

GREAT STORIES

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Transition Guide

Avery Moore

May 2021



Jackson County 4-H
AmeriCorps VISTA
2021-2022 Transition Guide

To wrap up her final full month of service, Avery focused on making her AmeriCorps VISTA role in Jackson County more sustainable for the next VISTA. She developed the first transition guide for Jackson County AmeriCorps VISTAs as a live Google document that can be edited by future VISTAs. The transition guide covers VISTA roles & responsibilities, systems & tools, general tips, a “Getting Started” checklist, important contact information, and social media accounts, and any reusable graphics or templates. Avery also shared this transition guide with other VISTA supervisors so that it can potentially be used as a template in other counties. In fact, the state supervisor is using the template for new VISTA AmeriCorps counties. In addition to the guide, she also developed a “VISTA Goals Tracker” template for the next VISTA. It covers VAD, supervisor, and personal goals; a quarterly overview for tracking completed tasks and accomplishments; and sections focused on notes regarding partnerships, reports, and graphics. Avery hopes that this tracker will help keep the next VISTA organized and able to pull data or celebrate their accomplishments with ease.

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Summer Associate 4-H Vista Training

May 2021



The Georgia 4-H program welcomed two new AmeriCorps Summer Associates. To prepare the Summer Associates for service the VISTA Coordinator, Laura Goss, and the Executive Officer and Program Director, Keri Hobbs, coordinated a virtual training totaling over 10 hours. The virtual training included asynchronous learning and live sessions. A variety of technology tools and engagement methods were used like Nearpod, Extension site visits, published UGA 4-H videos, teach back experiences, introductory activities, PowerPoint slide presentations, Zoom, and handouts.

Associates were provided with 6-lesson plans and PPTs along with the Hunger 101 Curriculum to support their direct service VAD goals. Extension 4-H Specialists, Dr. Brown provided feedback for the teach backs and offered additional resources related to Food Security.

Avery Moore and Toni Hunlen, 4-H VISTAs, training focused on sustainability by presenting marketing resources and best practices. Avery discussed the pros & cons of Canva, Qualtrics, and Mailchimp in addition to giving a brief tutorial for each program. Toni provided an overview of video editing resources and supplied a Summer Health Squad educational video. The lesson provided the Summer Associate VISTAs different tools they can use to advertise while being mindful of sustainability.

Melinda Miller, 4-H Program Development Coordinator, educated the group on risk management and best practices for working with youth. Keri Hobbs and Laura Goss discussed the volunteer activity description, reporting, timesheets, 4-H Essential Elements, and planning tools. The use of different teaching tools and speakers allowed Associates an opportunity to connect topics to their service.

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Recruitment

Michelle Williams-Ford

May 2021



Michelle, Clayton County VISTA, developed new resources and opportunities to engage with the community. Her recruitment and community-building abilities lead to 3 new 4-H members enrolling in the club and 4 new volunteers. The former is a result of a new Volunteer Interest Meeting she facilitates on Zoom. To support promotion she created an informational flyer, Eventbrite event, and shared the details on the Clayton County Website.

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Forestry Resources

Emily Jarrell

May 2021



Emily worked with forestry judging volunteers to collect leaf and insect samples for the first Forestry Judging Team meeting. The first meeting was held on May 27 with 15 students in attendance! Four of the students were new to this activity. The students were able to hear from a GA Forestry Commission employee about the value of trees, the forestry industry in Emanuel County, and the skills foresters use in the field. The students were introduced to tree identification, pacing, tree measurement, and insect and disease identification. Students participated in a few competitions and scavenger hunts to put their new knowledge to the test. Students were excited about joining the Forestry Judging team and getting practices started soon!

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Technology Change Makers

Emily Jarrell

May 2021



Emily attended three zoom training sessions after Emanuel County was awarded the Technology Change Makers (TCM) grant. These training sessions helped Emily become familiar with the TCM program and helped her and Jakyn (her supervisor) make an action plan for implementation. This grant equips 4-H'ers with the knowledge, resources, and empowerment to lead in their communities through technology. 4-H'ers in turn lead digital skills training, teach the value of digital tools, and find technological solutions to real-world problems in their communities. The goal is to increase tech awareness and help young professionals learn technology skills necessary for the workplace. Emily and Jakyn have begun working on lessons to teach the 4-H TCMs. Emily is drafting lessons on resume writing, setting up a Google account, using Google Drive, and social media usage.

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Highlights

Emily Jarrell, Toni Hunlen, Michelle Williams-Ford, and Avery Douglas
May 2021



VISTAs in May collectively attended 10 trainings on topics like resource development, volunteer management, information technology, interview skills, and tracking system. The 4-H VISTAs have not only developed their skills in May but also their teaching skills. Toni Hunlen, shared video editing, software options, and best practices with the year-long and Summer Associates. Avery Douglas taught the Summer Associates about marketing tools and best practices. The former totaled an hour and a half of knowledge sharing. Further, Avery, Michelle, Toni, and Emily have conducted or created 6 volunteer activities . Examples of their work include a Zoom Volunteer Recruitment session, newsletter, marketing resources, and Forestry Judging Interest Day. As a result, 4 new volunteer leaders were recruited, 3 youth enrolled in 4-H, and 8 youth experienced a new 4-H activity.