

GREAT STORIES

GEORGIA

4-H



AmeriCorps

Volunteer Appreciation

Micah Sculley

April, 2020



Micah Sculley, Thomas County 4-H AmeriCorps member, was excited to play a role in organizing the Thomas County 4-H Poster Contest. The contest rules were simple: create a poster to show appreciation to 4-H volunteers. After the contest was closed, the community was asked to vote on their favorite poster via social media. This contest gained a great deal of attention. The original Facebook post had over 300 engagements and Micah and his colleagues had a great time creating the event. The community selected a winner from each age group.

GREAT STORIES



Volunteer Development

Avery Moore

August, 2020

Avery Moore, a current AmeriCorps VISTA for Jackson County 4-H, assists in building capacity through volunteer development and engagement. At the beginning of her service, Avery mainly focused on developing volunteer surveys aimed at assessing current attitudes towards Jackson County 4-H, additional resources volunteers would like to see, and suggestions for how the program could improve. After analyzing this data, Avery developed a list of action items for how to increase volunteer engagement and streamline the initial process of becoming a volunteer. Avery created a Volunteer Resources page on Jackson County 4-H's website that outlines the application process for new volunteers and links to the previously referenced assessments in order to solicit more volunteer feedback. She also has been updating marketing resources for the year of 2020 through Jackson County 4-H's Community Outreach Guide. Additionally, each month Avery creates and sends out a volunteer newsletter to approximately 140 volunteers. In this newsletter, she recognizes a "Volunteer of the Month" to express gratitude towards Jackson County 4-H's current volunteers and show the program's appreciation.

Outside of her work in volunteer development and engagement, Avery has also facilitated a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Jackson County to increase Jackson County 4-H's reach and collaborate with organizations who have similar missions. Lastly, Avery has set up a percentage night with Beef O' Brady's in late October in order to raise funds for Jackson County 4-H programs. In the future, her goals are to begin applying for grants and develop additional resources for families and youth in Jackson County.



HOW DO I BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

- 1** CONFIRM YOUR ELIGIBILITY
Adult volunteers must be at least 18 years old to serve.
- 2** COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORMS
 - Volunteer Agreement
 - Adult Behavior Guidelines (found within the Volunteer Agreement)
 - 4-H Screening Application
- 3** EMAIL US A COPY OF YOUR COMPLETED FORMS
 - Email: avery.moore25@uga.edu
 - From there, we will then contact you with notes for completing your background check, send you your final training materials, and add you to our volunteer roster and newsletter!
- 4** REFER A FRIEND AND CHECK OUT THE REST OF OUR WEBSITE WITH ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

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Summer Health Squad Resources and Leadership

Toni Hunlen

June, 2020



This summer Toni Hunlen, Georgia 4-H State AmeriCorps member, partnered with VISTA Summer Associates to lead Georgia 4-H's new "Summer Health Squad" program. With lessons in hand and training on nutrition, food security, and food access, these VISTA summer associates brought the program to life with creativity and enthusiasm. In addition, they did most of it totally virtually! Being in the middle of a pandemic, Toni shared that it was nice to connect with new faces and get to know them a little more over the span of a few weeks.

Leading up to this collaboration, Toni created a video that would spark further development and resources surrounding the summer health squad. He was proud of the work that went into making this video at home and was subsequently shared. Featured in the videos were also graphics he produced to share with this incoming team of summer VISTAs for the promotion of their lesson plans within their communities.

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Christmas in July

T'Neil Williams and Blake McBride

June and July, 2020



T'Neil Williams, Emanuel County 4-H AmeriCorps member, enjoyed collaborating with Blake McBride, Emanuel County 4-H AmeriCorps VISTA member, this summer. After Blake was given his assignment of reaching youth about food insecurities and collecting 200 pounds of food for the local food pantry, they hatched a plan. Blake came up with a great video series that he produced, filmed, edited, and acted in that reached over 200 individuals and T'Neil assisted him with script ideas and content. T'Neil also worked on contacting a local group, Weekend Blessings, that provides foods to children on the weekends when they are not in school, or to children who may not have access to healthy foods. Weekend Blessings needed canned hams and pull-tab single serve items to provide local students with over the school holidays. T'Neil also contacted a local church to see what items they were in need of for their food pantry and discovered that Hawhammock Baptist Church needed meat and protein options as well as breakfast items. After learning of these needs, T'Neil and Blake's plan for "Christmas in July" was underway.

4-H volunteers and staff including T'Neil agreed to get a pie in the face if they had the most weight of hams or other nonperishable items donated in their honor. Boxes were placed outside for each volunteer's donations. The donations were weighed weekly and Emanuel County 4-H's Facebook and Instagram pages were updated with the running totals. They collected 245 pounds of donated food items!

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AmeriCorps

Virtual Judge

Toni Hunlen

July, 2020



Georgia 4-H State Congress is the premier competition and recognition event for high school age Georgia 4-H'ers. Usually, it is a four-day, in-person event hosted in Atlanta. Under circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic, an in-person event was not possible in 2020, but that did not stop Georgia 4-H from adapting. Toni Hunlen, State 4-H AmeriCorps member, shadowed weekly meetings about the power of showing up for those that depend on you. It was obvious that the youth depended on Georgia 4-H a lot more this year in particular.

State Congress carried on but virtually. Toni was able to serve a small part in this achievement by acting as a Zoom room co-host. His job was to ensure youth had a stable internet connection and were ready to carry on with their virtual interviews with judges. It is not likely that he will get this kind of engagement regularly, but given that Toni has a background of being a camp counselor, he described it as a refreshing experience for him.

"The youth is the hope of our future." -Jose Rizal

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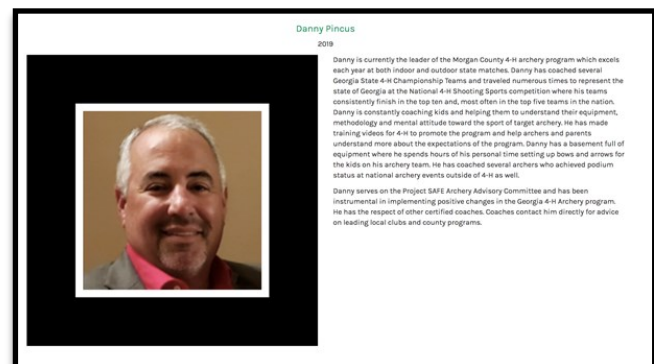


AmeriCorps

A New Look

Toni Hunlen

August, 2020



August had come before Toni Hunlen had a chance to blink. Although he was halfway into his service, it seemed like he had only just begun as a VISTA in the Georgia 4-H State Office. Before the beginning of the pandemic, he had only been in the office for about three weeks, so he describes it as unique to be servicing volunteers from home. "I enjoyed working from home, but I was looking forward to working in the office again on August 10th!" Toni said.

On his first day back in the office, Toni was continuing his projects he had been working on from home. One particular project involved making website adjustments for the volunteer website pages on the Georgia 4-H website. Toni loves using his creativity in any way he can, so he helped create a look that complimented Georgia 4-H and its volunteers.

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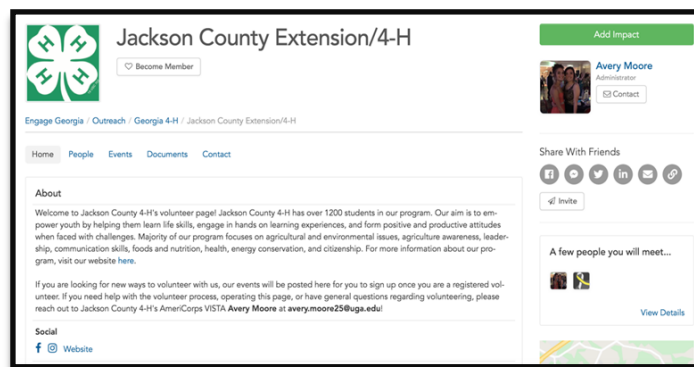


AmeriCorps

Engage Georgia

Avery Moore

September, 2020



Avery Moore is currently serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA for Jackson County 4-H. Majority of her service currently revolves around streamlining the process of becoming a volunteer and registering for events. One of her most recent projects focuses on a partnership with the UGA Office of Service-Learning, wherein they collaborated to build a platform for Jackson County 4-H on Engage Georgia. Engage Georgia works as a centralized platform for individuals to apply to be volunteers, see community service events across various organizations, and register for those events as spots become available.

By utilizing Engage Georgia, Avery also hopes to involve more UGA college students in 4-H events so that they can serve as mentors to current youth in the program. In the spring, Avery hopes to expand on UGA Engage and develop it as a means for youth to sign up for 4-H camps as well. The hope is that other 4-H programs will follow this precedent for a streamlined, collaborative, and uniform process of signing up for 4-H events. Avery is currently brainstorming and creating a tutorial for how to navigate Engage Georgia and Jackson County 4-H's specific page.

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Notable Co-Presenter

Toni Hunlen

September, 2020



Along with approximately 40 other participants from Georgia, Toni Hunlen, Georgia 4-H State AmeriCorps member, attended the National 4-H Volunteer Conference. He did so notably as a co-presenter on the second evening of the conference! The session Toni helped present, Increasing Youth Health Knowledge Through Volunteer Programming, incorporated resources to reach family members and form community partnerships.

Toni created a video on reading nutrition facts labels which was highlighted during this session. This was a project that was created to help support a team of Summer VISTA Associates with materials for the Summer Health Squad, a new program from Georgia 4-H with lessons on handwashing, nutrition, food security, and food access. He also produced the promotional materials each summer VISTA used for their lessons. In total, 19 participants from across the United States attended this session. Toni found it encouraging to see his work being used on a national level.

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4-H Available 24 Hours a Day!

Joyce Hyndman

October, 2020



Joyce Hyndman, Clayton County 4-H AmeriCorps member, created virtual programming to reach 4-H'ers when face-to-face instruction wasn't possible. "We wanted to give our 4-H students the opportunity to view fun projects without having to sit in front of yet another zoom meeting. Quite honestly, zoom fatigue has been setting in for students as well as some of the leaders," Joyce said.

They decided to begin a series of videos that can be viewed at students' leisure featuring topics that were fun as well as educational. Providing pre-recorded content makes Clayton County 4-H available 24 hours a day! Joyce led the first video, combining STEM concepts with a bit of fun. Along with their 4-H program assistant, Clayton County 4-H began the series with a lotion making video. They are very excited to continue this series monthly on their 4-H YouTube Channel.

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AmeriCorps

NAE4-HYDP Wellness Challenge Video

Toni Hunlen

October, 2020



Toni Hunlen, Georgia 4-H State AmeriCorps member, says “It is always a good opportunity when I am able to network with professionals outside of the state of Georgia.” The National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals’ Creating a Healthier You Working Group asked for Toni’s assistance in creating a [video](#) to promote excitement for participation in a virtual wellness challenge. Toni’s site supervisor, Keri Hobbs, serves as a member of this working group of professionals.

It was a fun opportunity for him to step outside of his office for a moment to film in front of Sanford Stadium at Dooley Field, the staple of the University of Georgia’s campus. The video itself reached 172 viewers for the program it revolved around. The wellness challenge activities are still available for those who pass through the website. The video serves as the starting point for participants interested in creating new healthy habits.

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AmeriCorps

4-H Mentor Video

Toni Hunlen

November, 2020

Project Achievement is a core Georgia 4-H program that is essential to the development of youth's skills in leadership, creativity, public speaking, and more. Toni Hunlen, Georgia 4-H State AmeriCorps member, worked to help create a promotional video to help recruit Project Achievement mentors. Positive mentors are the foundation of success for youth involved in Georgia 4-H.

Although the video Toni worked on will not launch until April of 2021, this project also ties to a social media project he is collaborating on with an AmeriCorps VISTA member in Jackson County.

Toni said "Networking with the alumni of this program was the best part of this project. It was insightful to see how they balanced their responsibilities and how the mentors were intentional with getting to know their mentees."

This video along with other resources will help newly recruited mentors as they make their way in this program.



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AmeriCorps

Celebrating Local Heroes

Joyce Hyndman

December, 2020



Joyce Hyndman, Clayton County 4-H AmeriCorps member has found new ways to connect with audiences through the COVID-19 pandemic. “It’s been an interesting year to say the least, but through it all Clayton County 4-H has worked very hard to maintain connection with not only the 4-H members and the community as well,” said Joyce. During the holiday season, they had the opportunity to express appreciation to the heroes in their community.

Due to social distancing and the need to keep students safe, they filled baskets and made deliveries on behalf of the students to some of Clayton County 4-H’s key partners: the Clayton County Police Department, Clayton County library system, and the Clayton County Fire Department.