

## Georgia 4-H Salutes Volunteer Excellence



Pictured: (L-R) Arch Smith, State 4-H Leader; Josie Smith, Tift and Bacon County Volunteer; Jackie Ellett, Jackson County Volunteer; Denny Kuhr, Fayette County Volunteer; Kris Khlifi, Columbia County Volunteer; Cisco Damons, Gwinnett County Volunteer; Stephen Ely, Polk County Volunteer; Todd Cliett, Terrell County Volunteer; and Keri Hobbs, Georgia 4-H Volunteer Specialist

Georgia 4-H recognized 8 exceptional volunteer finalists for the Volunteer of the Year and Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Salute to Excellence Awards at the 4-H Volunteer Dinner. Recipients included Cassandra Eidson, Douglas County; Cisco Damons, Gwinnett County; Denny Kuhr, Fayette County; Jackie Ellett, Jackson County; Josie Smith, Tift and Bacon Counties; Kris Khlifi, Columbia County; Stephen Ely, Polk County; and Todd Cliett, Terrell County. Collectively, they have served Georgia 4-H for 105 years! Georgia 4-H appreciates their many contributions and hours of dedication to Georgia's young people.

Congratulations to Volunteer of the Year Finalists:

**Jackie Ellett**, Jackson County volunteer for 10 years, serves with the Robotics team, camp, Project Achievement, office support, and the 4-H Llama Club.

**Josie Smith**, Tift and Bacon counties' volunteer, has served as chaperone and coach for Poultry Judging, Consumer Judging, BB team, and other events for 3 years.

**Stephen Ely**, Polk County and Northwest District volunteer has served 18 weeks of summer camp and 10 weekend conferences and competitions over the last 6 years.

**Cisco Damons**, a Gwinnett County volunteer for 9 years has chaperoned youth for over 2,120 hours at 4-H events and camps and donated 506 hours of bus driving services.

Congratulations to the Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Finalists:

**Cassandra Eidson** has volunteered with Douglas County 4-H for 16 years – leading Douglas 4-H’s Horse Quiz Bowl Team to master three times!

**Denny Kuhr** has served as a 4-H SAFE Shotgun Coach for 25 years, was instrumental in developing a shooting range, and serves as a Georgia 4-H SAFE instructor.

**Todd Cliett**, Terrell County volunteer is a certified National 4-H Archery Coach Trainer where he has coached 80 youth and trained 250 4-H Archery Coaches over 11 years.

**Kris Khlifi** has served over 25 years – leading in-school club meetings and a 4-H Craft Club and chaperoning many 4-H events with Columbia County 4-H.

The 4-H Salute to Excellence Volunteer Awards are presented annually at the Volunteer Awards Dinner held at 4-H Fall Forum. The Volunteer of the Year State Award is given to honor one volunteer who has served Georgia 4-H for 10 years or less, and the Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer Award is given to honor one volunteer in Georgia 4-H who has served over 10 years. Congratulations to all Salute to Excellence finalists.

Georgia 4-H is pleased to announce Cisco Damons of Gwinnett County as the 2017 Georgia 4-H Volunteer of the Year and Kris Khilifi of Columbia County as the 2017 Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer. Their applications will be submitted to National 4-H Council for consideration as the Southern Region Winner with the possibility of advancing to nationals. For more information on the Salute to Excellence Awards visit: <https://4-h.org/get-involved/salute-excellence-awards/>.