

CLOVERLEAF

GEORGIA 4-H ANNUAL REPORT



LEAD • SERVE • THRIVE
2024



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Cloverleaf Magazine 2024

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Georgia4H



@Georgia4H

Cover Photo: Martha Morris with the 2024 Chatham County Forestry Judging Team. Read more about Martha on page 29.

Paving A Positive Path to a Bright Future

Greetings from Melanie Biersmith, State 4-H Leader

We are so thankful for this chance to reflect on the great work and impact of Georgia 4-H. The 2023-2024 program year was an incredible opportunity to forward the mission of our organization. As the youth development program of the University of Georgia, we provide a wide variety of experiences and opportunities to help youth thrive in content areas that include agriculture and science, leadership and civic engagement, and health and wellness. Youth find their own paths and create unique journeys that allow them to follow their spark, to create a sense of belonging, and to engage in meaningful programming with the support of caring adults. In addition to the content in which youth are involved, our focus is on the skills they develop to become healthy, productive, and engaged citizens that are ready for work and ready for life.

I invite you to enjoy the articles in this edition of *Cloverleaf* as they highlight an impactful program year. In keeping with this year's theme, we are especially proud of the opportunities that allow our youth to lead, serve, and thrive. The common thread between all the features is the incredible difference we make for the youth of Georgia. This work is possible because of you.

Georgia 4-H is successful because of the tremendous support we receive in the form of dedicated faculty and staff members, talented volunteers, incredible supporters, and generous donors. We are proud to share with each of you our collective impact and hope you will stay connected to this program as we continue working together to make the best better.

With gratitude,
Melanie

Melanie Biersmith



Youth enjoyed the opportunity to "Slime the State Leader" at State 4-H Council to celebrate reaching the \$4 for 4-H fundraising goal.



Georgia 4-H Facilities Update

Available across the state from the North Georgia mountains to the Golden Isles along the coast, the Georgia 4-H facilities provide unique opportunities for a variety of youth and adult groups with lodging accommodations, meeting spaces, full-service dining halls, and high-quality programs. Collectively, the 4-H facilities

served over 88,000 guests last year.

Georgia 4-H is constantly making improvements and updates to the 4-H facilities. While some are large and expensive and others are smaller and less costly, all of them are implemented with the goal of improving the guest experience.

In the last year, the Barkuloo Rich renovation project was finished, the recreation hall at Fortson 4-H Center was prepared for renovation, and ventilation systems were added to the bathhouses at Wahsega. Each of these will enhance the guest experience in unique ways.

Looking ahead to the upcoming program year, there are several exciting projects planned, including updates to the Fortson 4-H Center recreational hall and the relocation and replacement of the dock at Burton 4-H Center on Tybee Island. At Rock Eagle 4-H Center, additional planned improvements include completing the HVAC replacement in the auditorium, installing pickleball courts where the tennis courts were previously, and the demolition of six traditional cabins and rebuilding of three new cabins. Once these new cabins are completed, a total of 42 new cabins will be in place and only 12 traditional cabins will remain to be replaced.

The Georgia 4-H facilities are an integral component of Georgia 4-H. They are staffed by a strong team of individuals working year-round to ensure the facilities are safe, positive, and impactful places to visit.

Written by Melanie Biersmith



BEST WEEK EVER

The 2024 summer camping season brought nearly 8,700 youth and leaders to Georgia's five residential 4-H centers.

Cloverleaf Camp for 4th-6th graders logged 7,100 campers at four 4-H centers, with some weeks at full capacity. Burton 4-H Center hosted seven weeks of camp for 920 Junior campers in 7th and 8th grades, and Wahsega 4-H Center entertained almost 200 6th-8th graders during a week of Wilderness Challenge Camp. Senior Camp for high school 4-H'ers moved to Wahsega for two weeks of camp, and high school 4-H'ers were offered two week-long sessions of outdoor camping at Frank Fitch Pioneer Camp at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Combined with a week of Natural Resources Exploration Camp, about 430 individuals attended camps for high school students. The long-running Community Camp at Fortson 4-H Center rounded out a slate of 35 different camping opportunities.

The collective belief in the impact that 4-H camp can make – the staff at 4-H Centers, outstanding camp counselors, and county Extension professionals who get 4-H'ers excited about camp – is what makes this camping program so successful. The ultimate success is the gateway camp provides to the positive youth development that comes with future years of 4-H involvement.



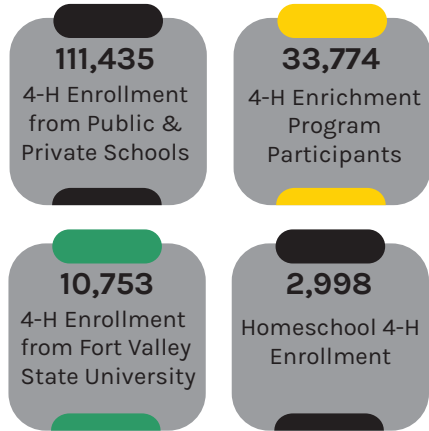
Written by Charlie Wurst



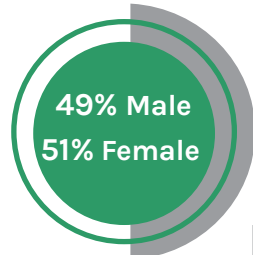
GEORGIA 4-H

193,518

Total Participation



10 Year Rolling Participation Average: 173,944



62.1% White
30.2% Black/African American
4.4% More than one race
2.6% Asian
0.5% American Indian
0.2% Pacific Islander

8.8% Hispanic
91.2% Non-Hispanic

67.1% Elementary School
27% Middle School
5.9% High School

GEORGIA 4-H FACILITIES

88,959

Guests Served at Six 4-H Centers

34,028

4-H Environmental Education Participants

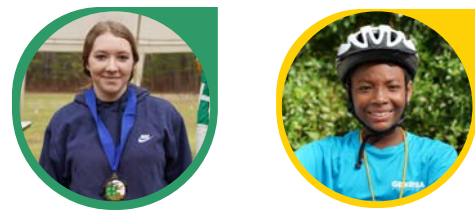


8,685

Residential Summer Camp Participants



2023-2024 Program Year



Where do 4-H'ers live?

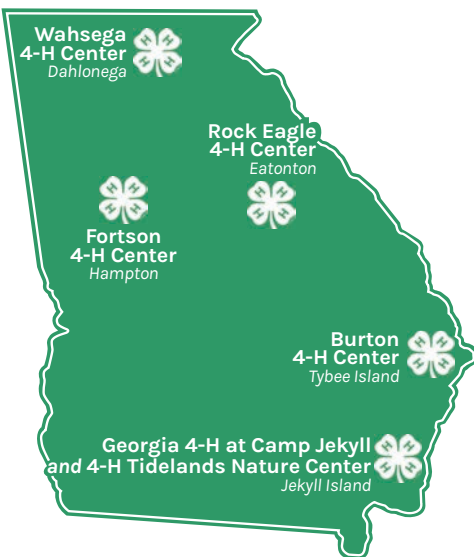
Rural Non-Farms: 45%
Towns and Small Cities: 31%
Urban and Suburban Areas: 13%
Central Cities: 7% • Farms: 4%

Hands to Larger Service

5,127 Adult Volunteers
125,748 Volunteer Hours
1,437 Teen Volunteers
47,686 Volunteer Hours



*Demographics reflect reported data



Preparing Young People For Life



Georgia 4-H provides experiences for youth to learn by doing. Georgia 4-H'ers participate in hands-on learning in the focus areas of Agriculture, Science, Civic Engagement, Leadership, Health, and Wellness. The 4-H mission is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing citizens.

Agriculture & Science

112,501 4-H'ers impacted in 2023-2024

Youth explore agricultural sciences, natural resources, environmental sciences, agribusiness, rocketry, robotics, renewable energy, computer science, technology, engineering, and more.



Leadership & Civic Engagement

137,581 4-H'ers impacted in 2023-2024

Youth explore opportunities to be well-informed citizens through experiences focused on leadership, communication, performing arts, public speaking, organization, service to communities, and more.



Health & Wellness

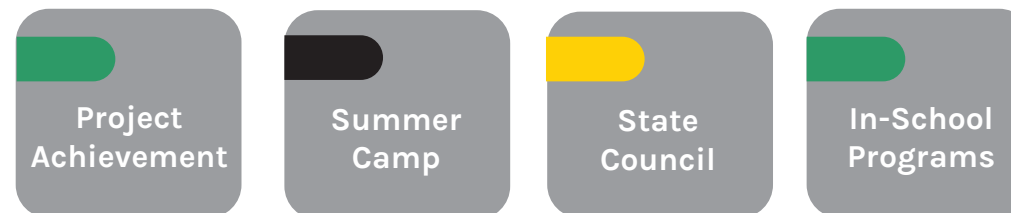
48,289 4-H'ers impacted in 2023-2024

Youth explore nutrition, obesity prevention, drug prevention, bullying prevention, fitness, financial literacy, clothing, textiles, safety, stress management, social and emotional wellness, food science, and more.



Georgia 4-H is guided by the "THRIVE" model for positive youth development.

Youth in Georgia 4-H explore their interests, discover their sparks, and engage in learning experiences that grow their social, emotional, and cognitive abilities. Through high-quality programs, youth find a sense of belonging and safe, positive relationships with caring adults. Georgia 4-H'ers are set on a pathway to adulthood that leads to academic and vocational success, happiness, and well-being.



Core 4

Each county program is anchored by these four activities for youth. Find out more at georgia4h.org

NATIONAL 4-H YOUTH IN ACTION WINNER: AMIYAH ELAM + “I AM” PROJECT

The National 4-H Council Youth in Action program shines a spotlight on the remarkable leadership and diverse stories of 4-H youth across the nation, celebrating those who are making a tangible difference in their communities. Each year, exceptional individuals are recognized as Youth in Action Winners, earning a prestigious honor along with a \$5,000 scholarship for their educational pursuits. Among the four distinguished 2024 winners is Amiyah Elam, a dedicated 4-H'er from Ware County.

From a young age, Amiyah has embodied the spirit of 4-H, famously describing herself as a “fourth grade little girl with a big voice.” Her journey began as a singer in Georgia 4-H’s Clovers & Co. performing arts group, leading her all the way to being elected as a 4-H State Officer and finally serving as a Rock Eagle Camp Counselor. Through song and speech, Amiyah has captivated national audiences, using her voice as a tool for change and a catalyst for her passion to uplift her community.

Amiyah’s impactful journey took a renewed direction when she volunteered at a camp for underserved youth early in her high school years. Inspired by her experiences, she founded a nonprofit, I AM, focused on empowering underserved girls in her community.



"I realized that many girls in my area didn't have access to the same opportunities I did," Amiyah reflected. "I wanted to create a space where they could learn and grow, just like I did in 4-H."

The I AM initiative provides vital resources and support to young girls, offering lessons in emotional wellness, self-care, personal finance, and workforce development. Amiyah collaborates with local nonprofits and professionals to ensure the program is comprehensive and helpful. "Our monthly meetings are a safe haven for these girls," she shared. "We're building confidence and teaching them skills that will serve them for a lifetime."

Amiyah is now a freshman at the University of Georgia and is pursuing degrees in Social Entrepreneurship for Consumer Well Being and Agriculture Communications. While in Athens, Amiyah stays connected to I AM and continues to advocate for those who don't have a voice. Her hope is that one day an I AM alumnus will take on a leadership role with the nonprofit, "I believe everyone deserves a chance to succeed, and I want to help make that happen."

The 4-H Youth in Action program

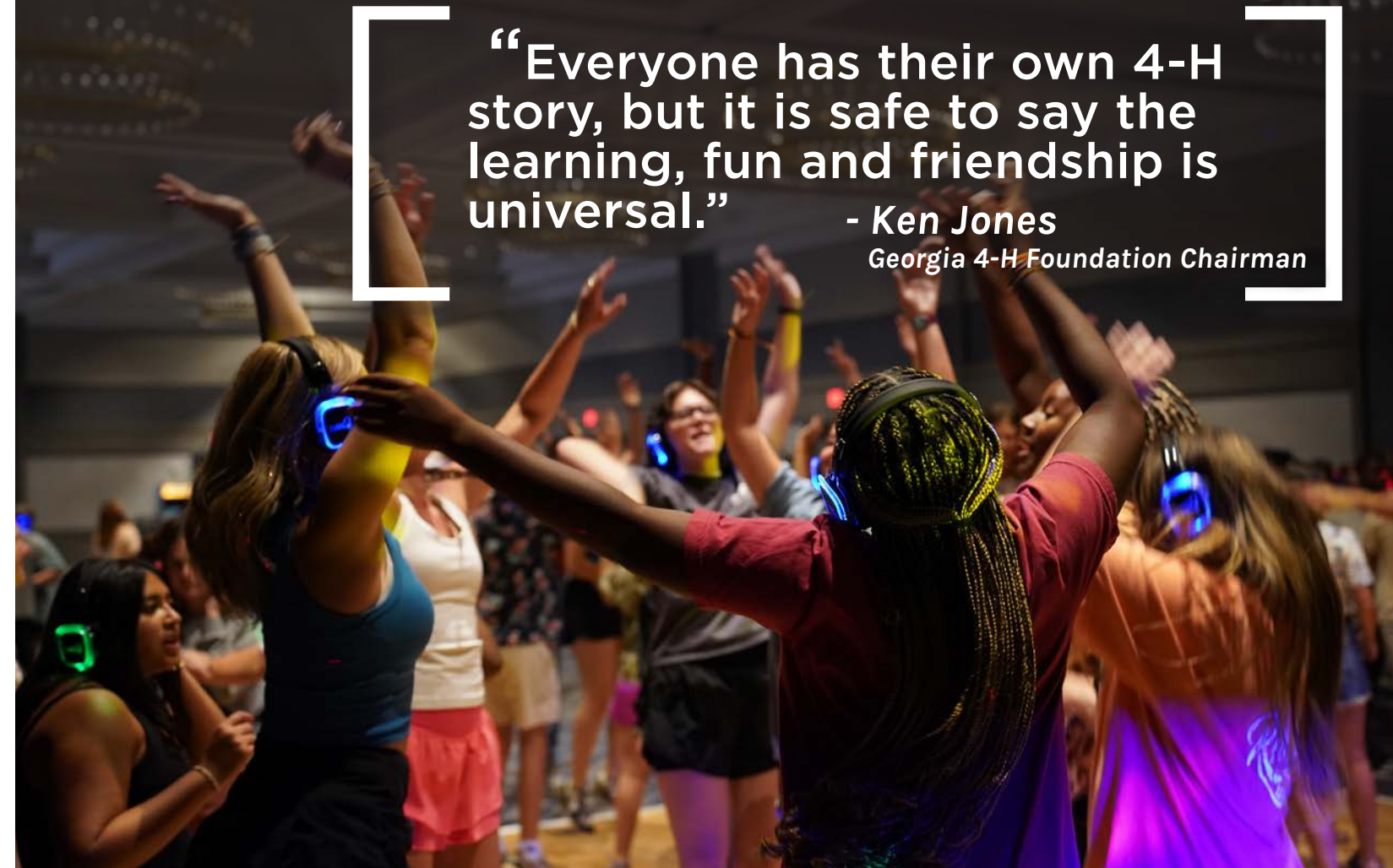
has played a pivotal role in Amiyah's development as a leader. Through media training and national opportunities afforded her as a winner, she aims to inspire others and showcase the transformative power of 4-H. "This experience is not just about me," she emphasized. "It's about all the girls who are counting on me to lift them up."

As Amiyah continues her journey, there is no doubt that her big voice will resonate far beyond Waycross, Georgia. Her commitment to making a difference and her unwavering belief in the potential of young girls reflect the very essence of 4-H—empowering youth to create positive change in their communities. With her sights set on the future, Amiyah Elam is poised to leave an indelible mark on the world, embodying the true spirit of the 4-H Youth in Action program.



Scan for a video with bonus interviews and information about the I AM initiative

Written by Kelle Ashley



“Everyone has their own 4-H story, but it is safe to say the learning, fun and friendship is universal.”
- Ken Jones
Georgia 4-H Foundation Chairman



PARTNERS IN POULTRY



Casey Ritz and the UGA Poultry Science department are critical to the success of 4-H Poultry Judging.

"Youth are the future leaders, professionals, and tradesmen. Providing them with educational and training opportunities is the obligation of each preceding generation."

This motto defines Casey Ritz (top right), professor and assistant department head for UGA Poultry Science.

Georgia 4-H offers a wide array of educational and competitive

programs for youth across the state. Poultry Judging often tops the list of highest-attended Georgia 4-H contests, engaging hundreds of 4-H'ers each spring. Like clockwork, when the 4-H vans and buses roll in for the district competitions, so do Casey and his team of poultry scientists.

Casey is a tremendous supporter of youth poultry programs on the state and national level and serves as the contest coordinator for both 4-H and FFA. While he wears many hats at UGA, his favorite part of the job is the opportunity to train enthusiastic poultry teams and see them achieve state and national recognition.

Georgia 4-H hosted five area-level contests and one state contest in 2024 with 67 counties represented. All seven UGA Poultry Science faculty participate in administering these 4-H contests, along with another series for Georgia FFA.

Judging teams are a key component of 4-H positive youth development; these contests are supported and enriched by dedicated faculty, many with Extension appointments, and many others who are simply dedicated to the future of young leaders.

Three UGA Extension faculty, including Casey, provide leadership at the National 4-H Poultry and Egg Convention.

Casey helped write the National 4-H Poultry Judging manual that is currently used as a study resource and standard

for 4-H Poultry Judging across the nation.

The goal of poultry judging is to allow youth to learn and understand the standards of poultry and egg production and marketing. They must then be able to apply those standards in realistic decision-making situations. Being a part of a team allows youth to build character, develop leadership skills, and prepare for success as an adult. Casey feels that the greatest thing youth receive from the program is a better knowledge of the scope of opportunities



in agriculture, specifically in the poultry industry. Poultry is Georgia's largest agricultural commodity.

Hands-on activities help to demystify agriculture for young consumers who are often far removed from agricultural production and the origins of the American food supply. Specialists like Casey and his team are invaluable partners to Georgia 4-H and provide the expertise that is critical to this goal.

Written by Kate Whiting



Many youth who participate in 4-H Poultry Judging go on to successful careers in poultry science.



MICHAEL BOSWELL: CHAMPION



Screven County 4-H is making a big impact for Michael; Michael is making a big impact for Georgia.

Michael Boswell was getting excited about summer break and finishing 5th grade when he received a devastating diagnosis of Osteosarcoma in April 2023. One week he was on the baseball field, and the next he was beginning cancer treatment in Atlanta. Life for Michael and for his parents, Beth and Luke, permanently changed in an instant.

After eight months of hospital stays, intense treatments, and surgeries, Michael rang the bell in January 2024 to celebrate completing chemotherapy. He began the long journey of physical recovery and returning to activities that shaped a new normal. One place that helped Michael find his spark was the Screven County 4-H Program.

During his treatment and recovery, Michael was aided by therapy dogs that provided joy and that coveted feeling of normalcy. With encouragement from his 4-H agent, Lauren Clark, Michael signed up for 4-H Project Achievement and chose to present about therapy dogs in the Companion Animals project. He prepared a demonstration with visual aids and worked through nervousness to compete at a Southeast District area contest. His hard work paid off! Michael left that day with a blue ribbon around his neck and joyous support from his peers. "During his treatments, everything Michael loved to do with his friends was taken from him, but 4-H became his voice. I was able to watch him go from a child that could hardly say the words 'I had cancer' without breaking down to a confident young man proudly telling his story," said his mother, Beth.



Michael also competes with the Screven County 4-H Modified Trap team.

Written by Josie Smith

The impact of his Companion Animals presentation has rippled far beyond that competition day. Videos of his speech are being shown to audiences across Georgia, including families who will be receiving assistance from therapy dogs and handler orientations at Children's Hospital of Atlanta. Michael has gained the confidence to speak with TV, radio, and print media outlets to share his story of recovery.

"Awareness and traction for stories like Michael's are critical for research and treatment of childhood cancer," Beth said. "Good can come from the most horrible situations." Michael and his family are making the best better in their Screven County community and their world.



Constitution amended for future 4-H'ers

A historic set of amendments to the Georgia 4-H Constitution were voted on and passed during State 4-H Council on June 21, 2024. These amendments update the constitution to support county 4-H programming in the modern era and align the document with current UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences language and policies. Thomas Holt, Georgia 4-H President, and Melanie Biersmith, Georgia 4-H State Leader, signed the document with the support of the State Board of Directors and Mandy Marable, Georgia 4-H Associate State Leader.

Sanford Stadium welcomed 4-H'ers

On Sep. 23, 2023, hundreds of 4-H youth and adult leaders cheered on the Dawgs during Georgia 4-H Day at UGA. Green and white complemented the red and black as the University of Georgia Bulldogs took on the University of Alabama Birmingham Blazers between the hedges. Georgia 4-H has hosted this event for nearly 50 years, allowing young people from across the state to experience the excitement of gameday and the magic of the University of Georgia's campus.

Georgia 4-H Day at UGA was made possible by the generous support of Golden Pantry.

FIRST LEGO League offered in Lumpkin County

As a way to build critical thinking skills related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Lumpkin County 4-H offers a FIRST LEGO League (FLL) program at the local county middle school. Invited by the school to serve as the team coach, Autumn Callahan, Lumpkin County 4-H Agent, attended a summer training to better prepare herself for this opportunity. "The program fits perfectly with the 4-H slogan 'learn by doing'," said Autumn, who instructs youth on robotics design, building, coding, and tournament preparations. "Coaching FLL has strengthened my partnership with the school by allowing more collaborations."



Crop Scouting School continued in Southwest

Standing in a peanut field practicing disease and pest identification, touring a small business to observe how to store, mix, and load fertilizer, or learning about cotton development and the need for deer exclusion cages - these are just some of the many activities students might be doing at Southeastern 4-H Crop Scouting School. For the past seven years, middle and high school students in Seminole, Mitchell, Miller, Decatur and Grady Counties were taught practical, agricultural operations knowledge through hands-on demonstrations, tours, and field trips by Extension professionals from Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. This past summer's program included over 150 youth attendees that broadened their interests as they learned about production agriculture and career opportunities in their local communities.



Outstanding volunteer Michael Reeves completed term as Advisory Committee Chair

Michael recently completed a two-year term as Chairman of the Georgia 4-H Advisory Committee. "Being asked to serve in any 4-H leadership role is an honor, especially one as important as Advisory chair. The opportunity to help Georgia 4-H become stronger is a rewarding experience because 4-H gave me so much during my youth," Michael said. Michael competed in the Conservation of Natural Resources project as a 4-H'er, and now serves in many volunteer roles. "I'm so glad my wife and I agreed to begin advising the 4-H State Board of Directors in 2001. It's been a wonderful 23 years so far," he said in reflection.



Social, career, and education readiness opportunities offered for high school 4-H'ers

Weekend in the Classic City offered high school 4-H'ers an opportunity to visit Athens October 21-23, 2023 and learn about options for higher education and career possibilities. The event included tours, panels, and workshops that showcase the wide variety of pathways at the University of Georgia and beyond. High school 4-H'ers attended 4-H Senior Conference April 6-7, 2024 at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. This event is a favorite for 4-H'ers across Georgia, with relaxing and fun activities including a semi-formal dance, a post-dance party with inflatable obstacles and yard games, motivational speakers, and opportunities for youth to connect with peers. Senior Conference also facilitates opportunities for youth to lead community service projects and present exhibits, enhancing their portfolio of outreach and impact.

These events were made possible through a partnership with the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, Mercer University, and Mercer University School of Medicine.



WILD ABOUT WILDLIFE

Opportunities to learn and lead paved the way for a differently-abled 4-H'er from Northwest Georgia

Written by Kasey Bozeman



Christian discovered a passion for wildlife through 4-H judging teams (top right) and Natural Resources Exploration Camp (top center) and went on to lead educational initiatives in Chattooga County as a 4-H Wildlife Ambassador.



Christian Pence loves being outdoors.

He enjoys learning the names of plants and animals; he loves hiking, fishing, and hunting. "There was never really a time I can remember where I didn't love being outdoors," said Christian. "I started hunting with my grandfather when I was four or five years old. Walking in the woods, hunting, and fishing... all those things are what I do." Christian has autism and considers himself a reserved individual – nature is a comforting place for him. Along the way, he discovered another comforting outlet: his local 4-H program in

Chattooga County.

Christian found a spark in the 4-H Wildlife Judging contest. Through practicing and preparing for the competition, he learned characteristics of more than twenty wildlife species native to Georgia. Wildlife Judging allows youth like Christian to share their knowledge by developing a wildlife management plan based on a real-world scenario and survey of an outdoor site. Additionally, youth answer questions asked by a judge through a planned oral defense. Christian's strong ability to connect with the content earned him a perfect score on the oral defense on more than one occasion.

After developing a strengthened passion for wildlife through this contest, Christian was encouraged to apply and was selected to serve as a Georgia

4-H Wildlife Ambassador, a program supported by Cox Enterprises, Inc. Through a partnership with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, high-school 4-H'ers attend a national Project W.I.L.D. educator certification, empowering them with resources and activities to educate others about the importance of wildlife. Christian developed and refined his teaching skills by creating educational displays about bats and owls at the county fair and teaching other 4-H'ers about wildlife population dynamics through models and games. "It's one thing to know about wildlife, but it's another thing to have to teach about it. I've learned teaching skills and how to be patient, especially when working with the younger kids," he reflected.

In summer 2023, Christian attended

the first Georgia 4-H Natural Resources Exploration Camp (NREC), a 5-day experience for high schoolers hosted in conjunction with the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. This was his first experience being away from home, and although there were some nervous jitters, those nerves began to subside once he began flying drones, electroshocking fish, and touring UGA's deer and fisheries research facilities. Campers like Christian received instruction and mentorship from expert faculty members in various natural resources disciplines. "Christian was ecstatic to have such a hands-on learning experience at NREC," said Joy Pence, Christian's mother. He returned for a second week of NREC in 2024. "Camp has really fueled his passion about having a career in the wildlife

field," said Joy.

Christian graduated from high school in May 2024 and remains involved with Chattooga County 4-H. He recently became a 4-H volunteer and is registered to attend an upcoming coaches certification, preparing him to help mentor the 4-H Wildlife Judging Team in Chattooga County. Christian wants others to know that even if they have different abilities like him, they can still be successful in 4-H. He credits 4-H with developing his confidence and leadership skills.

The opportunity to engage with their passions, complete with support from caring adults, empowers youth to achieve their goals and provides positive long-term outcomes. Georgia 4-H was just the organization to do that for Christian.

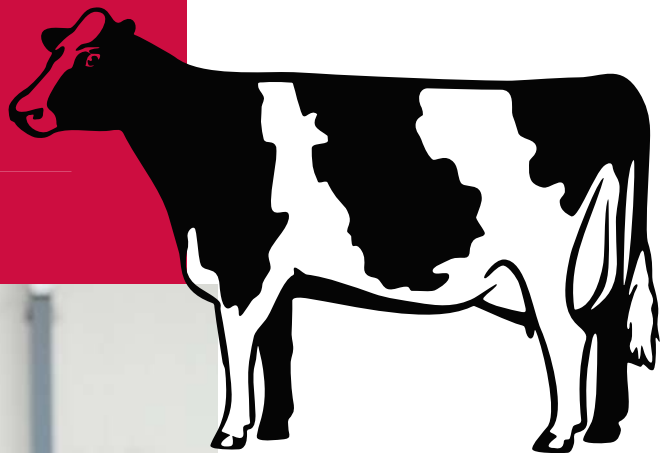


Georgia 4-H Ambassador Program

The inaugural Ambassador program launched in 2005 and continues to offer opportunities for students to learn and lead in five tracks: Healthy Living, Science and Engineering, Pollinators, Wildlife, and Animal Science. Youth are selected for a specific track through an application process and participate in a dynamic and intensive training weekend. These individuals subsequently plan community activities to increase and share their knowledge and represent Georgia 4-H as ambassadors in the field. www.georgia4h.org/ambassadors

A LegenDAIRY Partnership

Written by Carole Knight



Dairy Science activities for Georgia 4-H'ers enhance knowledge of and interest in the dairy industry for youth of all backgrounds.

The primary programs offered include Dairy Quiz Bowl, Dairy Judging, Dairy Heifer Record Book Contest, Southeast Dairy Youth Retreat, National 4-H Dairy Conference and the Commercial Dairy Heifer Show. These events are all made possible through the support and leadership from Jillian (left) with assistance from the UGA Dairy Science Club (right).

Jillian is an associate professor in the UGA Department of Animal and Dairy Science and serves as Extension's dairy specialist. Since joining UGA in 2013, she has been dedicated to supporting and enhancing dairy-related youth activities in Georgia. As an Oconee County 4-H'er, Jillian grew up participating in the Commercial Dairy Heifer project. Through the support of her county Extension agent, Henry Hibbs, she became enamored with all things agriculture. A true love of the dairy industry developed for Jillian. "I know first-hand how these programs can build core values, develop friendships, open doors of opportunities and provide real world exposure and experience like none other," she said. "I am a walking testament to that, coming from a small horse farm with little exposure to production agriculture."

Dairy contests and events each develop a unique set of skills and memories for youth. "I can't pick a favorite," Jillian insisted. "But if I truly had to pick one, it would be the Commercial Dairy Heifer project. It had the largest impact on my own personal development and how I viewed my future in agriculture. I learned about responsibility - because that heifer isn't getting fed before you go to school unless you get up early in the morning to do it."

Dedication to developing leaders in the dairy industry inspires Jillian to serve as the faculty advisor for the UGA Dairy Science Club. The group is primarily comprised of students from non-agricultural backgrounds with interests

and passion for the animal industries. They find value in supporting young people that share that same passion and strive to provide experiences that they wished for in their own youth.

These club members are invaluable to the execution of 4-H's competitive events. In preparation for the 2024 State 4-H Dairy Judging contest, the group volunteered for countless hours to halter-break cattle, wash and prepare animals for the contest, and present them during the event. Their careful planning enriched the 4-H'er experience in tangible ways. Club members also



assisted as proctors and officiants for the 2024 State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl competition. As hosts of the UGA Dairy Science Club Commercial Dairy Heifer Show, they organize sponsors, hold a free exhibitor dinner, and offer a practice dairy judging contest.

An agricultural advocate at heart, Jillian is motivated to provide educational opportunities for college students and 4-H'ers alike. "Promoting the development of youth interested in the dairy industry is essential to its successful future. These young people need to have opportunities and exposure to the industry beginning early in their educational careers," she reiterated.

She also believes that working with dairy cattle, and other animals, teaches lessons that go beyond traditional agricultural education. "Things just don't always go as you expect or hope - the show ring is subjective at times, unfair at others, while always being unpredictable," she reflected. "How you handle yourself while you're in it - and how you behave when you leave it - builds the kind of character others appreciate."

Georgia 4-H is proud to partner with passionate experts like Jillian to provide the highest quality youth programs possible. These collaborations empower 4-H to help youth find their spark and grow into thriving adults.



Legislative Livestock Showdown

The Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia National Fair partnered with Georgia 4-H and the Georgia FFA Association for the annual Legislative Livestock Showdown on October 14, 2023. Members of the Georgia General Assembly participated in this exciting face-off between the House and the Senate, with Senator Larry Walker taking home the coveted trophy.



Successful collaborations are at the heart - and the head, hands, and health - of Georgia 4-H. Combining cutting-edge research with positive youth development results in exceptional programs and competitions, complemented by serious fun. Jillian Bohlen and The University of Georgia Dairy Science team bring to life a long-standing partnership, providing opportunities for 4-H'ers that are udderly fantastic.



Rooted in Service: Leadership in Action

Youth competing for Leadership in Action awards identify a need in their community, devise plans in response to the need, and ultimately, conduct the project to make a positive impact in their community. The projects are judged on their service and impact to the community and the leadership skills exhibited. This program provides a unique opportunity to celebrate servant leaders addressing real-world needs.

2024 WINNER: LAUREN COLEY, BLECKLEY COUNTY

Lauren founded S.P.A.R.K. to address the absence of mental health support in her community. The club promotes 4-H and provides a safe space for youth to discuss their struggles. With over 20 student speaker presentations this year, Lauren has empowered teens to express themselves and connect with others. She has impacted over 30 teens through in-person meetings and over 600 on social media. Lauren has appointed two lower-classmen ambassadors to ensure the continuity of S.P.A.R.K. in the coming years.

2024 WINNER: SOPHIA SCOTT, PICKENS COUNTY

Sophia responded to the mental health crisis among farmers in Pickens County and other rural areas by launching the "Stronger 2gether" project. Through education and community engagement, she raised awareness about the issue in her area. Sophia organized Farmer Appreciation Days, established the Farmer Appreciation Board (FAB), and utilized various platforms such as events, classes, radio broadcasts, and newspaper articles. Her efforts have reached over 6,000 community members.

Building Engaged Citizens

Nearly 700 Georgia 4-H'ers, staff, and volunteers attended the largest-ever Georgia 4-H Day at the Capitol on February 14, 2024. This annual event, presented by Gulfstream Aerospace, connects youth with legislators, donors, supporters, and fellow 4-H'ers for an impactful day that champions civic engagement and leadership in action.

The elected officials in Georgia's House and Senate include many 4-H alumni, parents, and supporters of the organization that welcomed 4-H'ers to the Capitol with open arms. Representative Rick Jasperse and Senator Larry Walker served as hosts for the 4-H delegation.

County groups began their day in Atlanta by exploring Georgia's Capitol building with tours and a scavenger hunt through the historical archives on the upper floors. During this time, many 4-H agents arranged meetings with Senators and Representatives from their local district. This allowed students to ask their legislators important questions about the

legislative process in Georgia and to express their shared love of Georgia 4-H.

The event culminated with a luncheon for students and legislators to celebrate the impact of the 4-H program. Rep. Jasperse spoke to the youth in participation about becoming active members of their communities; Sen. Walker acknowledged 4-H honorees who had received state and national recognition in the past year. Winta Ykeallo, Spalding County 4-H'er, shared her passion for 4-H and how the organization has impacted her life. Thomas Holt, State 4-H President from Ben Hill County, addressed the group on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of active members of Georgia 4-H. "This organization provides life-changing experiences for every 4-H'er," Holt said. "This is all made possible by support from our elected officials and every stakeholder in the Georgia 4-H family."

Other speakers included US Department of Agriculture Special Advisor Tyler Tucker, University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean Nick Place, and recently retired CAES Associate Dean of Extension Laura Perry Johnson.



Written by Cooper Hardy



The Transformative Power of 4-H: Katelyn Abeln's Journey to the Olympics

Katelyn Abeln's inspiring story is a testament to the profound impact that programs like Georgia 4-H can have on young people. As a former Paulding County 4-H'er, Katelyn's journey began with the Paulding County 4-H BB team, where she found not only a sport but also a supportive community. Starting at just 12 years old, the camaraderie she experienced while working alongside peers from different

schools kept her motivated and helped her develop essential life skills such as time management, perseverance, and grit. These qualities have become crucial as she has evolved into one of the world's most competitive shooters, representing USA on the 2024 Women's Olympic Air Rifle team.

The 4-H Thriving Model emphasizes the development of critical life skills that empower

youth to become better versions of themselves. Katelyn's journey exemplifies this model perfectly. After her initial success on the BB team, she transitioned to the air pistol team, the Paulding County Hot Shots. Her dedication paid off when she qualified at the Junior World Championship and made the Junior National Team, launching her competitive career. During a recent Zoom meeting, Katelyn shared how her experiences in 4-H—particularly in shooting sports—instilled in her the values of resilience and adaptability. These lessons have equipped her with the tools to succeed at the highest levels, culminating in her qualification for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

Katelyn's reflections on her time in Georgia 4-H reveal how the program's influence persisted throughout her

life, sharing that 4-H is not just about mastering a specific skill; it's about fostering qualities that contribute to personal growth and success. Currently earning her Master's degree in Public Health and Epidemiology at Ohio State University, Katelyn is also committed to giving back to her community. She mentors middle school girls through the organization Strong Girls United, emphasizing the importance of movement, self-care, and mindfulness. Her journey from local competitions to the Olympic stage underscores the potential that lies within every participant, regardless of their level of involvement.

Celebrating Katelyn's achievements shines light on a broader impact Georgia 4-H has on countless young lives. Each story, like Katelyn's, reinforces

the idea that 4-H is more than just a program; it's a pathway to personal and professional development. She embodies the spirit of perseverance and excellence that 4-H instills in all its members. Georgia 4-H continues to inspire and uplift the next generation of leaders, one story at a time.

Written by Jenna Daniel



Success is SAFE

Now a freshman at University of Georgia, Jackson is pictured (left) with "Coach Jamie," a 4-H SAFE volunteer, at an indoor archery match in Perry, Georgia.



From the archery ranges in Bulloch County to the classrooms at the University of Georgia, Jackson Thigpen is on target for a successful future thanks to programs like Georgia 4-H Project SAFE.

Jackson discovered a passion for archery and a gateway to all that Georgia 4-H has to offer after joining Bulloch County's 4-H Archery Team in 2017.

Archery is one of the six disciplines offered under Georgia 4-H Project SAFE, joined by 22 Rimfire, BB, Air Pistol, Air Rifle, and Shotgun. The acronym SAFE stands for Shooting Awareness, Fun, and Education, and the programming offers youth a place to develop a sense of belonging, practice teamwork, and increase concentration. Safe and responsible use of firearms guide all elements of Project SAFE contests.

Jackson was hooked on the thrill of the competition and the deep social connections of the archery program, even early in his involvement. Staying involved in archery, even after the significant challenges COVID-19 posed, was a no-brainer for Jackson. "I knew I was in it for the long haul," he said.

During ninth grade, Jackson set a goal to make it to the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championship in Grand Island,

Nebraska - but the Morgan County 4-H "Mullet Men," a friendly 4-H rival team, claimed the honor instead. Falling short of nationals, Jackson approached his 10th-grade year ready and determined, practicing 5-6 times a week to secure a spot at nationals.

In 2022, Jackson earned that coveted spot and was met with a mix of excitement and nerves. The experience in Nebraska was a defining moment for him, and he found himself advocating for himself more than he ever had before. Jackson went home from nationals as the second-highest individual. "I learned that pride isn't synonymous with winning," Jackson said.

After nationals, Jackson decided to apply for the role of a National 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador. He was selected by a committee and served from 2022 through 2024. As an ambassador, he spoke to crowds of more than 400 people. Jackson learned valuable skills such as public speaking, time management, and interpersonal skills—skills that continue to benefit him as he tackles the classroom at the University of Georgia.

Throughout the remainder of high school, Jackson shifted his focus from competing to mentoring younger archers. Reflecting on this experience, he said he found immense joy in witnessing others' successes and that it provided him with a lot of perspective on what truly mattered to him.

Jackson incorporated his national experience into his admission essay when applying to the University of Georgia. While the essay was vital in securing his spot at UGA, he credits his broader 4-H involvement for helping him stand out among applicants.

As he embarks on his next chapter at UGA, Jackson carries with him all the lessons he learned throughout his years of experience in Project SAFE and Georgia 4-H. Jackson is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Forestry with his sights set on a Master's Degree in Forestry Business.

Written by Alyssa Haag

GEORGIA 4-H PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT



2023-2024 Program Year



Students choose a project area of interest, research the topic, and write and deliver a presentation that demonstrates their understanding. Youth develop leadership, creativity, and public speaking skills throughout this process. At the middle and high school level of Project Achievement, a record-keeping component is added that promotes independent thinking and research.



61,078

Received Instruction in Project Achievement

Cloverleaf Project Achievement

3,321

Competitors in
Grades 4-6

63

Project
Categories

13

Area
Contests



Junior & Senior Project Achievement

1,538

Competitors
in Grades 7-12

104

Project
Categories

4

District
Contests

322

Grades 7-8
Winners

196

Grades 9-12
Winners

State 4-H Congress

210

Competitors in
Grades 9-12

50

Project Winners
+ Master 4-H'ers



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION





If You Give a Girl 4-H

Jill Walton

Jill Walton was named vice president for Development and Alumni Relations at the University of Georgia on December 1, 2023. Thirty years prior, she was elected president of the Southeast District 4-H Senior Board of Directors.

"Jammin' Jill" was dressed as a DJ and spun some tunes from the stage of Talmadge Auditorium at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Her campaign speech rocked the house, and her peers elected her again the following year as vice president of the State 4-H Board of Directors.

During a recent meeting with the UGA Alumni Board, Jill was asked to reflect on when she first knew she was a Bulldog. "It was easy to answer. I knew I was a Bulldog when I joined Emanuel County 4-H in 5th grade," she recalled.

The UGA Extension office in Emanuel County became Jill's first home-away-from-home. Connie Page, 4-H agent, and Phil Torrance, Agriculture and Natural Resources agent, made a profound impact on her from the very start of her 4-H career. Sitting in her corner office on UGA's historic north campus, 25 years into her professional career, Jill fondly reflects on those early 4-H memories as if they happened yesterday. "Miss Connie and Mr. Phil spent so much quality time with us. Looking back now, I don't know how they managed to treat us like family while raising their own families," Jill said.

She competed in 4-H judging events, field trips, and community service activities. "What other organization gives you the chance to work a blood drive, a rabies vaccination clinic, and a bicycle rodeo?" Jill posed this question while joking that her friends knew her as "the girl who does 4-H."

The girl who did 4-H found her niche with public speaking contests, honing her skills advocating for causes about which she was passionate. These contests often called for loading up

in the county van and heading up to Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Once again, Jill was immediately hooked. "Rock Eagle is a place where we connected with peers from every corner of Georgia. I started building connections there that have carried me through every part of my personal and professional path," she said.

Jill's professional path has been an exciting journey through diverse roles with a central theme of empowering the next generation. It started with an unforgettable summer as a 4-H camp counselor – then she began her full-time career as a UGA admissions counselor, moved to a stint as the assistant executive director of the Georgia 4-H Foundation, and gave a decade of service in development work for UGA's Terry College of Business. Prior to her current appointment, she served in central development for UGA as the executive director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, and most recently, the senior director of Development.

"The luck for me has always been the people," Jill said. "I always say, 'If you give a girl 4-H...' The friends and mentors I gained from 4-H have been woven into each part of my career." She vividly remembers the first time she boarded an airplane – a trip to Washington, D.C. for the National 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus. All the pieces of her 4-H involvement have allowed Jill to truly thrive throughout her life.

Her giving spirit, the one she instills in others as the leader of UGA's philanthropic endeavors, came from her 4-H mentors. "They gave me so much – advice, time, teaching, car rides, financial support – their service to me and others was never ending," she said with noticeable emotion. Jill and her husband, Geoffrey, consistently support Georgia 4-H with time and resources. She is proud to say that her planned estate gift to the University of Georgia honors "Miss Connie and Mr. Phil."

Jill guides a team that empowers success for tens of thousands of former, current, and future UGA students. She easily traces every facet of her inspiration back to the investment of Extension agents, volunteers, parents, and peers.

If you give a girl 4-H, it will be the gift that keeps on giving.



Love Those Kids!

Jimmica Collins

When it comes to a story, Jimmica Collins is going to bring it to life.

"I got married to a coworker in a toilet paper dress at the end of one week," she said while recalling a story about her two summers as a camp counselor at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. "Those girls behaved so well that week, I promised them I would make it happen." Her fictional nuptials were the subject of many letters received from campers in the months after that summer.

Today, she brings life to Sesame Street's "Grandma Nell," an endearing character based on Jimmica's own beloved Auntie Maebel. She is among the first Black women to work as puppeteers for Sesame Street and values being a representative voice for kids to see someone who looks and speaks in similar ways to them.

An impactful career in theatre, puppetry, and story telling has been centered on a mantra that Jimmica adopted from her leaders during those weeks of 4-H summer camp. "It was always 'LTK, LTK,' which is short for 'Love Those Kids'," she said. Jimmica received that love from her 4-H agents in Oglethorpe County. She received it in the UGA Upward Bound program that took her on a life-changing tour of New York University.

"I majored in theatre and minored in child and adolescent mental health studies at NYU, and I flew home in the summer to work at Rock Eagle," Jimmica said. "I knew I wanted my future job to combine 'LTK' with loving the theatre stage."

Grandma Nell's character was born after eight months of training with the veteran puppeteers who perform Big Bird and Mr. Snuffaluffagus. "I had a wonderful tenure with the Atlanta Center for Puppetry Arts, and my time there inspired me to audition for Sesame Street in 2020," Jimmica noted. After

learning to talk to puppets and then learning to be a puppeteer in Atlanta, she was chosen for Sesame Street's virtual training workshops. Her creativity and unique life experience later resulted in Grandma Nell being chosen as a regular member of the Sesame Street family.

"Grandma Nell was definitely a 4-H'er," Jimmica said with delight. The warm and loving Muppet is the head of the community garden and offers friendly advice to her friends and neighbors. Jimmica weaves her experience as a 4-H'er into her story telling.

Competing in Project Achievement played a pivotal role in her success as a student and a professional. She credits her ability to work hard, accept failure, and press on to those contests at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. "Getting told 'no' is a big part of acting," she noted. "If I lost a 4-H contest, Lynn Patton and Susan Goldman would load us up and take us to Zaxby's and everything felt alright. It was a great way to learn." Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging was another one of her favorite activities, and she remembers going to retail stores to check out materials and pricing of clothing classes to judge. "I always use my stint as a Poultry Judging contestant as a fun fact in 'two truths and a lie' games," she laughed.

In addition to playing Grandma Nell, Jimmica is a puppeteer on the PBS Kids program "Donkey Hodie," a spinoff of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. She plays Rockstar Penguin and Frannie Fox, traveling to Chicago each month to film.

Jimmica recently visited Rock Eagle 4-H Center for the first time in a decade. She took a picture in front of the cabin where she and her mother both stayed as campers and took in a full-circle moment. As a storyteller and a difference maker, Jimmica is honored to pay forward the lessons she learned as a Georgia 4-H'er to youth across America.



Written by Josie Smith



Georgia 4-H Green Jacket Award: Jay Morgan

The prestigious Georgia 4-H Green Jacket is awarded to individuals who have shown outstanding, significant, and ongoing statewide support to 4-H. This year, Georgia 4-H is proud to bestow this accolade of appreciation to Jay Morgan.

Jay grew up as a Talbot County 4-H'er and began his path to life-long leadership as a district 4-H officer. After high school, Jay served for two summers as a camp counselor at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

Throughout his career, Jay has continued to provide strong leadership to individuals, businesses, and community groups as an advocate, strategist, and advisor. He founded the J.L. Morgan Company, Inc. in 1997, a public affairs and issues management consulting firm that assists clients in the ethical representation of their important interests at all levels of government. He has led multiple efforts to pass legislation that improved

access to Epipens for schools and youth organizations, including Georgia 4-H.

For more than 40 years, Jay has provided unwavering support to the Georgia 4-H program. He has served two terms as chairman of the Georgia 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees, with many additional years of service as a trustee. He has used his tenure with the board to maximize the success of the Foundation, establishing policies that benefit 4-H'ers across generations. He invests in current 4-H'ers by attending events including 4-H Day at the Capitol, State Congress, and more. Jay is a local, state, and national cheerleader for making the best better.

Georgia 4-H is grateful to Jay for his ongoing and significant advocacy on behalf of 4-H'ers, faculty, staff, volunteers, and stakeholders.

The Green Jacket Award, established in 2008, recognizes individuals for their outstanding statewide support of Georgia 4-H. It is presented annually at State Congress on behalf of Georgia 4-H alumni, donors, volunteers, and friends.

Positions at time of award

2023
Rick Jasperse, State Representative
2022
Brian and Marty Kemp, Governor and First Lady of Georgia
2021
Ellis and Aletha Black, State Senator and Spouse
2020
Gale Cutler, Senior Public Relations Coordinator, Georgia EMC
2019
Francis "Abit" Massey, President Emeritus Georgia Poultry Federation
2018
Jack Hill, State Senator
2017
Gary Black, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture
2016
Tom McCall, State Representative
2015
Paul Wood, President/CEO of Georgia Electric Membership Corporation
2014
Terry England, State Representative
2013
Nathan Deal, Governor of Georgia
2012
Hank Huckaby, Board of Regents Chancellor
2011
David Ralston, Speaker of the House
2010
Randy Nuckolls, Georgia 4-H Foundation Trustee
2009
Mike Beatty, Georgia Department of Community Affairs Commissioner
2008
Sonny Perdue, Governor of Georgia

William H. Booth Award: Patrick Willis

Georgia 4-H and the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals annually present the William H. Booth Award to outstanding 4-H extension agents, recognizing significant professional achievements and continued support of the organization. The 2024 recipient is Patrick Willis, Berrien County Extension Coordinator and 4-H Agent. Throughout his 26-year career, Patrick has garnered numerous accolades and awards on the national, state, and district levels, including the prestigious National Excellence in Peer Professional Development and the GAE4-HA Professional Achievement Award. He has coached nine 4-H youth to achieve Master status in the State 4-H Congress experience and has supported 22 4-H youth in their campaign, election, and year of service as a state or district 4-H officer. Willis has also shown extensive support to local collaborative efforts that benefit the Berrien County community. The William H. Booth Award is presented in conjunction with the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals and the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation.



Ryles Rising Star Award: Laura Mirarchi

The Ryles Rising Star Award was established upon the retirement of former State 4-H Leader Dr. Roger C. (Bo) Ryles to recognize an outstanding 4-H staff member in the first five years of employment. These individuals make significant and exceptional contributions to the success of 4-H, either in a county program, at a 4-H center, or in the state 4-H office. The 2024 recipient is Laura Mirarchi, Troup County 4-H Agent. Laura began her 4-H career in 2020 and immediately began navigating the challenges of developing successful youth programming during a global pandemic. She has worked diligently to create impactful relationships with Troup County school administrators. She saw a 100% increase in 4-H participation in 2023, with over 800 county youth directly exposed to experientially-based agricultural programming. Laura has started a variety of new clubs, including many opportunities for volunteers to lead programming. She is an active member of state associations and the 4-H Pollinator Ambassador Program. She has expanded relationships within the community, including the Chamber of Commerce, ActiveLife, Parks and Recreation, and FFA. "Her passion for youth development and her ability to inspire those around her are truly commendable," her county manager said.

Friend of 4-H Award: Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

Georgia 4-H and the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals recognize individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding support of Georgia 4-H with the Friend of 4-H Award. This important award highlights exemplary contributions towards the Georgia 4-H vision and mission. The 2024 recipient is the University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. The faculty and staff of Warnell have been instrumental in educating 4-H youth in the areas of conservation and environmental education for more than 30 years. Specialists within Warnell orchestrate 4-H Forestry and Wildlife judging contests, facilitate training for adult leaders, host students for visits to campus labs, and co-administer the newly established 4-H Natural Resources Exploration Camp. A Natural Resources Exploration camper shared, "My favorite part was actually getting to know the professors at Warnell because they were so nice and helpful. I appreciate them taking time to care about me and help me learn things I didn't already know." Warnell's commitment and support of Georgia 4-H has been pivotal, making them an excellent Friend of 4-H.



Written by Alyssa Haag and Cooper Hardy
Cloverleaf 2024 • 27

Young Alumni

“Our hands to larger service” is a pledge that continues long after high school graduation.

Written by Jenna Daniel



"Georgia 4-H enabled me to lead groups of my peers, to speak with confidence and authority on subjects about which I was passionate, and empower others to positively impact their communities. Above all, my time in Georgia 4-H introduced me to a subject that has underscored my very being throughout my time in college and now as a professional: the land-grant system. In effect, Georgia 4-H instilled in me a passion for public scholarship, community impact, educational discovery, and the commitment to improving the American livelihood in whatever way I can though my profession."

Clay Hurdle
University of Missouri, Assistant Professor of Human Development & 4-H Leadership and Civic Engagement Specialist
Lowndes County Alumnus



"My involvement in 4-H greatly shaped my problem-solving skills and sparked my passion for service. I learned how to approach challenges thoughtfully, analyze issues, and communicate effective solutions to my team and to leadership. As an advisor for the Junior and Senior Northeast District Board of Directors, I have the opportunity to support and guide 4-H'ers in their development. In this role, I focus on teaching essential life skills, as well as fostering leadership, teamwork, and public speaking. By mentoring these young leaders, I help them build confidence and prepare for future challenges."

Jonathan Moss
Revenue Analytics, Inc., Customer Strategy & Success Manager
Oglethorpe County Alumnus



"The 4-H Project Achievement contest introduced me to the process of compiling information into concise material, which I use in my role drafting reports to the Secretary and the President. Summer camp taught me the value of relationships, which I often recall when meeting with stakeholder groups and colleagues. I have chosen to give back with contributions honoring individuals who shaped my 4-H career, serving as an advisor to 4-H boards of directors, and opening my professional network to current and former 4-H'ers. I strongly believe by investing in 4-H I am helping to ensure a stronger, more productive society for our nation."

Tyler Tucker
United States Department of Agriculture, Special Advisor
Ben Hill County Alumnus

Serving to Shape the Future

Mark and Martha Morris have been committed to serving youth and adults in the Southeast District for decades. Their impact is immeasurable.

Written by Keri Hobbs

Martha Morris can easily recall a conversation she had 17 years ago with her father. Jim Neal, a retired UGA Extension Regional Director of Forestry, learned about local summer 4-H offerings from a Liberty County newspaper and called his daughter to share the discovery.

went on to serve on state boards. All four became Master 4-H'ers in the Project Achievement contest, and all four went on to serve as 4-H camp counselors. Josh and Julianna found their sparks that inspired their careers through Project Achievement. Kevin and Kirsten now serve as volunteer leaders with Chatham County 4-H. "The program has been a huge benefit to our kids, we want to expand that to others," Martha said. Expanding the 4-H program is exactly what they have done. After a relocation to Savannah, Mark and Martha strengthened their dedication to 4-H volunteerism. They

in food-related Project Achievement areas. Following her father's passion, she began offering Forestry Judging in Chatham County, where she serves as the lead Forestry Judging coach. She also serves as a certified coach for Poultry Judging, SAFE BB, and SAFE Archery; she has also served on the Georgia 4-H Advisory Committee. Due to her impactful service, she was named the 2015 Georgia 4-H Volunteer of the Year. Her quality programming has led to state-winning teams and trips to national competitions. When asked what advice they would give to new volunteers, Mark said,



Martha, a busy mother of her own four kids, jumped on the opportunity to register the family for the summer 4-H photography class. That phone call to the Extension office quickly and permanently connected the Morris family to magic of Georgia 4-H. Martha's husband, Mark, began the family 4-H legacy many years earlier as an Appling County 4-H'er. He holds fond memories of attending summer camp and competing in the Recreation project during Project Achievement. When the family became involved with Liberty County 4-H, it took no convincing to recruit Mark as a volunteer. He served as a volunteer chaperone for State 4-H Council at Rock Eagle 4-H in 2009 - this was just the beginning of a dynamic 4-H legacy in the making. Mark and Martha have observed 4-H life skills development firsthand in their own four children: Kevin, Kirsten, Julianna, and Josh. All four Morris offspring served on district boards; two

have become a staple of the Chatham County 4-H program, saying "Yes!" when called upon and bringing their creativity for new ideas. Mark has served as Certified BB Coach, Certified Shotgun Team Coach, Certified 22 Rimfire Team Coach, Certified Archery Team Coach, Certified Wildlife Judging Coach, and Assistant Forestry Judging Coach. He has served on the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee and recently worked with Craven Hudson, State 4-H SAFE Coordinator, to bring Level 2 Hunting Skills competitions to Georgia. He now serves as the Georgia 4-H SAFE Certification instructor. Through his service, regardless of the content area, he focuses on training youth to speak with confidence in public. "Providing confidence is what 4-H does best," Mark said. Martha has used her training as a dietician to coach 4-H Food Product Development teams and mentor youth

"Remember you are there for the youth." Likewise, Martha said, "Remember to be flexible. Go with it to invest with the kids you have there - you'll see a big difference with just a few [hours]." Sergia Gableman, Chatham County 4-H Agent, fondly recognizes that the dynamic duo has made a positive impression on hundreds of youth through their service. Committed volunteers shape the impact of a 4-H program. A handful of caring adults who continue showing up can create endless possibilities for positive youth development. Mark and Martha continue to show up for Georgia 4-H in invaluable ways. Jim Neal would certainly be proud of the continued legacy that all started with discovery of 4-H summer programming in the Hinesville Coastal Courier.

GEORGIA 4-H ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sherry Abrams | Matt Hammons |
| April Aldridge | Rebecca Hunt |
| Holly Barnes | Dustin Landrum |
| Carter Black, Emeritus | Linda May |
| Lindsay Bridges | Cindy Meadows |
| Rontra Brown | Kelley Owen |
| Heather Cabe | Wendy Palmer |
| Priscilla Doster | Jason Peake |
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| Jillian Farley | Rachael Pierce |
| Aisha Favors | Michael Reeves, Chair |
| Adam Fouche | Dusty Smith |
| Lauren Goble | Bryce Trotter |
| | Julia Wood |

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|-------------------------------|---|
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| Sarah Isaac, Vice President | Ben Tellano, Small Camp Representative |
| Spotlight Kitchens, Secretary | Cooper Hardy, Rock Eagle Representative |
| Georgia Simmons, Treasurer | |

GEORGIA 4-H COUNSELOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
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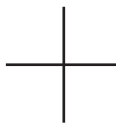
173,434

Total Volunteer Hours



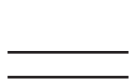
1,437

Teens Served



5,127

Adults Served



\$5.4M

Volunteer Time Worth

2,934

Volunteer
Chaperones

1,547

Volunteer
Chaperones at
District and
State Events

1,047

Certified S.A.F.E
Coaches - Archery,
Pistol, Rifle,
Shotgun

204

Certified Judging Coaches

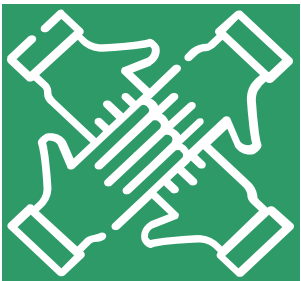
Cotton Boll & Consumer, Forestry,
Land, Poultry, and Wildlife Judging

916

Certified Judges for
Project Achievement

438

Volunteer Led Clubs
State-Wide



Volunteers of the Year

► "Volunteers are one of the cornerstones of any 4-H program's success, and 4-H volunteers can positively impact 4-H'ers just like 4-H agents, fellow 4-H youth, and college faculty do."

-Clay Hurdle *Featured on page 28*



program information to follow up. She is a 4-H recruiter, connecting youth to ways to find their sparks in 4-H. She also is known as the "4-H photographer" in Northwest District, even traveling to other counties to do photographs at their awards ceremonies or other local events as requested. She is dedicated to making teens feel cared about; she always has the food, the fun, and the friendship.

Georgia 4-H Volunteer Salute to Excellence
Outstanding Volunteer of the Year:

Rhonda Dunnaway

Rhonda is an outstanding Gordon County volunteer, both in how she leads from the front as the volunteer leader of 4-H Tech Changemakers to the ways she serves as support to many 4-H programs by providing transportation, taking photographs, and supporting program logistics. She became a lead volunteer for three counties on the 4-H Tech Changemaker program, and was an extraordinary partner to Catoosa and Whitfield Counties in evaluation and reporting. She has continued to be the lead coordinator of the program in Gordon County for five years now, ensuring the program met its deliverables and had great impact, and even having a National Ambassador.

Rhonda urges those who sit in her hygienist's chair to join 4-H in their county, providing them contact and

Georgia 4-H Volunteer Salute to Excellence
Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer:

John Jones

John has been a certified volunteer for Pulaski County for 20 years. He has helped with almost every aspect of 4-H programming: in-school meetings, Project Achievement, SAFE shooting sports, contests hosted in Pulaski County, and even hosted events at his home. He has chaperoned events on the local & district level, chaperoned summer camp, judged for 4-H Georgia National Fair exhibits, helped with specialty day camps, driven 4-H'ers to events and activities all over the state, John has mentored 4-H'ers, promoted fundraisers and delivered items, worked baked sales, attended State Congress to support youth, worked admission tables and concessions for 4-H dances, attended state and national conferences, and worked the Clover Cafe.

John has had many leadership roles within the Pulaski 4-H program; one particularly noteworthy leadership role has been serving as President of the Pulaski 4-H Volunteer Leader Association. He has helped significantly increase volunteer involvement through recruitment.

John "bleeds green," and has previously been selected as a Georgia 4-H Honorary Master 4-H'er. His love of 4-H is infectious, and he advocates for it everywhere he goes.





Georgia 4-H Foundation Words from our Leadership

Every year there are 4-H Club Members that graduate and move on to the next phase of their lives. Every year there is a new group of younger 4-H'ers that join. The cycle continues as this organization - the best in the nation - grows and makes its members "Beyond Ready" to excel in school, the workforce and leadership roles.

For over 75 years, the Georgia 4-H Foundation has had the singular mission of finding resources to support Georgia 4-H programs and those that guide them. It is an incredible honor to serve as Chair of the Georgia 4-H Foundation. As a 4-H'er, I understood that my success was owed to the resources and money provided by Extension personnel, volunteer leaders and the Georgia 4-H Foundation. Today more than ever, there is so much competition for those assets of time, resources, and money. Our job with the Foundation is to help send the fifth-grade 4-H'er in Rabun County that has

never seen the ocean to Camp Burton; to ensure the 9th grade guitarist in Camden County can showcase and develop their talent on the stage; to ensure the dedicated Extension Agent in Dade County has the funds to prepare and take his 4-H'ers to DPA; to ensure the graduating senior from Seminole County can continue her education through scholarship awards. We know Georgia 4-H covers every corner of the state. The needs to support the program, our 4-H Centers, and our members are tremendous. The Foundation's resolve to meet those needs is unwavering.

As a 4-H'er, I was fortunate to have a family legacy of involvement in our club. I was to be able to attend 4-H Camp every year, compete at the District and State levels in my projects, be a Rock Eagle Counselor for three years, serve as a US Senate Intern in Washington, and represent the USA as an International 4-H Youth Exchange participant to Italy after graduating from the University of Georgia. I'm sure that like me, anyone that competed in Poultry Judging starts doing some serious analysis and



calculating when they hit the eggs and chicken at the grocery store.

Through all of that, the integral aspects of my 4-H career that mean the most to me and make me who I am today are the 4-H friendships I've made. These are friendships that remain with me to this day and will be with me forever. Everyone has their own 4-H story, but it is safe to say the learning, fun and friendship part is universal. The work of the Georgia 4-H Foundation provides the means for the cycle to continue for other young people. Your support is manifested and appreciated over 170,000 times a day.

**Thank you for your support of Georgia 4-H,
Ken Jones
Chairman,
Georgia 4-H Foundation**

President John F. Kennedy once said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."

This quote sums up my belief in the importance of Georgia 4-H programming as a relevant opportunity to construct the next generation of strong leaders and engaged citizens. The Georgia 4-H Foundation plays a crucial role in supporting, underwriting, and ensuring the long-term success of the many proven and impactful Georgia 4-H programs.

This year, the Georgia 4-H Foundation joined forces with corporate and individual partners to continue developing investment for Georgia's youth. In Fiscal Year 2024, the Foundation was boosted by a record-breaking 5,600 individual gifts (191% above the four-year average), and 2,200 of those donors were brand new 4-H benefactors underlining our mission to



expand Georgia 4-H's base of support.

Together, we met and surpassed our fundraising goal for a total of 135%, with \$3,726,728 in committed fundraising dollars.

The Foundation is committed to sustained growth of private dollars, and last year's fundraising

total was \$1.25 million above the four year rolling average. This support continues to have a lasting impact on the opportunity to provide life-changing communication, leadership, and workforce readiness opportunities.

The Georgia 4-H Foundation looked beyond fundraising numbers as a barometer of success in FY24. Our team made several updates to be as efficient and impactful as possible. We switched our counties to ACH payments to increase safety and speed of transfers, we held a record-breaking Georgia 4-H Gala, and celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the

Foundation. We expanded the number of scholarships, endowments, and county investment accounts and held educational opportunities built around fund development for 4-H agents. Additionally, we continued working with our partners at Truist to diversify our investments in a successful attempt to grow the impact of our investment portfolio.

Looking to the year ahead, we are committed to growing the impact and opportunities for the Georgia 4-H Foundation. Our team is dedicated to being good stewards of your generosity while maximizing the impact of your hard-earned investment. We thrive on being as accessible, flexible, transparent, and responsible as possible to meet our stakeholders' needs and expectations. Thank you for continuing to help Georgia 4-H "Make the Best Better."

**Sincerely,
Adam Hammond
Executive Director,
Georgia 4-H Foundation**

GEORGIA

4 - H FOUNDATION

2024 Pillar Sponsors

Leadership and Civic Engagement Pillar

KELLEY LOEFFLER

Kelley Loeffler grew up as an active member of Illinois 4-H, living on a soybean farm and showing cattle in 4-H. She is a former Georgia Senator who was appointed to fill the vacancy due to Johnny Isakson's resignation and served from January 6, 2020 until January 20, 2021.

Georgia 4-H civic engagement programs empower youth to be well-informed citizens - actively engaged in their communities and the world. Through Georgia 4-H, youth can learn about civic affairs, build decision-making skills, and develop a sense of understanding and confidence in relating and connecting to others and their community.

Agriculture Pillar



The Harley Langdale, Jr. Foundation Inc., founded in 1958, strives to support its community and continue the legacy and spirit of Harley Langdale, Jr. The Foundation seeks to provide support for education, health, research and service to Valdosta, surrounding communities and Georgia. Additionally, the foundation empowers organizations, individuals, and families to improve their quality of life and the health of the forests.

Agriculture was an original focus of Georgia 4-H, and it remains an important pillar today. Through Georgia 4-H, youth are provided opportunities to raise animals, explore animal and plant sciences, and experience all areas of agricultural science as they relate to global and sustainable food sources and innovation in agricultural industries.

Premium Peanut is a grower-owned sheller, oil, and seed company operating in Georgia and South Carolina. It is responsible for handling over 10% of the peanut crop in the United States. The company is committed to innovation and excellence with its unique model and support of sustainability goals.

Education surrounding nutrition, health and fitness, bullying prevention, safety, and stress management are all critical goals of the Georgia 4-H Healthy Living pillar. Competitions under Healthy Living include Cotton Boll & Consumer Judging, LifeSmarts, Dean's Award, Food Challenge, Chicken BBQ, Turkey BBQ, and Egg Prep.

Healthy Living Pillar



STEM Pillar



META is one of the world's largest technology companies. It fosters innovations that help people connect, find communities, and grow businesses. META is guided by giving people a voice, building connection and community, serving everyone, protecting privacy, and promoting economic opportunity.

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs are vital in Georgia 4-H. Programs such as Mission-Make-It and the STEM Ambassadors program allow youth to develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills through hands-on learning activities.

Chemours is a global chemistry company that provides solutions for industries ranging from automotive, paints, and laminates to advanced electronics, construction, energy, and telecommunications. Chemours focuses on its four strategic pillars: innovation and sustainable solutions, environmental leadership, community impact, and the greatest place to work for all.

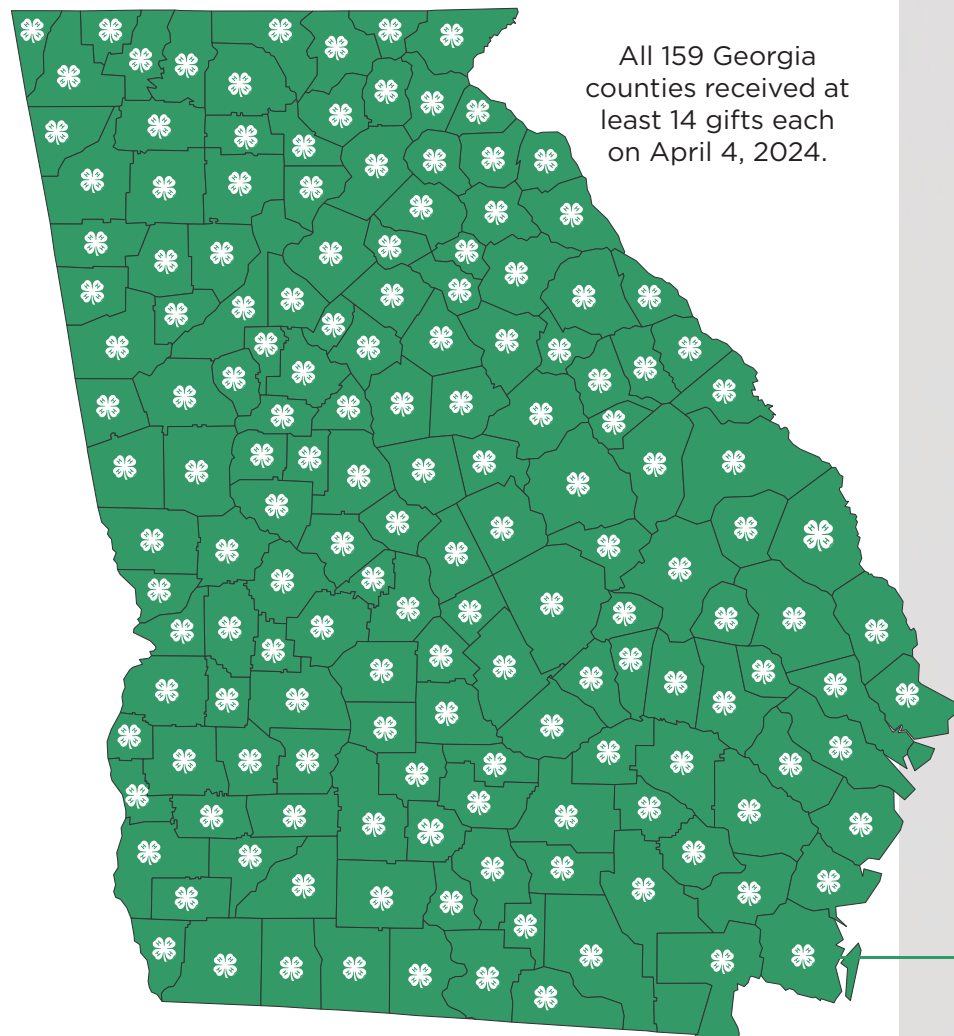
Environmental science is a major part of the curriculum offered in schools, county Extension offices, and six 4-H centers across Georgia. Youth explore the intersection of ecology, humankind, and the environment as they learn about conservation of resources and the impact of environmental stressors.

Environmental Science Pillar



Written by Alyssa Haag

Cloverleaf 2024 • 33



All 159 Georgia counties received at least 14 gifts each on April 4, 2024.

\$4 for 4-H? \$107,250 for 4-H!

April 1 may be a prankster's favorite day, but April 4 is no joke for Georgia 4-H! Beginning in 2018 with a goal of \$4,000, the \$4 for 4-H campaign was established as an annual day of giving to raise money to support county programming. This fundraising effort was designed to give donors the opportunity to select a specific county to support while encouraging some friendly competition between Extension offices. In just a few short years, supporters and advocates of the Georgia 4-H program have helped to catapult this annual campaign to new heights. Thanks to the generosity of nearly 2,600 individual donors and organizations, a record-breaking \$107,250 was raised in 2024, eclipsing the set goal of \$74,444. Additionally, all 159 counties received at least 14 gifts, turning our statewide tracking map into a flurry of green and clovers!

This fundraiser would not be possible without the tireless efforts of those within our county offices working with their communities to share this opportunity.



Scan this code to view a complete list of 2024 \$4 for 4-H donors.

Get in on the fun:
April 4, 2025



Maggie Glennon

As a retired educator and former assistant superintendent, Maggie Glennon understands the importance of positive youth development opportunities. Originally from England, Maggie and her husband, Tom, settled in Monroe County. Their sons, John and Cliff, grew up as Monroe County 4-H'ers.

Tom, a professor at Mercer University, and Maggie have a heart for providing opportunities for youth, especially those that may have a perceived difference or special needs. In 1989, Tom founded the First Street Arts Center, an area where youth could gather both before and after school to explore their interests in the arts. Although the First Street Arts Center eventually closed, Tom and Maggie continued to work to create opportunities for the youth of Bibb County.

After Tom's passing in 2018, Maggie knew she wanted to make a lasting impact in memory of her husband. She became aware that the Bibb County Extension Office would be moving to the building where Tom's beloved First Street Arts Center was originally housed. After reaching out to the staff, she realized their needs were a perfect match for her passion.

The Tom Glennon Memorial Camping Endowment now supports an annual scholarship designated for a special needs 4-H'er to attend summer camp. Maggie shared that exposure to diverse populations and mindsets through an opportunity like summer camp can be a life-changing experience for a young person, and through this endowment, Bibb County will have support in perpetuity. The Georgia 4-H Foundation is grateful for this gift that will forever recognize the legacy of Tom Glennon.

Written by Ryan Rose and Will Woodard



Eddie & Sandra Knowlton

Eddie and Sandra Knowlton are lifelong 4-H members and supporters. Like most, their 4-H story begins in the 5th grade as they became involved in their local 4-H clubs. Years later, they both stayed involved even through college. Eddie participated in the Poultry project, becoming a state and national winner; Sandra participated in the Clothing project. They met as camp counselors at Rock Eagle 4-H Center, where they both served three summers as camp counselors, ending with a summer as leadership counselors.

The relationships they created with other 4-H'ers, the impact that their 4-H agents had on them, and the difference they made for young people as counselors created a life-long passion for the Knowltons.

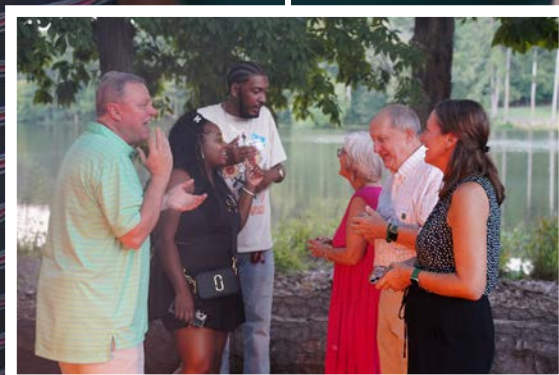
When asked about the driving force for their support of 4-H, they noted that they resonate with the 4-H mission to improve the lives of young people. They join many volunteers, parents, employees, and retirees who share this goal. Eddie and Sandra are also committed to providing 4-H'ers with opportunities to create the lifelong bonds and relationships that they still have with their friends in 4-H.

The Knowltons have established an endowment that will support Georgia 4-H in perpetuity, even long after their lifetimes. "The decision was easy when we realized that we were able to create a lasting legacy for the organization that shaped our lives," they said. Eddie and Sandra hope their decision will inspire others who share their passion to consider similar support for Georgia 4-H.

If you are interested in establishing an endowment in honor or memory of a loved one, please reach out to the Georgia 4-H Foundation.

TWILIGHT ON THE LAKE

Georgia 4-H alumni and friends gather at Rock Eagle 4-H Center to reflect, relax, and look to a bright future



Georgia 4-H is all about connection and life-long friendships.

Twilight on the Lake, held on August 24, 2024 at Rock Eagle 4-H Center, was the perfect setting to foster those relationships. Friends of 4-H spent an evening reminiscing while enjoying games and food. Alumni and supporters from all generations enjoy staying connected to each other and the organization. This year's Twilight Tailgate was a great opportunity to catch up and share many fond memories. The celebration included a classic Rock Eagle cookout meal in the Senior Pavilion, a dance through the decades, and s'mores at a campfire. Georgia 4-H is made stronger by an engaged and passionate alumni group!

Written by Will Woodard

Seventy Five and Onward

On March 21, 2024, donors and supporters gathered at the Georgia Club in Statham for a celebration in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Georgia 4-H Foundation. Guests had the opportunity to enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, explore the history of the Georgia 4-H Foundation, and mix and mingle with old and new 4-H friends. Through this event, the Georgia 4-H Foundation had a goal of raising \$75,000 to support prioritized needs including National Congress, State Congress, and other activities held throughout the year. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and attendees, over \$100,000 was raised in support of Georgia 4-H. In addition to celebrating this milestone, the event also included a special program recognizing previous Green Jacket Award recipients from throughout the years. This prestigious award is given to individuals who have shown outstanding statewide support to Georgia 4-H while still in active service in their role. These special 4-H advocates (below) were in attendance alongside University of Georgia President Jere W. Morehead. The Georgia 4-H Foundation looks forward to serving Georgia 4-H for another 75 years and onward!



Written by Ryan Rose



Georgia 4-H Green Jacket Recipients



State Board of Directors 2023-2024



Thomas Holt
Ben Hill County
President



Brittney Bryant
Toombs County
Vice-President



Hoke Lucas
Oconee County
State Representative



Tiffani McClain
Jasper County
State Representative



Sharandon Gay
Clinch County
State Representative



Amiyah Elam
Ware County
Southeast District Representative



Allie Braddy
Ben Hill County
Southwest Representative



Jack Wurst
Columbia County
Northeast District Representative



Naomi Jackson
Bibb County
Northwest District Representative

2023-2024 District Boards

NORTHEAST DISTRICT OFFICERS

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Lilly Kate Farrar, Habersham County, Vice-President
Cate DeMaria, Clarke County, Board Member
Zoie Kelly, Stephens County, Board Member
Zoey Parks, Jasper County, Board Member
Tahtiana Talley, Clarke County, Board Member
Carolyn Thomas, Putnam County, Board Member
McCall Woodruff, Oconee County, Board Member



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Ayshiah Frazier, Haralson County, Vice-President
Landin Cunningham, Meriwether County, Board Member
Lee Donahue, Floyd County, Board Member
Aarsheya Gunjal, Cobb County, Board Member
Madison Lucas, Heard County, Board Member
Rori Pepper, Catoosa County, Board Member
Emily Grace Smith, Gordon County, Board Member



SOUTHEAST DISTRICT OFFICERS

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Kingston Ryals, Toombs County, Vice-President
Emily Hoskins, Glynn County, Board Member
Megan Miller, Tattnall County, Board Member
Tiya Patel, Evans County, Board Member
Yasmin Rios, Emanuel County, Board Member
Jacob Sands, Charlton County, Board Member
Lucas Spinks, McIntosh County, Board Member



SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICERS

Jacob Bennett, Grady County, President
Fe-Fe Hamilton, Tift County, Vice-President
Kaleb Green, Dooly County, Board Member
Esteban Contreras, Pulaski County, Board Member
Mia Burnett, Mitchell County, Board Member
Addy Winchester, Pulaski County, Board Member
Amelia Cox, Clinch County, Board Member
Nandini Patel, Ben Hill County, Board Member



Join the
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programs:
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"Leadership
& Officers
Circle" when
you make
your gift

LEADERSHIP & OFFICERS CIRCLE DONORS FROM FY2024

Trevor Barker
Johnathon Barrett and
Thomas White
Mary Jo Beverly
Jenna and Clanton Black
Katrina Bowers
Susan Branan
David and Betty Carlson
Tom and Frances Cochran
Katie Comer and
Tyler Ashley

Melvin and Esther Davis
Kathleen Freeman
Jerry and Janie Griffin
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Jody and Marle Usry
Will Walker
Lee and Jill Webb
Patricia Wells
Jerry and Sylvia Whiteside
Ashford Memorial
Methodist Adult Sunday
School Class
Alston & Bird LLP

Achievement Scholarship Winners

4-H DOLLARS FOR 4-H SCHOLARS SCHOLARSHIP
Nathan Mercer, Bleckley County
Donor: In Honor of the State 4-H Board of Directors

ART AND HELEN HARGROVE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Elise Sparks, Madison County
Donor: The Hargrove Family

ATLANTA FARMERS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
Drew Cribbs, Morgan County
Donor: Atlanta Farmers Club

BESS CABANISS MEMORIAL MASTER 4-H CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
Lily Thomas, Putnam County
Donor: Georgia Master 4-H Club

BOBBY GENE AND FRANCES MCKISSICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Lexi Moore, Oconee County
Donor: The McKissick Family

CARYN CURRY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Lydia Belflower, Bleckley County
Donor: The Curry Family

CLOVER GLOVE PERSEVERANCE SCHOLARSHIP
Grace Holt, Toombs County
Donor: Clover Glove Race Series

CLOVER GLOVE SPRINT SCHOLARSHIP
Grady Beach, Chattooga County
Donor: Clover Glove Race Series

DON MASSEY SCHOLARSHIP
Molly Wells, Tift County
Donor: The Massey Family

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP
Alyssa Haag, Oconee County
Donor: Don and Julie Bower

GACAA AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP
Abigail Kendrick, Turner County
Donor: Georgia Association of County Agricultural Agents

GAINES ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Breanna Manning, Gordon County
Donors: Greg and Karol Gaines

GEORGIA 4-H ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP - UGA CAES
Lauren Coley, Bleckley County
Donor: UGA College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

GEORGIA 4-H MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Davis Slate, Athens-Clarke County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

GEORGIA MASTER 4-H CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
Susan Carter, Appling County
Donor: Georgia Master 4-H Club

GEORGIA PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP
Isaac Monteiro, Gwinnett County
Donor: Southeast Propane Alliance

GLORIA AND GOEBBEL BERRY SCHOLARSHIP
Aubrey Waters, Bulloch County
Donor: Georgia Master 4-H Club

HAMIL 4-H CAMP COUNSELOR ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Janey Miller, Lowndes County
Donors: Ned and Laura Hamil

HAMIL 4-H CAMP COUNSELOR ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Luke Roesch, Stephens County
Donors: Ned and Laura Hamil

HUGH MOSS COMER SCHOLARSHIP
Lilly Kate Farrar, Habersham County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

IDELLE LEE CARTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
FaithAnn Rogers, Emanuel County
Donors: Frank and Christy Carter

IRVIN 4-H SCHOLARSHIP
Hannah McElrath, Gordon County
Donor: The Thomas T. & Bernice F. Irvin Foundation, Inc.

JERRY PATRIARCA 4-H MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Nicholas McKinley, Paulding County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

JOHN STRICKLAND SCHOLARSHIP
Jessica Muniz, Lumpkin County
Donors: Frank and Christy Carter

JULIUS BENTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Lexi Hardy, Pulaski County
Donor: Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals

KITZINGER SCHOLARSHIP
Tiffani McClain, Jasper County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

LEAH SZCZEPANSKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Kalani Washington, Oconee County
Donor: Leah Szczepanski Memorial Endowment

LOUISE HILL ABAC 4-H SCHOLARSHIP
Lauren Wixson, Ben Hill County
Donor: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

LOYD POITEVINT SCHOLARSHIP
Isabella McDonald, Henry County
Donor: The Poitevint Family

MAC PEDEN 4-H ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Jackson Thigpen, Bulloch County
Donor: Mac Peden

MARTHA HARRISON JONES MEMORIAL MASTER 4-H CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
Alexis Lemmings, Chattooga County
Donor: Georgia Master 4-H Club

MARTHA JONES SCHOLARSHIP
Hannah Jones, Gordon County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

NEVELS-HALL FAMILY COLLEGIATE 4-H SCHOLARSHIP
Jenna Dekich, Catoosa County
Donors: Emmett and Doris Hall

PROJECT S.A.F.E. SCHOLARSHIP/ARCHERY
Emily Mainor, Banks County
Donor: Project S.A.F.E. Committee

PROJECT S.A.F.E. SCHOLARSHIP/RIFLE
Colin Williamson, Tift County
Donor: Project S.A.F.E. Committee

PROJECT S.A.F.E. SCHOLARSHIP/SHOTGUN
Kathryn Thompson, Bleckley County
Donor: Project S.A.F.E. Committee

RACHEL HARDY JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Aniyah Hall, Ben Hill County
Donor: The Rachel Hardy Johnson Estate

ROBERT & KATHLEEN PINCKNEY MASTER 4-H CLUB SCHOLARSHIP
Amiyah Elam, Ware County
Donor: Georgia Master 4-H Club

ROBERT WHITAKER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
Emilia McElroy, Cobb County
Donor: The Whitaker Family

WALTER S. BROWN SCHOLARSHIP
Sandhya Rajesh, Cobb County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Foundation

WAYNE SHACKELFORD SCHOLARSHIP
Braylen Howell, Baldwin County
Donor: The Shackelford Family

WAYNE SHACKELFORD SCHOLARSHIP
Jarrett Hancock, Irwin County
Donor: The Shackelford Family

WOOTEN SCHOLARSHIP
Wilson Griffeth, Athens-Clarke County
Donor: Georgia 4-H Volunteers

Project Achievement Winners

Donors listed with projects are Blue Ribbon supporters.

ARTS AND CRAFTS
Leigha Perkins, Jasper County
Donor: Chapple Corporation

BEEF
McCall Woodruff, Oconee County
Donor: Williamson Beef Project Fund

COMMUNICATIONS
Riley David, Clarke County
Donor: Walter Reeves Communication Project Endowment

COMPANION & SPECIALTY ANIMALS
Anna Cook, Cook County
Donors: Mrs. Diane Vaughan & Mr. Lynn Rainey

COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Carolyn Thomas, Putnam County
Donor: Georgia Master 4-H Club

DAIRY
Aurora Cadman, Coweta County
Donor: Southern Wise

DOG CARE & TRAINING
Caroline Harnois, Whitfield County
Donor: Ms. Joy Sherlock

ENGINEERING & MECHANICS
Jessica Muniz, Lumpkin County
Donors: Mr. Ted and Mrs. Gerrye Jenkins

ENTOMOLOGY
Alice Adams, Clarke County
Donor: Triangle Chemical Company

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Bethany Samuel, Tift County
Donors: Dr. Cliff and Mrs. Amelia Lipscomb

FASHION REVUE
Tahtiana Talley, Clarke County
Donor: Georgia Master 4-H Club

FINANCIAL PLANNING & CONSUMER ECONOMICS
Amiyah Elam, Ware County
Donor: Sarah Huff-Katrina Bowers Endowment

FLOWERS, SHRUBS, & LAWNS
Aaron Graham, Haralson County
Donor: Georgia Development Authority

FOOD FOR FITNESS
Brittney Bryant, Toombs County
Donor: M.K. "Curly" Cook Family Fund in Memory of Sandra B. Cook

FOOD FOR HEALTH & SPORT
Hannah Jones, Gordon County
Donors: Mr. Stewart and Mrs. Karen Thigpen

FOOD SAFETY & PRESERVATION
Callie Brown, Chattooga County
Donors: Mr. Gary and Mrs. Rhonda Keve

FOODS LAB: DAIRY FOODS
Brianna Mauldin, Crisp County
Donors: Mr. Bob and Mrs. Lucy Reid

FOODS LAB: FESTIVE FOODS FOR HEALTH
Walt Beach, Chattooga County
Donor: Hardy Farms Peanuts

FOODS LAB: FOOD FARE
Madison McDonald, Camden County
Donor: Georgia Development Authority

FOREST RESOURCES & WOOD SCIENCE
Autumn Samsel, Habersham County
Donor: Paulding Timber Products

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS
Molly Hooker, Pickens County
Donor: Meadows-Knox Family Fund

GENERAL RECREATION
Gregory Huston, Toombs County
Donor: Six Flags Over Georgia

HEALTH
Venya Gunjal, Cobb County
Donor: Piedmont Athens Regional Foundation

HISTORY
Erin Beggs, Union County
Donor: Ms. Beth Scott-Brown

HORSE
Avery Pruett, Coweta County
Donors: Dr. Patrick and Mrs. Julie Lucas

HOUSING, EQUIPMENT, & ENVIRONMENT
Sheila Flores, Pickens County
Donor: Georgia Banking Company

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
Lauren Coley, Bleckley County
Donor: Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals

INTERNATIONAL
Tiya Patel, Evans County
Donor: Mr. Seth Turner

OUTDOOR RECREATION
Jake Grantham, Coffee County
Donor: Athens Six

PERFORMING ARTS: DANCE
Vidhi Patel, Meriwether County
Donors: Page Performing Arts-Dance Fund

PERFORMING ARTS: DRAMA
Victoria Sapp, Haralson County
Donors: Mr. Michael and Mrs. Jessica Gill

PERFORMING ARTS: GENERAL
Jada Coachman, Seminole County
Donors: Mr. Brad and Mrs. Danetta Hardy

PERFORMING ARTS: OTHER INSTRUMENTAL
Micah Newton, Pickens County
Donors: Dr. Kelle and The Honorable Billy Ray

PERFORMING ARTS: PIANO
Nathan Hayes, Effingham County
Donors: Dr. Bo and Mrs. Becky Ryles

PERFORMING ARTS: VOCAL
Lilly Lanier, Mitchell County
Donors: Dr. Frank and Mrs. Christy Carter

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY
Savannah Bryant, Cobb County
Donor: Georgia Magazine

PHYSICAL, BIOLOGICAL, & EARTH SCIENCES
Haya Fatmi, Cobb County
Donor: Georgia Electric Membership Corporation

PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES
Katie Wagner, Catoosa County
Donor: Georgia Plant Food Educational Society

POULTRY
William Parish, Gordon County
Donor: Georgia Poultry Federation

PUBLIC SPEAKING
Tiffani McClain, Jasper County
Donors: Dr. R. Blaine and Mrs. Denise Everson

ROBOTICS
Adalynn Jordan, Coweta County
Donor: Gulfstream

SAFETY
Shaelin Calder-Denny, Bibb County
Donor: The Gaines Safety Project Fund

SHEEP & MEAT GOATS
Agatha Grimes, Candler County
Donor: Williamson Sheep & Meat Goats Fund

SPORTS
Elikem Gato, Bulloch County
Donor: Clover Glove Race Series Fund

SWINE
Addy Winchester, Pulaski County
Donor: Commissioner Tyler Harper

TARGET SPORTS
Jackson Thigpen, Bulloch County
Donors: Callaway Foundation; Family of Col. James "Jim" Boddie

TEXTILES, MERCHANDISING, & INTERIORS
Arya Chawla, Hall County
Donors: Mr. Dave and Mrs. Anne Sapp

VETERINARY SCIENCE
Paige Folette, Pierce County
Donor: Dr. Laura Perry Johnson in honor of Dr. Amanda Perry

WILDLIFE & MARINE SCIENCE
Pistol Burkes, Grady County
Donors: Mrs. Jane McDaniel, The McDaniel Family

WORKFORCE PREPARATION & CAREER DEVELOPMENT
Kingston Ryals, Toombs County
Donor: Emerson Climate Technologies Fund

Special Event Winners

CHICKEN BARBEQUE CONTEST

Marissa Fry, Pike County
Donors: Mr. Ken and Mrs. Chris Jones

COTTON BOLL AND CONSUMER JUDGING HIGH INDIVIDUAL

Thomas Holt, Ben Hill County
Donor: Georgia Cotton Commission

COTTON BOLL AND CONSUMER JUDGING TEAM

Thomas Holt, Ben Hill County
Ruby Witt, Ben Hill County
Nandini Patel, Ben Hill County
Landon Sinyard, Ben Hill County
Donor: Georgia Cotton Commission

DAIRY JUDGING HIGH INDIVIDUAL

Justice Benjamin, Coweta County
Donors: John W. Cook Memorial Fund; Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation, Southeast Dairy Farmers' Milk Check-Off Program

DAIRY JUDGING TEAM

Brayden Allen, Gordon County
Lowry Duggin, Gordon County
William Parish, Gordon County
Matthew Worley, Gordon County
Donors: John W. Cook Memorial Fund; Georgia Dairy Youth Foundation, Southeast Dairy Farmers' Milk Check-Off Program

DAIRY QUIZ BOWL TEAM

Caeden Swartz, Coweta County
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Emily Jones, Coweta County
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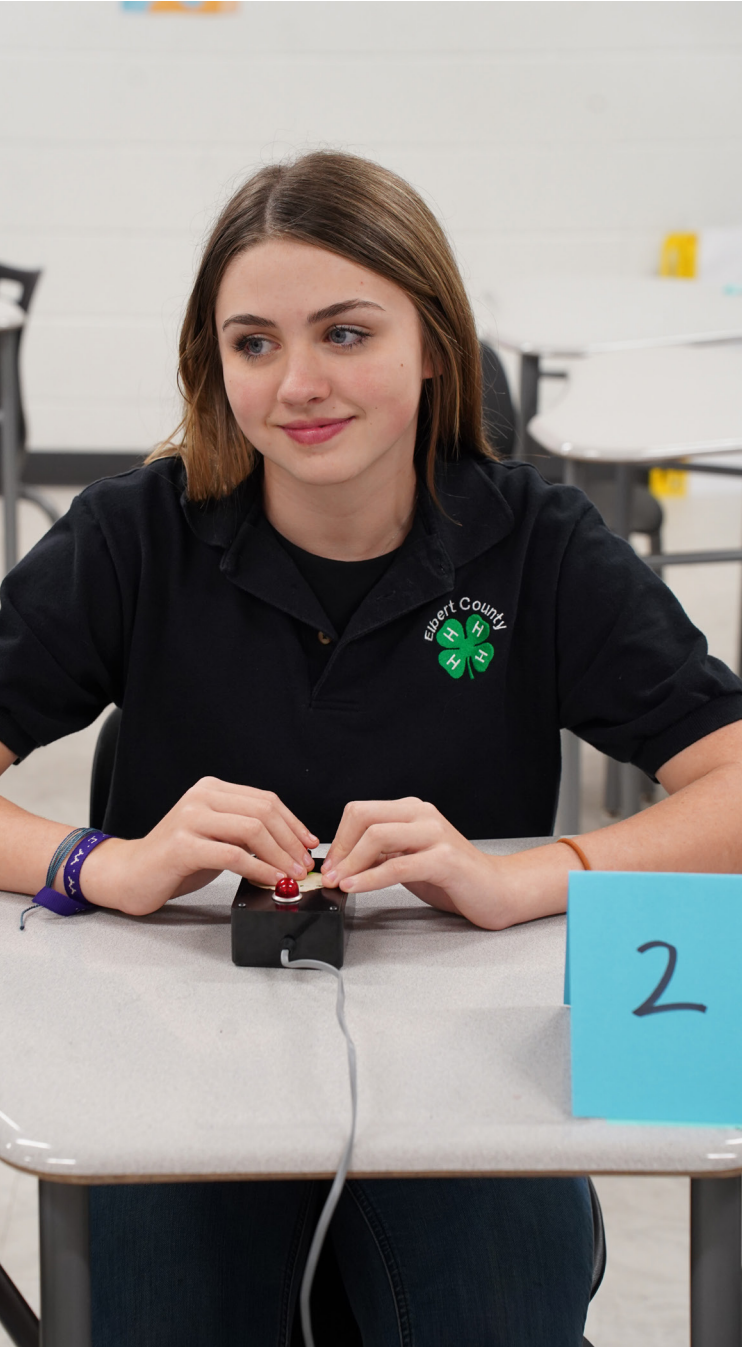
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Two wonderful ways to create a lasting legacy for you and your family in Georgia 4-H include endowment funding and estate gift planning. Both of these investments within the Foundation allow for perpetual support, giving 4-H'ers in our state lasting opportunities for generations to come. Your gift can be very specific in terms of implementation – such as designing your donation solely to sponsor a particular project or program – or the funding can be for general needs that arise as our organization serves more hundreds of thousands of students each year.

To learn more about how to establish an endowment or make a bequest in your will, please contact **Executive Director Adam Hammond** by emailing adam.hammond@uga.edu.

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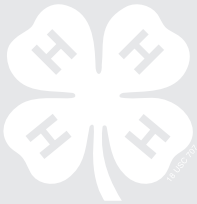
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The Emerald Clover Society is a group of supporters that have made a significant impact on Georgia 4-H through their collective giving. This is the inaugural group of members for the Emerald Clover Society, and all members have given over \$25,000 to Georgia 4-H over their lifetime. We would like to especially thank these individuals for their continued support across many years.



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Georgia 4-H Foundation Financial Statement

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

INCOME

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,267,524
GRANTS	\$363,559
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	\$2,204,676
REALIZED/UNREALIZED	\$1,009,469
INTEREST & DIVIDEND	\$361,458

TOTAL INCOME \$6,206,686

EXPENSES

CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIRS	\$433,244
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$3,230,754
SCHOLARSHIPS	\$85,572
FOUNDATION OPERATING	\$838,418

TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,587,988

BEGINNING NET ASSETS	\$5,490,815
ENDING NET ASSETS	\$7,109,513
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$1,618,698

FUNDRAISING SUMMARY

CONTRIBUTIONS (above)	\$2,267,524
GRANTS (above)	\$363,559
PLEDGES (committed)	\$327,941
GIFTS IN KIND (credited)	\$185,266
RAISED FOR/HELD BY OTHERS	\$593,889.93

\$3,738,179.93



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