

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] County

[REDACTED] Division

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

January 10, 2022

Dear Portfolio Committee,

I have had a love for animals for as long as I can remember. If there was an animal nearby, I would be right next to it. 4-H has become a big part of my life and means a lot to me. 4-H has provided a program that allows me to work with the animals that I love. When I joined 4-H, I did not realize that in addition to learning new skills with my horse, I would also learn life skills such as confidence, team work, how to overcome fear and disappointment, and how to become a better person all around.

I have experienced growth in myself many times during my three years in 4-H and learned a lot about resiliency. During my first 4-H practice with my club, I fell off my horse. I was the youngest club member and I was embarrassed and a little afraid to get back on my horse. The older girls in my club came right over to me and encouraged me to get back in the saddle. Because of their examples and encouragement, I got back on my horse. I learned the importance of supporting the members in my club and the value of friendship. This experience also taught me confidence because I realized that I can do hard things. Learning that I can do hard things and being resilient will help me in my future because it has given me the confidence that I need not only in 4-H, but also a school, home, and in my everyday life.

In the past year I had an experience that gave me an opportunity to help my club members and peers. My horse was sick for one of the county shows and I was not able to compete. My 4-H club leader taught me to be there for my club members, so I went to the show and cheered and supported them. Being able to cheer for my club members was a great experience for me. It was hard to be sitting on the bleachers watching instead of riding, but I was able to learn how to overcome disappointment and turn a negative situation into a positive experience. I feel that I grew into a better person and gained empathy for those around me. I also feel that I was able to help my peers by being a positive example of how to handle hard times. I know that they appreciated the extra support and I know that it always helps others to be positive in hard times. 4-H has taught me how to be a team member in both good and bad situations. Learning to be a team player will help me in my future on school projects, my career and also with my family.

4-H has also created a way for me to achieve my goals. I have a goal to learn to be more outgoing and not as shy. I like to hide in the back because I worry about what people think of me sometimes. I am planning to achieve this goal by participating as a Project Ambassador for [REDACTED] County's horse program. I will be able to gain experience working with my peers and other adult leaders. I know that I will learn the skills needed to help me achieve my goals.

I have learned so many different things throughout my participation in the 4-H program. I have also been able to participate in multiple service projects such as food drives, community clothing drives, and trash clean up days. I know these service projects help the community by bringing resources to those that don't have any.

I have gained confidence and learned how to overcome disappointment. I am certain these experiences will help shape me to be prepared to handle any obstacle that I end up facing in my future. 4-H has made me a better member of my community and taught me skills that will last my entire life.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]