acquainted with new people, find ways to serve my community better, and walk away feeling the satisfaction that I did my best.

Sincerely
[REDACTED]