

## **Beyond Ready**

### **Christi Nicholls, 4-H Program Coordinator**

In Juab County, 4-H has always been more than afterschool clubs and summer fairs—it's been a place where young people discover their potential, learn real-world skills, and grow into leaders. Now, local 4-H youth are part of something even bigger: “Beyond Ready,” a new national initiative aimed at preparing 10 million young people for work and life by 2030.

The program, launched by the National 4-H Council, focuses on building skills like resilience, teamwork, problem-solving, and communication—qualities that young people need to thrive in today's fast-changing world.

We see every day how capable our youth are when they're given the right tools, Beyond Ready is about making sure they're not just ready to succeed, but ready to lead.

### **Local Impact: Learning by Doing**

Here in Juab County, 4-H members are already practicing the heart of the initiative—learning by doing. Whether it's a livestock project, a STEM activity, a sewing class, or serving on teen council, young people are gaining the confidence and experience that prepare them for life beyond the classroom.

One Juab County 4-H'er recently reflected on her experience after serving as a Utah 4-H State Ambassador, *“One of the biggest lessons I learned was how to lead with confidence, not just in titles or roles, but in actions. I learned how to listen, how to collaborate, and how to push myself even when I felt unsure. Public speaking, teamwork, and problem-solving became everyday skills, and I saw real growth in myself.”*

### **Backed by Research, Rooted in Community**

The Beyond Ready initiative is grounded in the 4-H Thriving Model, a research-based framework developed with more than two decades of study, including work from Tufts University. But while the research is national, the impact is deeply local.

Juab County's network of volunteers, parents, and Cooperative Extension educators are the ones helping to bring these opportunities to life for youth right here at home.

### **Why It Matters Now**

With academic pressures, mental health challenges, and a shifting job market, today's youth face more uncertainty than ever. Beyond Ready aims to provide the skills—and the support—that will help young people step into adulthood with confidence and purpose.

By 2030, 4-H hopes that millions of young people across the country, including hundreds from Juab County, will be ready not only to succeed in their careers but also to serve and strengthen their communities.

*When our youth succeed, our whole community succeeds. Beyond Ready is about making sure our kids have the chance to shine—today, tomorrow, and in the years to come.”*