

[REDACTED]

Utah State 4-H Office  
4900 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322

January 25, 2020

Dear Portfolio Committee,

When I was younger, I was a very shy little girl. I feared talking to strangers, and I hated being away from my family. Thankfully, 4-H helped me change. As I participated in club and community activities, I became more and more comfortable getting outside of my comfort zone and I have grown so much! This was especially true this past year when I served as a State 4-H Ambassador. Serving in that position was the most life-changing thing I have ever done. I learned how to be an organized and effective leader, how to help other teens overcome their fears, and I grew socially. I have transformed from that shy little girl to a confident, focused, outgoing teen with big goals and plans for my future.

4-H means the world to me! My family has been involved in 4-H for generations and I intend to see that our 4-H chain doesn't break. This youth development program has shaped the lives of every member of my family. People I have met in 4-H have also become my family. I have very close connections with people who have been my leaders and fellow club members. As we have worked on projects we have laughed, learned, and solved problems. Traveling to national and international events has also given me friends for life who live all over the world. So, to me, 4-H means family.

Because of my 4-H experience, I want to forever make the best better. That is what 4-H has taught me. In my future, I always want to do better than my best. To me, this means being better than a best friend, it means raising people up to their highest potential. My current goals include graduating from Utah State University, becoming a wife and mother, and serving in meaningful ways in my community. Although my official schooling will end, I want to be a life-long learner. I believe I will truly find success as I use what 4-H has taught me to lift and serve the people I meet throughout my life.

When I analyze all of the extracurricular activities I have ever done, it is easy to see that 4-H has made the biggest impact in my life. I have learned the skills of sewing, cooking, raising and training hogs, how to be an effective leader and teacher, and much more! Each of my projects taught me much more than is obvious on the surface. While sewing, I learned to pay great attention to detail. Raising a hog to show at the county fair taught me hard work and discipline. I learned leadership skills through the State 4-H Ambassador Program. Traveling on an International 4-H Youth Exchange gave me a chance to work with 4-Hers from around the world and helped me to become a global citizen. This program taught me things like communication, teamwork, and tolerance. All of these skills will help me shape the future of my home, community, country, and world.

Sincerely,

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