

# GREAT STORIES

GEORGIA

4-H



## Room Hosts

Avery Douglas

August 2018



Avery Douglas, an AmeriCorps VISTA serving at the Georgia 4-H State Office in Athens, Georgia, works to build capacity and sustainability through volunteer development. Avery Douglas recently served as a room host at Georgia 4-H's State Congress event. State Congress is the largest annual 4-H event where students are judged on a portfolio project of their choosing. This was the first year State Congress was going to have room hosts to help facilitate order in their presentation rooms while students presented projects. A room hosts job was to call roll, help students with set up, and make sure the audience was orderly while presentations were ongoing. The new room host role is designed to open up more opportunities for volunteers at Georgia 4-H events. Serving as one of the first room hosts, Avery helped lay the foundation and expectations for the role of a room host. At this first room hosting opportunity, there were about twenty room host positions and all received positive feedback. The opportunity is open to any of Georgia 4-H's 500+ volunteers, as well as, potential volunteers. The role will be an opportunity for years to come that Avery and her volunteer development team can use to place volunteers in exciting hands-on positions.

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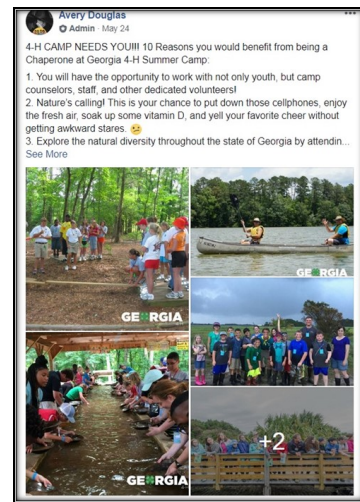
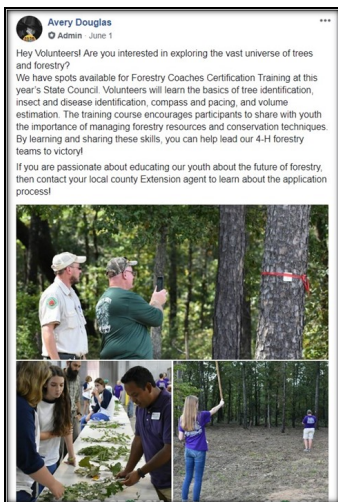
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## Social Media Engagement

Avery Douglas

July 2018



Avery Douglas, an AmeriCorps VISTA serving at the Georgia 4-H State Office in Athens, Georgia, works to build capacity and sustainability through volunteer development. Avery is part of a volunteer development team that actively engages volunteers through social media posts on the Georgia 4-H Adult Volunteer Facebook page. The social media posts include 4-H event information, volunteer spotlights, camp updates and photos, flashbacks in Georgia 4-H history, holiday greetings, activity guides, and more. Avery also specializes in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs for Georgia 4-H, so as a way to integrate her two specialties, she has begun posting STEM activity videos and guides on their social media outlets for volunteers to use in their 4-H led activities. A volunteer specialist from another state has noted the great job the Georgia 4-H volunteer group is doing with engagement on social media; they are encouraging others to follow their lead statewide with volunteers. By staying present on social media outlets and keeping up with daily posts, Avery and the Georgia 4-H volunteer group have fostered a norm of communication and involvement with their volunteers. They continue to inspire about 500 Georgia 4-H volunteers by posting on Facebook and encouraging them to stay connected by liking, sharing, and commenting on the posts.

Link to Georgia 4-H Volunteer Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1504837549747170/>

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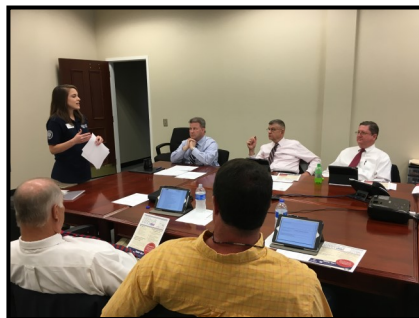
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## School Garden Program

Ashleigh Childs

June, 2018



In the month of June, UGA Extension Southwest District AmeriCorps VISTA member, Ashleigh Childs, supported the Well Connected Communities initiative in partnership with UGA Extension and the Healthy Colquitt Coalition through the creation of materials to gain volunteers. The Healthy Colquitt Coalition is experiencing a restructuring through the incorporation of youth representatives to implement youth adult partnerships in the health improvement efforts of Colquitt County.

To promote this initiative, Ashleigh created infographics to first be distributed to current coalition members to educate them on the importance of allowing youth to have a place at the table in making decisions that affect the community in which they live. Ashleigh then created an application through collaboration with the Colquitt County 4-H agent, Zona Medley, to target 9th-11th grade students with an interest in public health and community service. To aid in the recruitment of these students, Ashleigh scheduled meetings with both Colquitt County High School and C.A. Gray Junior High School to obtain permission and support from the administration to promote the opportunity for serving as a student representative on a community health coalition.

She created promotional flyers to be displayed in the hallways in the schools and plans to be present at both schools open house nights to share information with students. Ashleigh also partnered with a local non-profit organization, Helping Young People Elevate (H.Y.P.E.) to utilize the opportunity for the students involved in the organization to directly apply the life lessons taught in the curriculum for H.Y.P.E. (goal setting, having a vision, and adapting to change) to the process for enacting community change. In consideration of reaching students with an interest in public health, Ashleigh scheduled meetings also with the student intern and youth volunteer groups at Colquitt Regional Medical Center (CRMC) in Moultrie, GA to promote the student member position and bring awareness to coalition efforts. Ashleigh is awaiting application submission from these groups, as well as Colquitt County 4-H Leadership Council and others at Colquitt County High and C.A. Gray Junior High Schools to select student coalition members.



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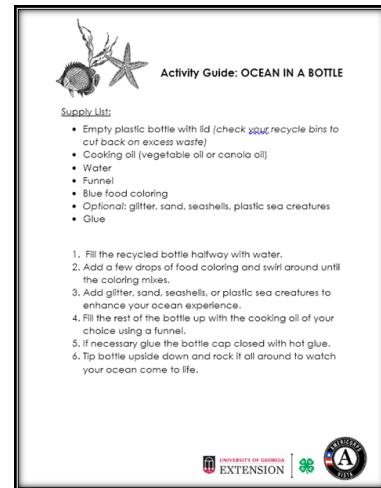
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## STEM Videos for Volunteers

Avery Douglas

June 2018



Avery Douglas, an AmeriCorps VISTA serving at the UGA Cooperative Extension office in Athens, Georgia, helps develop STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs for Georgia 4-H. Avery's latest project was to figure out how to integrate STEM activities into Georgia 4-H's volunteer development plan. Avery helps run the social media for the Georgia 4-H Volunteer Facebook page, so, she and her supervisor decided they should post a video showing volunteers how to do a STEM activity they can use for 4-H clubs and camp. Avery took the idea and ran with it; she wrote a script, designed a character, and found an easy activity to kick off the summer. The title of Avery's STEM segment is IDEA Lab (Investigating Diverse Experiential Activities), and she plays the main scientist, Dr. Cosmos. The episode consists of an introduction to STEM, the layout of the supplies needed to do the activity, a visual enactment of the activity, and a career connection with special guest stars in STEM professions. The video will be aired on Georgia 4-H's Volunteer Facebook page with an activity guide she typed up. The interactive STEM videos will help hundreds of Georgia 4-H volunteers find ways they can integrate STEM subjects and hands-on learning experiences into activities with 4-H youth. Avery hopes to continue her legacy as Dr. Cosmos and create STEM videos with different themes and guest stars, helping to spread the importance of different STEM subjects throughout Georgia 4-H.