

2018 CLOVERLEAF ANNUAL REPORT

GEORGIA

4-H



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

4-H IS ABOUT MORE THAN RIBBONS & AWARDS



IT'S ABOUT THE **PEOPLE**, THE **EXPERIENCES**,
THE **LIFE-LONG SKILLS**, THE **MEMORIES**,
THE **COMPETITIONS**. IT'S ABOUT BEING A
ROLE MODEL, **GIVING BACK** AND
MAKING THE BEST BETTER.

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70TH ANNIVERSARY

THE GEORGIA 4-H
FOUNDATION CELEBRATED
ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY





GEORGIA 4-H LEADER ARCH SMITH

IN 1904, WHEN G.C. ADAMS STARTED THE BOYS CORN CLUB IN NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, LITTLE DID HE KNOW THAT 4-H WOULD BECOME THE STATE'S LARGEST YOUTH LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION.

We hope you enjoy the 2018 Georgia Cloverleaf, which serves as the annual report of the University of Georgia 4-H program. More than 177,000 young people participated in programs offered by Extension faculty, staff, and volunteers in every county in Georgia.

As I reflect on 2018, we celebrated the lives of two of giants of Georgia 4-H: Marian Fisher, who retired in 1982, was a county Extension agent and member of the state 4-H staff and Harold Darden, who also served as county Extension agent and retired in 1975 as Associate State 4-H Leader Emeritus. As a 4-H member in the 1970s I had the privilege of knowing both of these leaders. While these two 4-H leaders will be missed, their contributions to the success of the Georgia 4-H program will long be remembered as they are considered to be two of the giants on whose shoulders we stand today.

Georgia 4-H celebrated many successes throughout the 2017-2018 program year. Georgia 4-H member Sophia Rodriguez was recognized as the national 4-H Youth in Action Healthy Pillar Award Winner. Our alumni continue to be recognized for their contributions to making our world better; our donors continue to give financial and volunteer support so that 4-H members can have experiences that allow them to become self-directed and productive citizens; and our 4-H members are on a journey in which they learn life lessons and make new friendships that create networks that they will use throughout life.

The influence of Georgia 4-H may be best demonstrated by the following statements that were provided by two Georgia 4-H members.

I wanted to share my story about summer camp. At first I was afraid to go to camp. I didn't think being away from home for that long sounded like fun. After I got to camp, I changed my mind. Rock Eagle is awesome. The counselors are nice and there were so many activities to do. My days were full of activities and my nights were fun too. I didn't get much sleep this week but I made lots of new friends and learned a lot about myself.

When I am grown up and have a job I want to sponsor kids to go to Rock Eagle. Thank you for giving me the Baker Trust Scholarship.

**Christian LeCouris
4th Grade 4-H Member,
Dodge County**



I have always said that my favorite aspect of 4-H was its diversity—of people, programs, and experiences. Regardless of our backgrounds or interests, there is something in 4-H for any and every one of us. 4-H is the only place I feel a complete sense of acceptance and inclusivity, and I don't know where I'd be right now without it.

**Mason McClintock
State 4-H President, Bacon County**



While Georgia 4-H is providing interesting yet challenging programming to help young people realize their potential, we must continue to strive to reach more youth in our state who need the resources of 4-H more today than ever before.

**AGAIN, WE THANK OUR DONORS,
VOLUNTEERS, AND STAFF FOR THE EXCELLENT
SUPPORT THEY PROVIDE TO HELP US
CONTINUE TO LIVE UP TO THE 4-H MOTTO
"TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER."**

MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 177,043*

SCHOOL AGE

Elementary 66.70%
Middle & High
School 33.30%



DIVERSITY

White 53.49%
Black 26.62%
Unknown 13.84%
More than one race 2.46%
Asian 2.39%
American Indian .98%
Pacific Islander .22%

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA 4-H PROGRAM

The largest youth leadership organization in the state

PARTICIPANTS

4-H Center Users 93,450
Environmental Education 42,752
Fort Valley 9,970
Home School 1,949
Military Dependent 8,552
Residential Summer Camp 9,430

GENDER

Male 49% Female 51%



IN-SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS



4-H Project Achievement 86,420
Civic Engagement 36,629
Financial Literacy 5,390
Your Money Your Future 4,702
Healthy Living 47,838
Language Arts/Communications 40,970
Leadership 41,412
Science, Engineering or Technology 42,236
Agricultural Science 54,606
Robotics 6,223

ETHNICITY

Hispanic 7.87%
Non-Hispanic 92.13%



4-H CLUB MEETING LOCATIONS

Held during school at school facility 79.6%
Held after school at school facility 2.3%
Held away from school facility 18.1%

RESIDENCE

Central City 7.59%
Urban/Suburban 14.52%
Towns & Small Cities 34.09%
Rural Non-Farm 41.06%
Farm 2.74%

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

4-H Project Achievement 28,786
Civic Engagement 17,403
Financial Literacy 4,560
Your Money Your Future 1,619
Healthy Living 21,139
Language Arts/Communications 19,850
Leadership 19,351
Science, Engineering or Technology 17,815
Agricultural Science 20,370
Robotics 4,246

FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA

4-H CENTERS

BY MELANIE BIERSMITH



AVAILABLE ACROSS THE STATE FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA, THE GEORGIA 4-H FACILITIES PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN FOR A VARIETY OF YOUTH AND ADULT GROUPS SEEKING CONFERENCE SPACES, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, AND RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN A DAY OR RESIDENTIAL SETTING. COLLECTIVELY, THE 4-H FACILITIES SERVED OVER 100,000 GUESTS IN THE LAST YEAR.

The five residential centers offer lodging, meeting spaces, dining halls, and programs that meet every group's specific needs. The day use facility, 4-H Tidelands Nature Center located on Jekyll Island, is open to the public and provides a unique opportunity for island visitors to learn more about the local ecosystem. True to our motto, "to make the best better," we are always looking to improve our facilities. For example, in the last year, each facility has seen some sort of change or update.

At Wahsega 4-H Center, more progress was made on the master plan. The master plan includes adding restrooms and private adult accommodations to the youth cabins. The plan also includes a new dining hall, a fire access road, and a pool. The estimated need is \$12.5 million to complete the Wahsega master plan improvements.

At Fortson 4-H Center, new roofs were installed on the dining hall and office building. Additionally, plans were finalized for work to begin in the coming year to improve the septic system and enhance fire protection in several buildings. Plans are also in the works to add an additional classroom to the Little Red Schoolhouse. The estimated need to complete the Schoolhouse addition is \$400,000.

At Rock Eagle 4-H Center, work progressed on the Bankers building renovation and another five cabins are under construction bringing the total number of new cabins to 39. Approximately \$12 million is needed to replace the 15 remaining cabins. The removal of trees, new lighting, and regrading of the site with installation of new turf and an irrigation system improved the Thursday night pageant experience for campers and guests using the Cecil E. Johnson Amphitheater.

When Hurricane Irma passed through Chatham County in September 2017, Burton 4-H Center sustained significant damage. Closing for approximately two months to make necessary repairs, 31 total groups were displaced which impacted over 1,900 visitors and over \$181,000 in potential lost revenue. The staff at Burton worked closely with displaced groups and 87% of the groups were able to be rescheduled either at Burton (once it reopened) or at another 4-H Center, retaining \$157,000 of the \$181,000 in potential lost revenue to support operations. In addition to new flooring, sheetrock, and other flood related repairs, Burton 4-H Center also completed a previously planned project unrelated to the hurricane to renovate an existing building. The Biltmore building was transformed into a modern, comfortable, and climate controlled classroom and the addition of a room for housing educational animals.

Camp Jekyll operated its first complete year since reopening in the new facilities and served over 13,000 guests. While the facilities are still new, and need relatively little updating, improvements to landscaping, classrooms, and equipment are on-going.

Finally, 4-H Tidelands Nature Center finalized plans to update the exterior siding, doors, and windows as well as some interior improvements to include HVAC and restroom upgrades.

JENNA WILLIAMS BLACK

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Georgia 4-H is a strong program because of the service and work of thousands of volunteers. The Georgia 4-H Advisory Committee, comprised of 50 volunteers, serves as a key component to the success of our state's 4-H program. Advocacy, service, and astute advice are qualities the Advisory Committee offers in their role as "advisors" to the professional 4-H program staff. Since its inception in 1946, the committee has taken a dynamic role in communicating the value and accomplishments of Georgia 4-H.

The Georgia 4-H Advisory Committee has benefited from outstanding leaders who devote tremendous time and effort to lead the committee. Past chairs include 4-H supporters like former Monroe County Assistant Superintendent, Priscilla Doster; Gale Cutler, senior public relations coordinator for Georgia Electric Membership Corporation; and Dennis Duncan, Director of the School of Agriculture at Tennessee Tech. These dedicated professionals attended multiple 4-H events and led their fellow committee members by example.

Jenna Williams Black, Director of the Frasier Center with City Schools of Decatur, joins the group of distinguished past chairs as she completes her term of service. Black has spent the last four years serving the Georgia 4-H Advisory Committee as chair-elect and chair. State 4-H Advisory Liaison Mandy Marable says, "Jenna's passion for youth and Georgia 4-H made for the perfect combination to serve our organization. She is invested in the wellbeing of Georgia's youth as evidenced by her life's work, and she kindles within others a desire to serve and invest in the future of Georgia through the 4-H program. As chair, her goal was to raise awareness of our presence throughout the state; she has led us as we traveled to 4-H centers, experienced Agri-tourism, and connected with partners exposing members to the depth, breadth, and reach of Georgia 4-H. We are indebted to Jenna Black for sharing her gifts and talents as she has 'Made the Best Better' through her leadership and service.

GEORGIA 4-H AND AT&T

PARTNER

TO PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING FOR SENIORS

GEORGIA 4-H EMPOWERS YOUTH TO BECOME SELF-DIRECTING, PRODUCTIVE AND CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY BY PARTNERING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, LIKE AT&T, TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY AWARENESS THROUGH YOUTH AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS, LIKE DIGITAL YOU

To help boost internet acceptance, AT&T and Georgia 4-H offered technology training at several senior centers across the state. Georgia 4-H Technology Team members use AT&T's Digital You curriculum to teach senior adults to use handheld devices to safely access and navigate the internet. Local 4-H'ers supplement the training with one-on-one hands-on instruction. The program provides an opportunity for 4-H'ers to enhance

their leadership and interpersonal skills while seniors increase their understanding of technology.

"The technology program enables dedicated students to engage and inform Georgia seniors on the many benefits of digital literacy and helps boost statewide internet adoption rates" (AT&T).

FIRST ANNUAL \$4 FOR 4-H DAY

Georgia 4-H hosted its first annual \$4 for 4-H, a day of celebration and giving back on April 4, 2018, from 12AM to 11:59 PM! The event was an inspiration of Brandie Rucks Park, Georgia 4-H Foundation Vice President and Chair for Development, and Julie Mills Lucas, Georgia 4-H Foundation Trustee.

The giving day encouraged individuals to support Georgia 4-H via gifts in \$4 increments, such as \$4, \$40, etc. Donations surpassed the original goal of \$4,000 to a total of \$13,000 from 386 people, resulting in 'sliming' Arch Smith, Georgia State 4-H Leader and Director of 4-H.

In 2019, there will be an exciting addition to the day! Donors will be able to designate part of their gift to support the county of their choosing. Each county will receive 50% of every gift made online via the Georgia 4-H Foundation website.

We hope you will mark your calendars and not only support Georgia 4-H financially but share your enthusiasm via social media. Encourage others to give on April 4th by sharing your reason for supporting the program as well as ways in which Georgia 4-H has impacted you significantly.

Our 2019 fundraising goal is to have all 159 county 4-H programs in Georgia receive designated support through this initiative.



State 4-H Leader, Arch Smith, was slimed at State Council for surpassing the original goal of \$4,000 raised on \$4 for 4-H Day.





TWILIGHT ON THE LAKE 2018:

"WE'VE GROWN UP, BUT NOT APART!"

Twilight chairs Tonya Woody and Danetta Hardy, along with their energetic committee, took the 4-H motto Make the Best Better to heart when planning and orchestrating this year's alumni reunion. More than 300 participants – including children and those with great-grandchildren – traveled to Rock Eagle for a full day and night at 'camp.' Activities abounded for the young and young at heart, including a tribal competition, a "star" studded Variety Show hosted by none other than Cher (aka Miss Gerrye), a delicious buffet at the Georgia EMC pavilion, and after-dinner dancing with tunes being spun from the decades. A special tour of the Rock Eagle mound was also featured led by Ina Cook Hopkins along with a reading from her book, "Rock Eagle: Centerpiece of Georgia 4-H" during the course of the event.

With old friends reconnecting with one another and new connections being made, the 24 hours passed as quickly as they did at camp when we were kids. As the families pulled away on Sunday morning, traveling to the four corners of the state and beyond, it was almost like we were back on one of those big, yellow school buses anxiously waiting for the next time our special alumni friends would be able to gather together again.



AMERICORPS & GEORGIA 4-H

BY JENNIFER CANTWELL

GEORGIA 4-H IS ONCE AGAIN THE PROUD RECIPIENT OF TWO AMERICORPS GRANTS: VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA (VISTA) AND AMERICORPS STATE.

VISTA was founded in 1965 as a national service program designed to fight poverty in America. The AmeriCorps State program, founded in 1993, supports a wide variety of local service programs that address critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. Both programs are funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Funding for the AmeriCorps State program is administered by the Georgia Commission on Service and Volunteerism (GCSV), housed in the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

VISTA members help build the internal capacity of Georgia 4-H through volunteer development, fundraising, social marketing, and more. Since 2010, 55 Georgia 4-H VISTAs have raised more than \$539,000 in cash resources, developed more than \$61,000 in noncash resources, produced more than 1,500 marketing pieces, and recruited more than 1,440 volunteers.

In the eighth year of funding, Georgia 4-H continues to be the recipient of the largest AmeriCorps State grant award in Georgia. AmeriCorps State members deliver 4-H positive youth development programming directly to youth in support of the mission of Georgia 4-H. Since 2012, 146 full-time and 41 half-time members have contributed more than 248,000 hours of service, reached approximately 113,200 students through in-school programming, more than 73,200 students through Project Achievement, and recruited 1,490 volunteers who have contributed nearly 4,950 hours.

In addition to serving youth, the AmeriCorps State grant demonstrates impact through the collection and analysis of survey data. The following outcomes were reported for the 2017-2018 program year:

4-H CLUB MEETINGS

80 percent of students demonstrated knowledge of content presented.

4-H PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT

88 percent of students demonstrated knowledge of best practices in public speaking.

89 percent indicated confidence in or showed an increase in confidence in public speaking.

The Georgia Association of 4-H Agents (GAE4-HA), the professional development association of Georgia 4-H, recognizes faculty, staff, and community partners for their contributions. This year the association created an award category to recognize AmeriCorps State and VISTA members, illustrating the recognized value of AmeriCorps State members and VISTAs.

Members are nominated by their site supervisor, and submissions are judged by a committee of Extension professionals. The nominator describes how the member excelled in his or her responsibilities with 4-H Core programming, contributions outside of core programming, significant leadership responsibilities within 4-H programming and the community, as well as any other awards or accomplishments.

A winner for each district and a state winner were selected. Below is a description of the four AmeriCorps State members and one VISTA that received the "Outstanding AmeriCorps/VISTA" at the state meeting in April 2018.

Northwest District & State Winner: Katherine Delp

Katherine Delp served as an AmeriCorps State Member in Fulton County. She is passionate about working with adolescents to promote their development, life skills, health, and nutrition, as well as working to better the community. Katherine recently

graduated from Georgia Southern University with a degree in Childhood and Family Development.

Northeast District Winner: Brittany Jade Andrews

Jade Andrews began as the AmeriCorps Member in Oglethorpe County in September 2016. Jade quickly learned about 4-H; as she learned the program and what 4-H has to offer, Jade's responsibilities have increased. Nominator Marcus Eason writes, "I am very impressed with her work ethic, her drive to better herself, and willingness to go above and beyond for the kids."

Southeast District Winner: Chalanda Woods

Chalanda Woods served as a volunteer leader many years before becoming an AmeriCorps Member. She hit the ground running in recruiting new 4-H members to participate in Project Achievement as well as other 4-H events. She is always looking for ways to inspire students to succeed in projects.

Southwest District Winner: Samantha Price

Samantha Price served as the Peach County 4-H AmeriCorps member for two years. During her service, she was instrumental to the program as her dedication and continuous efforts led to increased participation in judging programs, Project Achievement, day camps, in-school curriculum taught, and volunteer recruitment. After serving Peach County, Samantha is now a Houston County 4-H Agent.

VISTA Winner: Natalie Bock

Natalie began her career with UGA Extension as an intern in Camden County before becoming an AmeriCorps VISTA for the state office with a focus on volunteer development. After her year of service, Natalie continues her work for Georgia 4-H as a Program Specialist II.



L to R – Natalie Bock (State Office VISTA, Cheryl Poppell, GAE4-HA President)



L to R – Brittany Jade Andrews (Oglethorpe County – NE District), Chalanda Woods (Coffee County – SE District), Jennifer Cantwell (Program Coordinator), Samantha Price (Peach County – SW District), and Katherine Delp (Fulton County – NW District and State winner).

2018 VOLUNTEERS BY THE NUMBERS

5,623 volunteers served
170,637 hours contributing to
\$6,205,436 worth of service

Volunteers throughout Georgia support our mission of assisting youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing citizens.

**Will you consider making a
difference in the life of a
Georgia 4-H'er?**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Mentor a student participating in Project Achievement
- Lead a community or special interest club
- Coach a S.A.F.E. Shooting Sports Team
- Judge Project Achievement
- Chaperone at camps and conferences
- Coach a judging team

Contact your local Extension office to learn more about the specific need in your county.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

DAVID JONES, MODELING DYNAMIC VOLUNTEERISM FOR GEORGIA'S YOUTH

BY KERI HOBBS AND NATALIE BOCK

As a 5th grader in Elbert County, David Jones joined 4-H, and shortly thereafter became a member of the first cast of Georgia 4-H Clovers & Co. with "Arthur," his puppet sidekick. As a clogger, ventriloquist, and singer, 10-year old David not only made his place as a valued member of the cast but also became fast friends with his peers. Alison Hutcheson remembers, at the age of 12, meeting David at the very first Clovers & Co. rehearsal. Alison and David saw great role models in their parents, who served the group by assisting with meals and supporting costuming – all while chaperoning the youth!

David remained an active cast member for the next eight years. Upon high school graduation, he served as a 4-H camp counselor; his enthusiasm for Clovers & Co. never wavered. Following his parents' example of volunteerism, upon graduation, David continued to serve with the group. He then moved into the role of Co-Director of the performing arts group as the group presented, "We Hold the Future." Little did he know just how much of the show's future he held!

His experience through the years equipped him to make a dynamic impact on the program, where he has been involved in every show! Alongside fellow volunteers, their continued dedication has been instrumental in making this 4-H performing arts group nationally renowned.

"David Jones is at the very heart of the success of this program. He has helped guide the program for the past 20 years or more. He brings his great music mind and showmanship talent to the stage and gives all he has to help kids grow and learn," noted by Dr. Bo Ryles, retired Georgia 4-H State Leader and a current director at National 4-H Council.

Jones has contributed many fond memories for peers while also impacting numerous youth over each of the past 38 years! One of those youth was Carole Bufford, a Lincoln County Clovers & Co. alumnus, who is currently a highly sought after cabaret and jazz singer in New York City.

Bufford notes, "I first met David when I was in the 7th grade...For the remainder of my years in middle and high school, his kind

and friendly face was a constant. To volunteer his time so readily and so frequently speaks to his incredible character. He has a keen sense of humor. He's as smart as a whip. And when I think of David Jones, the first image that comes to my mind is that fabulous, irresistibly infectious smile."

David's dedication to 4-H, and especially Clovers & Co., has definitely been a key factor in making the group what it is today. Cheryl Varnadoe, retired Extension 4-H Specialist, notes that he not only brings vocal, instrumental, narrative, and choreographic expertise, but most importantly mentors youth to become their best selves. Through music and laughter, David's legacy echoes across the generations through the voices of Georgia's youth. Georgia 4-H is thankful for the passion and dedication of volunteers, like David Jones.



Dr. Bo Ryles reminisces, "I will forever remember the fall day years ago when he and I stood side by side at pianos on a stage with Jennifer Nettles. As we warmed up, Jennifer smiled and put her hands on her hips and said, 'ok boys, none of this dueling piano thing today. Remember you are accompanying me.' That was 20 years ago, and recently, the three of us shared a hug backstage as Jennifer finished a 57 show tour. Like the song says, 'You Can't Make Old Friends.'"



4-H SALUTES VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE

BY KERI HOBBS

KRIS KHLIFI NAMED OUTSTANDING LIFETIME VOLUNTEER

Kris Khlifi has been an essential part of the Columbia County 4-H program for 25 years. Annually, she supports 4-H project achievement, summer camp, Fall Forum, Junior Conference, and State Council; picks up pop tabs; chaperones at officer's training; supports 4-H Fun Night; and assists with Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging.

Kris visits the Extension office several times a week where she enters enrollment forms, answers the phone, picks up supplies, bakes cupcakes for club meetings, organizes and prints materials...the list goes on. In addition, she annually shares program successes through presentations at the Volunteer Conference of Southern States.

Kris serves as in-school club leader. Her classes continually lead in pop tab collection, Salvation Army donations, and fundraising efforts! Recently, she started a new (and very successful) 25-member 4-H Craft Club! Kris is always thinking outside of the box to Make the Best Better for the Columbia County 4-H program. The Columbia County 4-H office is forever grateful for her hard work and friendship.

CISCO DAMONS NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Cisco Damons primarily serves in Gwinnett County but has also assisted with Barrow, Cherokee, Northwest District, Georgia 4-H, or wherever needed. He has dedicated nine years of service to Georgia's young people.

Collectively serving 1,520 hours over 19 weeks of camp, Cisco has chaperoned Cloverleaf, Senior, and Junior Camps for the past nine years with Gwinnett and several other counties. He is held in high regard and often called on by other leaders to attend state camps or activities as a chaperone.

He serves as a leader at almost every Gwinnett County 4-H event; annually, he dedicates approximately 305 hours chaperoning county programs and 298 hours chaperoning other district and state events— programs include Fall Forum, State Council, Gwinnett County's award trip, and District Project Achievements.

Monthly, he assists with county council for Juniors and Seniors— totaling 156 meetings and 312 hours of time. In addition, he cuts program costs by driving buses and vans for 4-H—totaling 506 hours and saving \$7,084 per year. Volunteer of the Year Cisco Damons has assisted with raising more than \$15,000!





4-H LIFE 101 CONFERENCES

**EVEN WHEN YOU ATTEMPT TO MAKE GOALS FOR THE FUTURE,
LIFE CAN HAPPEN. MANY STUDENTS ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH THE FUTURE
OR EVEN AWARE OF WHAT LIFE EVENTS MAY TRANSPIRE.**

4-H agents, Kris Peavy from Randolph County and Kandi Edwards from Whitfield County, wanted 4-H'ers to have memorable financial literacy "know-how" presentations in a collegiate environment to prepare them for "life." Eighty middle school 4-H'ers from Georgia and two middle school 4-H'ers from Florida attended the Life 101 Conferences targeting 6th - 8th graders that were held at Dalton State College in Whitfield County and Andrew College in Randolph County. Participants received a taste of college life while learning about financial life.

It literally took an Extension village to make these 4-H events happen. Dr. Laura Perry Johnson, Associate Dean for Extension, awarded an Innovative Grant to Randolph and Whitfield County 4-H agents to support two financial literacy college conferences. Extension Financial Management Specialist Michael Rupured, Northwest Program Development Coordinator Dr. Lori Bledsoe, and Southwest Program Development Coordinator Melinda Miller provided guidance and support throughout the development of these conferences. The financial literacy classes covered

basic financial topics and were comprised of experiential learning activities facilitated by attending 4-H and FACS agents, 4-H program assistants, AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA staff, 4-H certified adult volunteers and teen leaders, as well as representatives from community banks.

While the conferences were not exact replications of each other, the basic structures and topics addressed were uniform in design. 4-H'ers created a "Piggy Bank" as a part of their registration fee to be entered in a "Piggy Bank" contest. Winners were awarded prize



money donated by the local banks and presented by their representatives. At each conference, students were given tickets at registration that were entered into a 4-H Junior Conference "free registration" give away. Two winning 4-H'ers were selected to attend 4-H Junior Conference in 2018. In true 4-H fashion, supplies were provided for the 4-H'ers to participate in a community service project and a healthy lifestyle component was scheduled at both conferences. Students from each college hosted campus tours.

The conferences engaged 4-H'ers in an interactive financial timeline demonstration and as game show contestants in The Price is Right, or Is It? and Career Jeopardy Trivia. 4-H'ers learned the cost of commonly used "life" items and the salaries earned in variety of professions. Students attended a variety of financial literacy Life 101 classes: budgeting and financial goals, consumer spending, interest, debit and credit cards, checking and savings accounts, career and college preparation, and the importance of workplace soft skills and the value of leadership smarts. In addition, Life 101 simulations were conducted at both conferences as well.

Financial knowledge and practices surveys taken by participating 4-H'ers indicated a positive increase in knowledge and a positive commitment to use positive financial behaviors sometimes or most of the time. 4-H'ers also expressed excitement for future Life 101 events and appreciation for becoming financially literate: "I learned a lot!; A great experience!; It was so much fun and an awesome learning experience!; This camp was very educational.; I feel like I understand college much better!; This is so much fun! Can we stay all week?"





PHOTO BY Andrea Abney

GEORGIA MyPI

(MY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE)

BY KERI HOBBS

GEORGIA 4-H OFFERED A THREE-TIME NATIONAL AWARD WINNING YOUTH PREPAREDNESS, LEADERSHIP, AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM KNOWN AS MyPI (MY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE) FOR TEENS. TEN FACULTY/STAFF AND SEVEN VOLUNTEERS COMPLETED AN INTENSIVE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION AT ROCK EAGLE 4-H CENTER TO LEAD MyPI IN EIGHT COUNTIES ACROSS GEORGIA; THEY ALSO COMMITTED TO TRAINING IN THE 2018 CALENDAR YEAR 125 YOUTH FOR DISASTER AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE READINESS.

According to Gordon County 4-H Agent Allie Griner, instructor of Georgia 4-H's inaugural class of MyPI in Calhoun, GA, "MyPI Georgia is a program that taps into the leadership potential of youth by delivering an innovative and engaging outreach model to teens across Georgia to help them better prepare and respond to emergencies that affect their families and communities. In addition, the unique service component, PREP + 6 allows each student to assist seven total households with the development of emergency supply kits and family communication plans. In essence, the initial 125 graduates of MyPI Georgia will

have a direct impact on community preparedness by actively assisting 875 households in the initial 8 counties to create supply kits and communication plans."

Highly qualified 4-H volunteers joined the youth instructor team – with professional credentials including, but not limited to, public safety, community development, and emergency/disaster response. MyPI Georgia is a component of the National Youth Preparedness Initiative (MyPI National), a partnership of 27 states and 2 US territories, and is funded through USDA NIFA.



HEALTH ROCKS!® FOR BETTER LIVING

BY ELYSE DANIEL AND COURTNEY BROWN

**"I PLEDGE MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING. MY HEART TO GREATER LOYALTY,
MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE, AND MY HEALTH TO BETTER LIVING,
FOR MY CLUB, MY COMMUNITY, MY COUNTRY, AND MY WORLD."**

At every club meeting and 4-H event, these words echo as 4-H'ers commit to living a well-rounded lifestyle. "Pledging our health to better living" comes to life at 4-H events and activities through physical exercise, nutritious eating, and keeping our bodies free from harmful substances.

Georgia 4-H is part of Health Rocks!®, a national grant program sponsored by Altria, that addresses the importance of remaining free from the dangerous effects and addiction of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use. Approximately twenty counties throughout our state participate through county grants issued from the Georgia 4-H Foundation to educate our youth about prevention strategies. In addition to those twenty counties, Health Rocks!® workshops are presented at events such as Junior Conference and Fall Forum, thus increasing the outreach of this critical program.

During 2017-18, more than 15,000 Georgia youth participated in activities and events led by 4-H personnel and 4-H teen action leaders and were taught lessons that emphasized healthy choices. In August of this year, training was held for 28 action leaders and 13 volunteers, Extension educators, program assistants, and state staff members. These leaders will be facilitating lessons, events, and activities during 2018-19 that will encourage younger 4-H'ers to make wise choices when it comes to harmful substances and behaviors.

The Health Rocks!® curriculum not only addresses use of drugs—both legal and illegal—but it also encompasses a healthy mindset through teaching stress management skills and how

to cope with peer pressure. Many of our younger members participate in the "Less Stress on the Test" program, which educates students to deal with test anxiety through healthy management strategies. Actively teaching how to respond to various situations allows 4-H'ers to be equipped to handle stressful situations, whether it is feeling overwhelmed with school, being confronted and pressured by peers to use harmful substances, or being tempted to engage in risky behaviors.

Georgia 4-H'ers are leading the way to promote a healthy lifestyle that includes making the right choices for better living with Health Rocks!®. By promoting prevention strategies and techniques to deal with peer pressure, our youth and their leaders make a difference!



MILITARY TEENS "PACK" SKILLS AT CAMP

BY LAURA GOSS



Have you ever been challenged? Have you looked at a rock wall and thought, "There is no way I can climb that?" Have you sat at your desk in class thinking that you are incapable of understanding algebra? Georgia 4-H teaches perseverance through different outlets, and one outlet is the Georgia 4 H Military Partnership, Teen Leadership Summits. The summits, coordinated by Georgia 4-H Military Partnership, University of Georgia, Department of Defense, and Air Force Child and Youth Programs, challenge participants to climb that rock wall, take a strenuous hike, bravely hold a slithering reptile, connect with peers from across the United States, or independently fly in an airplane. The camp experiences show that life is an adventure and that even when our legs are shaking as we climb the rock wall, we can reach higher than we did before, especially with the encouragement from counselors, adult leaders, and friends.

The Teen Leadership Summits are for military teens whose parents serve in reserve, guard, or active duty in all branches of the military. Georgia 4-H Military Partnership Team coordinated seven camps for military teens, reaching a total of 477 youth. Four summits were at Georgia 4-H centers and one summit was in Colorado; the team also coordinated logistics for two summits in Florida. Georgia 4-H receives two grants to support and coordinate these opportunities. In 2018, 62 youth parents were deployed during camp, 74 youth had parents who had recently returned from a deployment, while 60 youth were preparing for a deployment in the coming six months.

Teens are together at camp for 6-12 days, yet for many it leaves a major impression on their lives. At Camp Jekyll, youth were separated into color crews and challenged daily to complete group exercises that taught them to effectively communicate with others, work in large groups, and lead others. By the end of

the week, youth walked away with several rewarding experiences like witnessing a sea turtle release, learning from the Department of Natural Resources while observing beached manatees, and learning through seining about marine life.

Campers had the opportunity to share their camp experience highlights: at Beach Teen Leadership Summit, a young man said his favorite activity was the dolphin cruise because he saw animals in their natural habitat; another camper at Beach Summit shared that the sea turtle release was the highlight of her year; a camper at Wahsega relished the time of dancing with her friends in the recreation hall; yet another youth shared that participating in leadership activities was very engaging. Finally, one camper who has repeatedly attended camp at Wahsega boasts that it is now her home away from home! The stories and highlights are endless.

Camp provides several educational opportunities, based on four important essential elements. Georgia 4 H ensures that mastery, independence, generosity, and belonging are in all programming and that campers learn these four essential elements throughout the week. Mastery is taught at the climbing wall when a youth reaches the top. Independence starts for some as soon as they hug their parents and navigate the airport to fly to camp. Generosity is seen all around: a camper needs a hug after a rough day, campers encourage one another to hold the reptile, and numerous other times when youth are together. Belonging is shown by campers when they feel the support of the counselor belaying them or when they exchange numbers to stay in touch.

The Teen Leadership summits provide youth the opportunity to master new skills and practice the four essential elements, and they also offer youth the opportunity to connect with other military teens. While participating in camp activities, youth learn from each other, the military volunteers and other outstanding volunteers, the counselors, and the staff. It is common to hear the young people chatting about their roles at home while a parent is deployed or how frequent changes in state residence cause them to repeatedly take a (different) state history. The summits for these teens can be a welcome constant in their ever-changing world.

Last summer, military dependent youth boarded their planes for home with more than dirty socks in their suitcases. They "packed" memories, skills, friendships, and most of all a sense of belonging. Youth will continue to have new challenges, but how they overcome these challenges may be the best lessons in life. There is much to learn from a week at camp!



CAMP COUNSELORS

BURTON 4-H CENTER ON TYBEE ISLAND

Hope Zimmerman,
Leadership
Kira Conaway
Collin Creekmore
Amelia Day
Erin Gilroy
Bailey Handy
Zea Patterson

FORTSON 4-H CENTER

Trevor Barker,
Leadership
Davis Grimsley
Laura Huff
Kayla Imler
Sara Beth Massey
Bryce Phillips
Hannah Rucker

WAHSEGA 4-H CENTER

Madison Rivers,
Leadership
Sam Basso
Jake Conner
Hayden Guthrie
Elise McDonald
Daniel Queen
Zachary Tellano
Marinne Weinberger
Harrison Williams

CAMP JEKYLL

Michael Ashley,
Leadership
Dillon Aschwege
Megan Beckett
Michaela Fontaine
Jacob Freeman
Julianne Jones
Chester McLocklin
Maggie Plott
Ellen Powell

ROCK EAGLE 4-H CENTER LEADERSHIP COUNSELORS

Jared Daniel
Emma Garrison
Ezra Hall
Jordyn James

Jack Jehle
Sarai Mapp
Cody Norris
Sage Royston

Karley Sanders
Emily Waller
Mackenzie Wurst

ROCK EAGLE 4-H CENTER

Jade Allen
Angel Austin
Jamie Babecka
Julie Bacon
Alex Brown
Michaela Brown
Stephanie Busse
Kamia Caldwell
Kelly Carter
Emily Cason
Caitlin Cooper
Audri Crews

Ben Dennis
Rylee Dickinson
Vienna Elmgreen
Christina Gavazzi
Elizabeth Hanson
Andrea Hill
Rian Hill
Logan Huggins
Andrew Hunt
Kyra Johnson
Savannah Kennedy
Anna Morris

Ben Murray
Lora Nedza
Amelia Payne
Lauren Pike
Tyree Pryor
Trevor Queen
Austin Ramsey
Avery Ray
Cara Rhoad
Emily Rittenhouse
Sophia Rodriguez
Kathryn Santos

Kyle Sellers
Tyra Stephens
Britney Surrency
Hamp Thomas
Sarah Thomas
Jacob Townsend
Becca Velasquez
Sam Walters
Cody Whitlock
Micheal Woods
George Wurst
Julia Yearout

BURKE COUNTY 4-H: FIRST IN WILDLIFE AND FORESTRY JUDGING

BY MERIDITH FRANKS AND KATIE BURCH



Burke County 4-H has a rich history of forestry judging thanks to the leadership of past agents and volunteers. Burke County sought new coaches in 2017 and hit a double. Katie Burch, new ANR Agent, had a history with forestry competition through

FFA and wanted to give 4-H Forestry judging a try. Katie recruited her dad, retired ag teacher Argene Claxton, and the two attended the certified coaches' training at State Council. This great father-daughter team spent many days collecting specimens, asking questions about the contest, and preparing their team to do its best. After many months of practicing and studying, the Burke County team placed first at the area contest. The team was a little anxious heading into the state contest. After hours of travel, anticipation and competition, the results were in: Burke County would represent Georgia 4-H at the National Forestry Invitational in West Virginia!

Burke County was thrilled to gain four new Master 4-H'ers, but two of these forestry winners, Hannah Eckerman and Morgan Brantley, were focused on doing their best in the next 4-H opportunity- Wildlife Judging.

In three short weeks the Wildlife Judging Team coached by husband-wife duo Buck Marchinton and Dr. Dee McKinney headed to Fortson 4-H Center for the state wildlife contest. Buck has been the coach since the start of the team in 2012 and is a local wildlife biologist. Dee is a professor at a local university. The coaches knew the team had been diligent in studying and preparing for the competition, but they had no idea what was to come next. By the end of the day, Burke County had another state winning team!

After that whirlwind, a long wait for the national contests followed. The Burke County youth participated in the National Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) competition in Winter Harbor Maine from July 22-25. The team placed 6th overall. Back in Georgia, they were recognized at the Annual Awards Banquet at State Congress on Thursday, July 26, and had only a short time to repack and travel to the National 4-H Forestry Invitational in West Virginia that began on Sunday!

The pace slowed in the beautiful mountains of Weston, West Virginia. The Burke County team finished sixth. Hannah placed sixth individually and had a perfect score in topography while Morgan Brantley had a perfect score in forest health. Everyone agreed the hustle to do it all in July/August 2018 was worth it!



STATE BOARD 2018

FRONT LEFT TO RIGHT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE: ERICKA LORD / BEN HILL CO.
SW DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE: LINDSEY KATE STEEDLEY / CLINCH CO.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE: EVIE WOODWARD / COFFEE CO.
VICE PRESIDENT: ANGEL AUSTIN / BEN HILL CO.

MIDDLE LEFT TO RIGHT

NE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE: DONOVAN NELSON / MORGAN CO.
PRESIDENT: MASON MCCLINTOCK / BACON CO.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE: BRONSON CHAMPION / CHATTOOGA CO.

BACK LEFT TO RIGHT

NW DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE: CODY WHITLOCK / COWETA CO.
SE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE: ZACHARY HOLICK / CHATHAM CO.

WASHINGTON, D.C. INTERNSHIP

In August, Georgia 4-H'er Bailey Dickinson moved to Washington D.C. to start his internship with Senator Johnny Isakson. Dickinson is a Political Science Major who is also involved in an Applied Politics Certificate Program at the University of Georgia. As part of his major and certificate program, Dickinson was required to have an internship. He chose to be a Legislative intern where his focus was on Agriculture, Education, Judiciary and FEMA.

While there, Dickinson found that D.C. is much more than just a government town. "I value the chance I had to learn of the opportunities that exist in the city in any area that you could dream of. I met people in every field imaginable," Dickinson said.

Dickinson was able to meet with interest groups and lobbyists while there. He is thankful for 4-H and the skills he gained that helped him thrive while in D.C. "4-H teaches you how to communicate with peers in real-world situations as well as teaches how to build connections," Dickinson said.

Before interning in D.C. Dickinson worked from May-August for National 4-H Council.



DISTRICT BOARD 2018

District Senior Board Members 2017-2018

NORTHEAST DISTRICT OFFICERS

Bo Wheeler – President – Stephens County
George Moore – Vice President – Stephens County
Humayra Bramblett – Board Member – Athens-Clarke County
Kamia Caldwell – Board Member – Athens-Clarke County
Erik Frye – Board Member – Hart County
Reed Smith – Board Member – Oconee County
Kara Starr – Board Member – Dawson County
Emma Wurst – Board Member – Columbia County

NORTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICERS

Avery Ray – President – Gwinnett County
Lily Thibodeaux – Vice President – Chattooga County
Dawson Babischkin – Board Member – Henry County
Angel Brooks – Board Member – Rockdale County
Madison Clemente – Board Member – Paulding County
Lavendar Harris – Board Member – Newton County
J.D. Paige – Board Member – Bartow County
Sam Tidd – Board Member – Cherokee County

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT OFFICERS

Andy Martin – President – Emanuel County
TK McIver – Vice President – Coffee County
Tripp Carter – Board Member – Burke County
Willie Spence – Board Member – Coffee County
Caleb Moseley – Board Member – Bleckley County
Joshua Morris – Board Member – Chatham County
Tyra Stephens – Board Member – Washington County
Roberto Estrada – Board Member – Tattnall County

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICERS

Jordan Daniels – President – Tift County
John Henry Walker – Vice President – Cook County
Tandria Burke – Board Member – Dougherty County
Kystyn Lundy – Board Member – Seminole County
Brian Odom – Board Member – Thomas County
Tyree Pryor – Board Member – Ben Hill County
Hannah Vickers – Board Member – Berrien County
Flint White – Board Member – Lee County



RETIRED

CHERYL VARNADOE

Cheryl Varnadoe began working with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension office in July 1984 as the Muscogee County 4-H Agent. She held that position until May of 1994 when she became the Northwest District 4-H Program Development Coordinator. In June 1999, she became a State 4-H Specialist focusing on the healthy living program. After 34 wonderful years of service, Cheryl retired.

Since retirement, Cheryl has accepted a new position with the National Consumers League as the National LifeSmarts Marketing and Outreach Coordinator. In this position, she still collaborates with Georgia 4-H often as well as established a national partnership with 4-H.



***Pictured: Arch Smith, Georgia State 4-H Leader and Director of 4-H, Cheryl Varnadoe, and Laura Perry Johnson, Associate Dean for University of Georgia Cooperative Extension**

MEMORIALS

HAROLD DARDEN

1920-2018



Mr. Harold Darden, Georgia Associate State 4-H Leader Emeritus. He was asked to join the 4-H staff after the summer of 1955 and retired in 1975.

He leaves a strong legacy of service to Georgia 4-H and is recognized as one of the eighteen founders of Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Mr. Darden helped develop the camping program for Georgia 4-H, and he wrote the Citizenship

Ceremony that has been used since 1959 at Georgia 4-H State Council. In 2010, he was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame, and in 2013 he was awarded the Georgia 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award.

MARIAN FISHER

1923-2018



**Served in Georgia
State 4-H Staff**

Marian Fisher served as a Georgia 4-H Agent in Walton, Columbia, Richmond, and Fulton counties.

She was involved in the Rock Eagle 4-H Center Camping Program in the late 1950s.

Marian also served as the Northeast District 4-H Agent before her retirement in 1979.



GREEN JACKET AWARD

SENATOR JACK HILL

Senator Jack Hill of Reidsville, Georgia was presented with the highest honor granted by Georgia 4-H – the Green Jacket Award. "Throughout his [Senator Hill] years of service in the Senate, he has pushed for and obtained financial support for Extension and 4-H programming not only during the robust budget years but during lean budget years as well," said Judge Kathy Palmer, a constituent of Senator Hill.

Senator Hill represents the Georgia 4th District and was re-elected in 2016 to his 14th two-year term. He is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, vice chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, and also serves on the Natural Resources and the Environment and Regulated Industries and Utilities committees as well as being an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee.

"IT HAS BEEN A REAL HONOR AND A REAL PRIVILEGE TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP OUR PROGRAMS AND OUR FACILITIES AROUND THE STATE. I CONSIDER IT A GREAT INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE, PROBABLY THE ONE WHERE WE GET OUR GREATEST RETURN FOR ANY DOLLAR WE SPEND."

– JACK HILL

Terry England, the 2014 Green Jacket Award honoree, also supports Senator Hill for the Green Jacket Award. "Jack Hill has been a tireless advocate for Georgia's youth...even during the depths of the Great Recession, he looked for ways to lessen proposed cuts to 4-H and still manage to balance the state budget, as required by our State Constitution. Senator Jack Hill is very deserving of the coveted honor of the Green Jacket Award."



THE GREEN JACKET AWARD, ESTABLISHED IN 2008, RECOGNIZES INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING STATEWIDE SUPPORT OF GEORGIA 4-H AND IS PRESENTED ANNUALLY ON BEHALF OF GEORGIA 4-H ALUMNI, DONORS, VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS.

2017

Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black

2016

State Representative Tom McCall, chairman of the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee

2015

President/CEO of Georgia Electric Membership Corporation Paul Wood

2014

State Representative Terry England, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee

2013

Governor Nathan Deal

2012

Board of Regents Chancellor Hank Huckaby

2011

State Speaker of the House David Ralston

2010

Georgia 4-H Foundation Board Trustee
Randy Nuckolls

2009

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Commissioner Mike Beatty

2008

Governor Sonny Perdue

Position at time of award

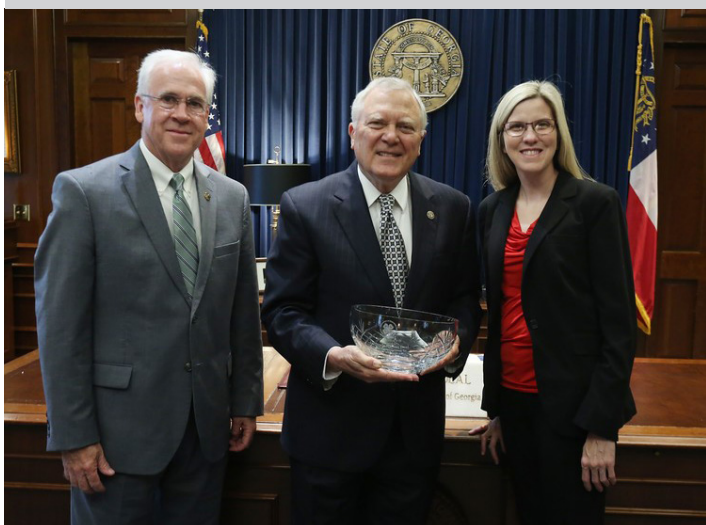
WILLIAM H. BOOTH AWARD KATE WHITING

"I TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN HELPING CHILDREN UNDERSTAND THAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS UNACHIEVABLE, BY SHOWING THEM HOW EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. I VIEW EVERY DAY, WITH EVERY CHILD, MY RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP THEM LEARN, GROW AND GAIN CONFIDENCE; TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE ONLY BARRIERS TO THEIR SUCCESS ARE OBSTACLES THEY ALLOW TO STAND IN THEIR WAY. I BELIEVE NOTHING IS MORE CHALLENGING, REWARDING, HEARTBREAKING OR EXCITING THAN SEEING ALL YOUTH, REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCE, THROUGH THE PROCESS OF SELF-REALIZATION AND PERSONAL SUCCESS, AS THEY ACHIEVE WHAT THEY ONCE PERCEIVED AS THE UNACHIEVABLE."



FRIEND OF 4-H AWARD GOV. NATHAN DEAL

"AS A FORMER MEMBER OF 4-H, I APPRECIATE THE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDED TO EACH OF YOU THROUGH THIS PROGRAM. TODAY, 4-H IS OUR STATE'S LARGEST YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WITH MORE THAN 174,000 MEMBERS PREPARING STUDENTS TO JOIN THE WORKFORCE AND CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITIES ALL ACROSS OUR STATE. 4-H HELPS TO MAKE GEORGIA THE BEST PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND TO CALL HOME."



RYLES RISING STAR AWARD KARI MATELING

THE RYLES RISING STAR AWARD RECOGNIZES AN OUTSTANDING 4-H STAFF MEMBER WHO, DURING THEIR FIRST FIVE YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT, HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUCCESS OF 4-H. THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT WAS KARI MATELING.

KARI GREW UP IN 4-H, BUT NEVER CONSIDERED IT A CAREER CHOICE AFTER GRADUATION. NOW, SHE IS ELATED TO HAVE FOUND HER PASSION AND CALLING AS THE EXTENSION 4-H BIBB COUNTY AGENT. AFTER LESS THAN THREE YEARS, SHE IS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY HER PEERS AND OFTEN CALLED UPON AS A MENTOR.



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION AWARD

LIBERTY CO. | SOPHIA RODRIGUEZ

BY TENISHA BELL



SOPHIA RODRIGUEZ, A HINESVILLE, GEORGIA, 4-H MEMBER, HAS BEEN AWARDED THE NATIONAL 2018 4-H YOUTH IN ACTION HEALTHY LIVING PILLAR AWARD. RODRIGUEZ RECEIVED THE AWARD FOR HER EFFORT TO PROMOTE THE EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN IN MILITARY FAMILIES THROUGH HER TIE DYE FOR TROOPS PROGRAM.



Rodriguez was recognized at the National 4-H Council Legacy Awards in Washington, D.C., in February 2018.

Created by Rodriguez, the Tie Dye for Troops program has served more than 500 children of military families at Fort Stewart, the largest U.S. Army installation east of the Mississippi River. She received a \$5,000 college

scholarship and served as spokesperson for national 4-H healthy living programming.

Rodriguez's father returned home with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after six years of service in the Army. Her personal and family journey to overcome the challenges of her father's PTSD inspired her. Through her experience, she came to see emotional wellness as an important part of healthy living.

"Because I didn't know about PTSD, I didn't understand what my dad was experiencing and I often felt isolated and confused," said Rodriguez, a fifth-year 4-H member and former Georgia 4-H State Board vice president. "I didn't know how to talk about it, but after counseling, I learned it is important to express your feelings, and that sometimes it's OK to not be OK."

Rodriguez's Tie Dye for Troops program uses a tie-dye craft project, a lesson plan and a comic book that she wrote to facilitate an open dialogue in which youths can explore and express their emotions. Rodriguez and fellow 4-H leaders visit the Fort Stewart School Age Centers each month to teach lessons on the importance of feelings, color and creativity. The Georgia National Guard State Youth Council has also been trained to teach the program.

"We begin with asking kids simple questions they can easily answer, such as, 'Do you like the color green?' And they tell us whether or not they do and why," she said. "Then we transition

into a lesson on why it's OK to feel or think certain ways. We also tie-dye pillowcases. The colors can get messy and chaotic, but with time and patience they can make something beautiful."

Rodriguez tells the students to squeeze their pillow whenever they feel alone. "Because we made them together, I wanted it to serve as a reminder that we're always there for them and that their feelings matter," she said.

Rodriguez said that she loves being a part of something bigger than herself and showing students the importance of taking care of their mental health.

"The lack of awareness of mental health and support for military youth is troubling," she said. "Military children can suffer from a variety of issues that often go undiagnosed. From academic problems to depression, having a parent in the military is challenging, and unfortunately, many students don't have a place where they feel safe to communicate about those challenges"

Kasey Bozeman, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension 4-H agent in Liberty County, said that Rodriguez goes above and beyond to make this program successful.

"Having known Sophia for the past six years, I've seen her leadership skills flourish through her 4-H involvement. This is one of many projects she has led that impacted others. I'm incredibly honored and blessed to know her," Bozeman said.

Rodriguez is also a member of Georgia 4-H's Clovers and Co. performing arts group, a military ambassador and a Health Rocks! ambassador. She also competes in land judging, forestry judging and poultry judging. She plans to attend UGA and hopes to continue her journey with 4-H at the collegiate level.

Rodriguez is one of three other 2018 Youth in Action winners: Cassandra Ivie of Utah, Serena Woodard of Oklahoma and Kyra-Lee Harry of New York.

4-H SPECIALIST

COMPLETES TERM AS NATIONAL 4-H ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

A GEORGIA 4-H EXTENSION SPECIALIST COMPLETED HIS YEAR-LONG TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION 4-H AGENTS (NAE4-HA) AT THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN COLUMBUS, OHIO IN OCTOBER 2018.

Casey D. Mull, extension specialist for military and vulnerable populations, has continued his role on the board of trustees as the immediate past president.

"Representing the 4,000 4-H professionals across the country was an honor and serving with three other Georgians was special," said Mull. "Over the year, we accomplished several goals to advance the profession and achieve our vision of serving as the global leader in building positive youth development professionals."

The association traveled to Rock Eagle 4-H Center for its spring board meeting, providing an opportunity to showcase the centerpiece of facilities in Georgia. During his tenure, Mull stewarded a redesigned process for hosting the association's annual meeting and conference beginning in 2021 and engaged the membership in a transformation of its brand.

Mull served as only the third president from the state of Georgia, joining Peggy Adkins who served in 1990-91 and



Arch Smith, state 4-H leader, Sue Chapman, associate state 4-H leader, Casey D. Mull, president, National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, Laura P. Johnson, associate dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Lori P. Bledsoe who served in 2010-11.

Service in the national arena is not complete for Mull. During a president's three-year term to NAE4-HA, the individual also serves as a representative to the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP). Mull was elected to serve as the president of JCEP in 2019, representing the collective voice of over 10,000 extension professionals connecting Cooperative Extension from the ground up.

"I'm honored to serve the Joint Council of Extension Professionals as president," said Mull. "Interacting with and learning from extension professionals across the country has showcased the unique and innovative programs occurring outside the state that I can assist in bringing them home to serve Georgia's clientele."

Mull completes his term as JCEP president at the end of 2019.

NATIONAL WINNERS



NATIONAL 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS SHOTGUN TEAM:
JOHN FULMER III, AMBUS POWELL, COTY JAMES, AND
DEAN OLIVER FROM WORTH COUNTY.
COACHED BY ANDY OLIVER.



NATIONAL 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS SHOTGUN HIGH INDIVIDUAL:
AMBUS POWELL, WORTH COUNTY



NATIONAL 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS RECURVE ARCHERY HIGH INDIVIDUAL:
JOSEF SCARBORO, FORSYTH COUNTY

STATE PROJECT WINNERS



ARTS AND CRAFTS / HUCK SMITH / RABUN CO.
DONORS / MARIAN FISHER; TED AND GERRY JENKINS

BEEF / SARAH GRACE HUNTER/ BULLOCH CO.
DONOR / JIM WILLIAMSON

COMMUNICATIONS / REBEKAH GLOVER / COBB CO.
DONORS / RANDY AND RUTH DANIEL, JULIA LUCAS, WALTER REEVES

COMPANION AND SPECIALTY ANIMALS / CARLISSA STEWART / BEN HILL CO.
DONORS / TERRY AND CINDY ENGLAND, BILL SELL

COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY / JACOB MYERS /EVANS CO.
DONOR / GEORGIA MASTER 4-H CLUB

DAIRY AND MILK SCIENCE / JENNIFER BRINTON / COWETA CO.
DONORS / HENRY AND JUDY HIBBS, THE FAMILY OF BOBBY GENE MCKISSICK, ANGELA BRODER NEMETH

DAIRY FOODS / ABBY SANTOS / MITCHELL CO.
DONORS / BOB AND LUCY REID

DOG CARE AND TRAINING / ASHLEY JOHNSON / CHATHAM CO.
DONORS / DIANE VAUGHAN AND LYNN RAINEY

ENGINEERING & MECHANICS / CJ HARRIS / NEWTON CO.
DONORS / MIKE AND KAREN GARRETT

ENTOMOLOGY / GUY GOBER / RABUN CO.
DONORS / JODY AND MARLE USRY, GEORGIA PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES / ALEXIS CARMICHAEL / LOWNDES CO.
DONORS / GEORGIA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL, INC.

FAMILY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT / SARAH BETH KERSEY / EMANUEL CO.
DONOR / SARAH L. HUFF FUND

FASHION REVUE / ELIZABETH DAY / HOUSTON CO.
DONOR / GEORGIA MASTER 4-H CLUB

FESTIVE FOODS FOR HEALTH / CHARLIE REID / MITCHELL CO.
DONOR / GEORGIA 4-H FOUNDATION



FLOWERS, SHRUBS AND LAWNS / HADDEN POWELL / BLECKLEY CO.
DONOR / GEORGIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FOOD FARE / CHRISTINE BUDD / HABERSHAM CO.
DONOR / GEORGIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FOOD FOR FITNESS / JOSEPH WATERS / TATTNALL CO.
DONOR / M.K. "CURLY" COOK FAMILY IN MEMORY OF SANDRA B. COOK

FOOD FOR HEALTH AND SPORT / WILL KROYMANN / BRYAN CO.
DONOR / GEORGIA 4-H FOUNDATION

FOOD SAFETY AND PRESERVATION / JOURNEY AUSTINSON / UNION CO.
DONORS / GARY AND RHONDA KEVE, GEORGIA HOMEMAKERS COUNCIL

FOREST RESOURCES AND WOOD SCIENCE / SKYLAR MILLER / UNION CO.
DONORS / BILL LOTT, PAULDING TIMBER PRODUCTS, INC.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS / GEORGE WURST / COLUMBIA CO.
DONOR / MEADOWS-KNOX FAMILY FUND

GENERAL RECREATION / MARINA HERTEN/ EFFINGHAM CO.
DONORS / JERRY AND JANIE GRIFFIN

HEALTH / SOPHIA RODRIGUEZ / LIBERTY CO.
DONORS / PAT BRUSCHINI, LAMAR AND SISSY MARTIN, GREG AND JUDY JONES IN MEMORY OF GEORGIA E. AND VERA H. JONES

HISTORY / KATIE FENNO / CHATHAM CO.
DONORS / JEFFREY BURKE, JARED CRAPPS, APRIL LARRAN, JULIA LUCAS, THE FAMILY OF BETH SCOTT-BROWN IN MEMORY OF DARIUS AND BETTY JO MILLER

HORSE / JULIETTE MCKINLEY / PAULDING CO.
DONORS / PATRICK AND JULIE LUCAS

HOUSING, EQUIPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT / GRACE MILLER / OCONEE CO.
DONORS / GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION 4-H AGENTS

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT / TITHI PATEL / RANDOLPH CO.
DONOR / GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION 4-H AGENTS

INTERNATIONAL / GRACE MCBRIDE / EMANUEL CO.
DONORS / ELEANOR I. SMITH, TONY TYSON AND FAMILY

OUTDOOR RECREATION / MADISON BROWN / ELBERT CO.
DONORS / ATHENS SIX

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GEORGIA 4-H FOUNDATION 70TH ANNIVERSARY

The Georgia 4-H Foundation reached its 70th anniversary milestone in 2018; what started as a way to build Rock Eagle 4-H Center led to decades of continuous impact and stewardship. The organization helped nurture and grow several generations of community, governmental, and corporate leaders with alumni who made their marks within our state and across the globe.

On October 31st a special celebration was held at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens for major donors to mark the occasion. The 150+ attendees were treated to a buffet of Georgia Grown delicacies as well as the musical talents of several Clovers & Co. members.

Special guests of honor Governor Nathan Deal and First Lady of Georgia Sandra Deal thoroughly charmed the audience with stories about their involvement with 4-H as well as those of their children. After their reminiscences, the Foundation board of directors surprised the Deals with a special tribute by unveiling the newly created Nathan and Sandra Deal Leadership Endowment. The Foundation raised more than \$100,000 for this fund, which will help benefit into perpetuity the leadership and civic engagement programs at Georgia 4-H.



GEORGIA 4-H FOUNDATION

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

DIANE VAUGHAN



ON BEHALF OF THE GREATEST YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY, THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF GEORGIA 4-H! IT IS EXTRAORDINARILY HUMBLING TO WITNESS THE PHILANTHROPIC SPIRIT OF 4-H DONORS, EXPERIENCE THE GIFT OF TIME BY GEORGIA 4-H BOARD MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS, AND SEE THE POWER OF 4-H IN ACTION WHENEVER A GEORGIA 4-H'ER IS PRESENT.

Two of the many highlights for Georgia 4-H this past year include welcoming Johnathon Barrett to the family as Executive Director of the Georgia 4-H Foundation and celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Foundation by establishing the Nathan and Sandra Deal Leadership Endowment to support Georgia 4-H State and District Officers. As all 4-H donors know, your investment in our organization is truly an investment in Georgia's youth, which is ultimately an investment in Georgia's future.

Speaking of Georgia's future, I know that you, like me, could write a book on how 4-H changed your life, so let me leave you with this story which would be included in one of my chapters. While at State Congress this year I was able to hear the extraordinary story of the young woman who mastered in the project I sponsor. She shared with me that her family could not afford to pay for any extracurricular activities, so she joined 4-H because it was "free." This young woman came to Atlanta for the first time in her life to participate in our state competition and saw that there is a great, big, wide world out there waiting for her. When I asked about her favorite part of State Congress I wrongly assumed she would respond with, "Mastering in my project." Instead, she replied, "Making so many friends and making up my mind that one day I'm going to make enough money that I can give back to 4-H." She represented what the 4-H experience teaches so well - maturity, manners, a deep respect for her country, peers and adults - and gratitude. Not surprisingly, a couple of weeks later I received a handwritten thank you note.



GEORGIA 4-H FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOHNATHON BARRETT

A new chapter in my life started May 1 as I assumed the role of Executive Director of the Georgia 4-H Foundation. I humbly say that it is an honor and a privilege to hold this position - like many of you reading this note, I owe much of life's success to the lessons learned and people that I met through Georgia 4-H. And what a joy it is to work with the dedicated professionals within Extension - many that I've known since grade school back in middle Georgia. It has been like 'coming home.'

It came as no surprise to me to learn that one of the strongest suits of our organization is the alumni base. It is because of these loyal and dedicated donors that Georgia 4-H continues to grow each and every year. The Foundation takes seriously the investment and stewardship of this largesse, regardless of the size or designation of the gift received. Our mission is to 'support the programs and facilities of Georgia 4-H,' and we work diligently to make certain that your generosity is fully maximized.

On behalf of the 170,000 students - and the 159 county programs we serve - please accept my sincerest thanks and gratitude for what you do.

2018

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Nan Jenkins, Treasurer
Kaycie Rogers, Secretary

GEORGIA 4-H FOUNDATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JULY 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2018

INCOME

Grants	\$568,899
Contributions	\$1,194,481
Program Activities	\$2,601,282
Realized/Unrealized	\$171,904
Interest & Dividend	\$78,472
Total Income	\$4,615,038

EXPENSES

Construction & Repairs	\$167,370
Program Services	\$3,818,083
Scholarships	\$69,563
Foundation Operating	\$450,318
Total Expenses	\$4,346,441

Beginning Net Assets	\$5,678,840
Ending Net Assets	\$5,947,437
Change in Net Assets	\$268,597

GEORGIA

4 - H FOUNDATION

2017-2018 DONORS

INDIVIDUAL

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 Patrick Bunn
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 Hazel F. Coker
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 Representative Jon Burns
 Clovers & Co.
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 Grace McCurry Martin
 Bill Mitchell
 Connie Page & Phil Torrance
 Brandie Park
 Allison Perkins
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 Kathryn Cavis Richards
 Anne Woolf Sapp
 Joy Brown Sherlock
 Southwest District 4-H
 Arch Smith
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 Cheryl Varnadoe
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 Shirley Williamson
 Leah Wooddall

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 Emily Barbee
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 Haylee Bell
 Kenzie Benefield
 Kennika Blake
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 Tanner Yarbrough

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 Boehringer Ingelheim
 Butts County Farm Bureau
 Butts County Retired Educators Association
 Cargill, Incorporated
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 Gazda Cattle Company
 Georgia 4-H Counselor Alumni Association
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 Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority
 Georgia Association of Agricultural Fairs
 Georgia Association of County Ag Agents
 Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents
 Georgia Beekeepers Association
 Georgia Cattlemen's Foundation, Inc.
 Georgia Club Lamb Producers Association
 Georgia Cooperative Council, Inc.
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 Georgia Electric Membership Corporation
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 Georgia Pest Control Association
 Georgia Plant Food Ed Foundation, Inc.
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 Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.
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 Georgia Ranch Horse Association
 Georgia United Credit Union
 Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
 Auxiliary
 Georgia Watermelon Association, Inc.
 Georgia Young Farmer's Association
 Godfrey's Warehouse, Inc.
 Greenfield Advisors, Inc.
 Gwinnett County Livestock &
 Fair Association, Inc.
 Harvey Funeral Home
 Herb Bonner Hunt Club
 Horseman's Quarter Horse Association
 of Georgia
 Hunting Hill Garden Club
 Jackson County Young Farmers
 Jackson Electric Membership Corporation
 Joe Boddiford Farms

John M. Mobley & Sons
 Kaye Jones Custom Lawn Service
 Kiwanis Club of Statesboro Ga Inc.
 Lois and Lucy Lampkin Foundation
 M H Biggers & Associates
 Merck Animal Health
 Mid-States Wool Growers Cooperative
 Association
 Mitchell Co. Children & Youth, Inc.
 National Pork Board
 North District Homemakers Council
 North Region FFA
 Optimist Club of Tybee Island
 Paulding Timber Products, Inc.
 Plains United Methodist Church M.Y.F.
 Rabun County Extension/4-H Club
 Red Angus Association of America
 Reeves Design Services, LLC
 Robinson Paving Company
 Select Sires
 Seminole Feed
 Six Flags Over Georgia
 Snap Lewis Insurance Agency
 State of Kansas Department of
 Administration
 Still Water Farm
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 The Dairy Alliance
 The Gendell Family Foundation
 The Guest Family Foundation, Inc.
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 UGA Extension Retiree Association
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 Western Dressage Association of
 Florida
 Westminster Christian Academy
 Westway Feed Products
 Wooten Farms

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 Jay S. Angle
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 Callaway Foundation
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 Georgia 4-H Volunteer Leaders
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 Constance P. Page
 Sarah L. Huff Fund
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 James L. Williamson
 Renee L. Williamson

CREATING YOUR 4-H LEGACY

Two wonderful ways to create a lasting legacy for you or your family in Georgia 4-H include endowment funding and estate gift planning. Both of these investments within the Foundation allow for perpetual support, giving 4-Hers in our state lasting opportunities for generations to come. Your gift can be very specific in terms of implementation – such as designating your donation solely to sponsor a particular project or program – or the funding can be for general needs that arise as our organization strives to serve more than 170,000 students each year.

To learn more on how to establish an endowment or make a bequest in your will, please contact Foundation Executive Director Johnathon Barrett at Johnathon.Barrett@uga.edu.

PLANNED GIVING DONOR SPOTLIGHT



JAYSON DUKES CPA, FORENSIC FINANCIAL SPECIALIST Atlanta, Georgia

Jayson Dukes is a CPA and forensic financial specialist whose career has spanned the country, including positions in Houston, Los Angeles, and New York; however, he has never forgotten his home in Georgia. Jayson grew up in rural Brantley county in the southeastern part of the state, and served as a district officer and camp counselor. A UGA graduate, Jayson now calls Atlanta home.

This alum's passion for 4-H is so strong that he has created two endowments, both of which underwrite Leadership programs, and also made a munificent bequest to Georgia 4-H through his estate. When asked why he has given so generously to our organization, he simply states "Because Georgia 4-H gave so much to me as a child growing up."

THE GEORGIA 4-H FOUNDATION THANKS JAYSON AND THE SCORES OF OTHER DONORS WHO SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS THROUGH ENDOWMENT AND ESTATE GIFTS

DONOR INFORMATION

The *Cloverleaf* lists your gifts to the Georgia 4-H Foundation or the University of Georgia Foundation designated for 4-H that were processed through the Georgia 4-H Foundation between July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. If your name is not included and you think it should be, there may be several reasons:

1. You made your gift either before July 1, 2017 or after June 30, 2018.
2. You made a pledge instead of an outright gift. This listing includes only gifts received. If you made a pledge during this time period but elected not to begin paying it until after June 30, 2018, your name will not be listed.
3. You made a gift to another 4-H entity, such as National 4-H Council, IFYE Alumni, Georgia Master 4-H Club, Campaign for Charities, other UGA Departments, etc. These gifts are not reflected in the Georgia 4-H Foundation Annual Report.
4. You donated item(s) for the purpose of silent or live auction. These items are not recognized in the Georgia 4-H Foundation Annual Report.
5. We omitted your name in error. If we've made a mistake, we'd like to hear from you.

If you have questions, please contact the Georgia 4-H Foundation, Hoke Smith Annex, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-4536 or call us at 706-542-8914.

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