

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 4-H
[REDACTED] Grade - Senior Division
Application for State Portfolio Contest

To Whom it may concern:

“Don’t allow someone else to decide what you are capable of, you decide what you want to accomplish” Amberly Snyder.

When I joined the [REDACTED] Dog 4-H Program I knew right from my very first meeting that I was going to do this the rest of my 4-H life. As I got more experience with training dogs, and leading groups I became a teen leader. At first it felt like a lot of pressure because everyone was watching me but after I saw how I can help the other kids train their dogs it became easier. I enjoy helping the younger kids get up in front of the group and lead the pledges or teaching certain skills. I have gotten to the level of being able to lead the other teen leaders in planning our large Dog Agility events as well.

4-H has given me many opportunities to learn skills that I might not have otherwise learned. I am able to lead and organize a group of kids or even more so, a group of kids with dogs. That can be a challenge to keep kids and dogs safe and engaged at all times. 4-H has given me the confidence that I need to speak in front of people. My position as Teen Leader, and County Dog Project Ambassador has helped me with time management and event planning. I am able to plan and execute an event with success now. All of these skills that I have learned in 4-H will help me plan and teach in my future career as a Certified Dog Trainer.

One thing that I have learned with raising and showing animals in 4-H is failure. I can train my dog ALL year to have my dog not cooperate on the day of the show. Or, I had the plan to breed all three of my Nigerian Dwarf goats to only have one successfully bred. Or, gaining my horse's trust. I have noticed that the more times I have failed in 4-H, I have been able to bounce back quicker and try something else until I find something that works. I have learned to have many options and a good back up plan. 4-H has helped me look at my projects from different angles and evaluate the outcome. I'd rather crash and burn in my 4-H environment, where I can try out ideas easily before entering adulthood. 4-H has taught me how to be tough and recover quickly from difficulties.

For this next year I want to successfully be chosen to be a State Ambassador. I will continue to be a Teen Leader in the [REDACTED] 4-H Dog Program. I am planning to create a division of Trick Dogs to add to the Dog Program. For more personal goals, my dog [REDACTED] and I are working hard to advance to Open Division which is all off leash in the show ring. I plan to successfully breed all of my Nigerian Dwarf does. I plan to continue to gain my horse's trust and having fun with groundwork for my horse and pony. I am also hopeful to continue to heal from a past concussion and medical condition so that I can ride horses. Most importantly though, I plan to make this 4-H year the best that I have ever had.

Sincerley:

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