

## What I learned as a Utah 4-H State Ambassador

By: Macee Ercanbrack

Fifteen months ago, I was selected to serve as a Utah 4-H State Ambassador. I had no idea how much it would change me.

When I first applied, I was just hoping to grow as a leader and be more involved. What I got was so much more: a team that felt like family, opportunities I never imagined, and a deeper understanding of what it means to serve.

As an ambassador, I helped represent Utah 4-H and Juab County at events across the state and even nationally. I got to plan and lead workshops, speak in front of crowds, and help organize major events like Design Team Training, Teen Winter Retreat, and Mock Legislature. I also had the chance to mentor younger 4-H members, and that might have been my favorite part.

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.

There were also challenges. Balancing school, 4-H, and personal life wasn't always easy. But every challenge taught me something. I learned how to manage my time, how to speak up when I needed help, and how to keep going when things felt overwhelming.

Looking back, I'm incredibly grateful. Being a State Ambassador gave me a voice and taught me how to use it. It's inspired me to keep serving, keep learning, and keep growing. It's also made me passionate about helping others find their place in 4-H, just like I did.

If you're thinking about applying or getting more involved in 4-H, do it. You don't have to be perfect. You just need to care and be willing to grow. That's where leadership really begins.