

GREAT STORIES

GEORGIA 4-H | AmeriCorps

Forestry Judging Practice

Emily Jarrell

July



After much anticipation in July, forestry judging practice has begun in earnest in Emanuel County. With the help of coaches Phil Torrance, Cade Bennett, Emily Jarrell, and Jakyn Tyson, weekly practices have allowed 11 students to learn most of the trees, identify all of the junior insects and diseases, and practice pacing. This new 4-H Club is providing 4-H'ers with expanded educational opportunities. Emmanuel County is looking forward to a competitive team for the competition in September! The GA Forestry Commission has also partnered with the team to provide printed material and support from their foresters. As students return to school in August, practices will continue 1-2 times a week after school. This educational opportunity is a result of the VISTA member's service and there is still more to come!



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Learning through Camp

Emily Jarrell

July

Emily supported a non-4H youth camp to learn about sustainability, youth development, and leadership training. While there, she was able to interview summer and year-long staff to learn about methods of sustainability used to sustain a quality camp with rotating staff. She was able to learn strategies that will help her leave a sustainable impact on Emanuel County 4-H as well as new strategies for Teen Leader training. She is looking forward to putting her new skills into action!

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4-H State Congress

Toni Hunlen

July



Georgia 4-H State Congress provides the highlight this month for Toni Hunlen. Since 1942, State Congress has been the premier competition and recognition event for high school age Georgia 4-H'ers. Held each year in Atlanta, State Congress is a four-day event that hosts various contests, recognizes 4-H scholarship recipients, and honors state 4-H winners in a variety of projects and competitions. Throughout the week, Georgia 4-H highlights outstanding 4-H student-led service projects, professionals, friends, private donors, and public officials for their contributions to the success of 4-H in Georgia.

The State 4-H Office VISTA Member, Toni Hunlen, coordinated volunteers Tuesday through Thursday at 4-H State Congress. He ensured volunteers were successful in their roles by welcoming them, answering questions, and directing them to volunteer locations. To prepare for a successful event, Toni revised the Georgia 4-H State Congress Portfolio Judges training. The update included updating the PPT pictures, adding slides to the PowerPoint, collaborating with his supervisor to edit the script, and recording a new voice-over. Finally, Toni supported statewide District Project Achievement by selecting and uploading 150 photos from the event. The images support social media, newspaper articles, infographics, and other media outlets for the county and state staff to use.

To see images selected by Toni Hunlen go to the following Flickr page: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmWmw5Vy>

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Project Achievement Volunteer

Michelle Williams-Ford, Emily Jarrell, and Toni Hunlen

June



Michelle Williams-Ford, Clayton County 4-H VISTA, supported 4-H State Congress by volunteering as a competition room host for Animal Care. This opportunity allowed her to observe and learn what is needed for the local youth in Clayton County to participate next year. Michelle managed the room announcements, helped kids set up, ensured technology was working properly, went over rules and regulations, and introduced judges. Not only did she enjoy supporting the high school competitors, but she gained new insights to bring back to her county.

Emily, Emmanuel County 4-H VISTA, attended the Southeast District Project Achievement at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in June. She was able to see the variety of project areas and the level of competency displayed by the competitors. She also attended the SE Winners Workshop to learn about State Congress and helped judge practice speeches. She gained a better understanding of State Congress and the level of professionalism and competition expected of the participants, similar to Michelle. Both Michelle and Emily look forward to putting their knowledge into practice as they work to recruit volunteers to support competitors for the 2022 competition year.

As a judge, Toni Hunlen was asked to judge projects in photography and Art due to his background. Generally, working behind the scenes to produce videos for judges was a great opportunity to practice what he prepares volunteers to do throughout the year. Toni served at all four DPA's, which each competition lasted 4-days. He served as an awards ceremony photographer at each competition. The former is the level of support Toni had in mind when we began his service before the pandemic. Link to 749 Images taken and managed by Toni:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmW9heFe>, <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmW9gDui>, <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmW9g9go>, <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmWdXDVR>