



OHIO 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

CFAES

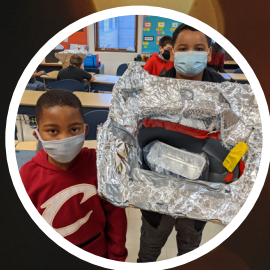
2021 IMPACT REPORT



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4-H Starts the Spark



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

THE OHIO 4-H FOUNDATION
at The Ohio State University

COLLEGE of FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

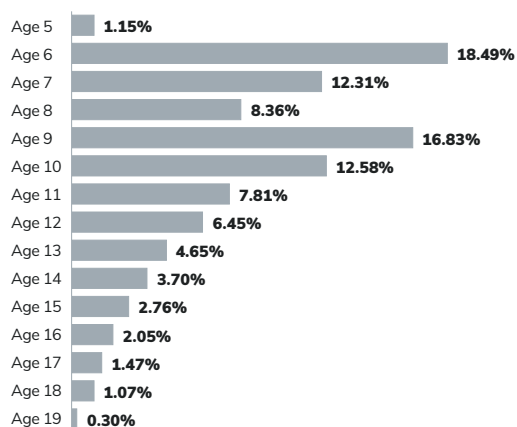
OHIO 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT REACH

For more than 100 years, Ohio 4-H youth development has ignited the spark that kindles experience, service, and knowledge among youth. Members tackle the challenge of exploring new topics through projects, and they develop important relationships with friends and others, which leads to lifelong learning. In 4-H, youth find their spark!

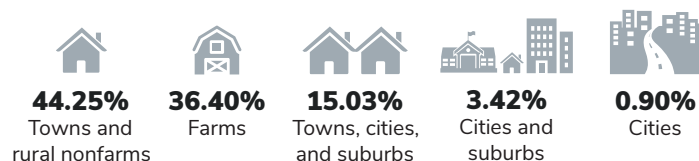
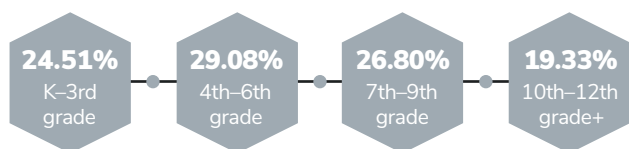


OHIO 4-H BY THE NUMBERS

Our youth join at any age.



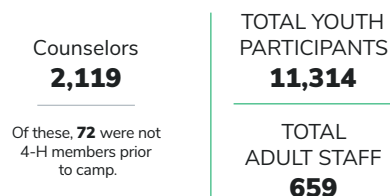
Project Enrollment



OHIO 4-H CAMP BY THE NUMBERS



In-person camping was back this year! Camps were held at camp facilities, local parks, fairgrounds, and county Extension offices. We held overnight camps, multiday camps, and single-day camps. Here are the 2021 camp numbers, as reported by counties:





To our 4-H friends and families,

What a year 2021 has been! While we all would have loved to say farewell to the COVID-19 pandemic, it continues to challenge us. We are grateful for fond memories of lives well lived and the countless positive contributions made by many who help make our clubs, our communities, our country, and

our world a better place. As we look toward the future, we will continue to build on this solid foundation.

Our Ohio 4-H members, volunteers, and professionals are resilient, and they found their spark in 2021 by discovering new ways to return to much-loved traditions and activities. In-person camps were back and were hosted at innovative locations to make them accessible to all: parks, Extension offices, and of course, 4-H camp facilities around the state. Members completed project work, which included new titles such as *Tracking Youth Health and Fitness*; *Explore the Poles*; and *Here, There, Ag Careers Are Everywhere*. I have no doubt that the Ohio 4-H youth development program is stronger because we came together to support one another while leading with clear heads, open hearts, hard-working hands, and an ongoing commitment to health and well-being.

On the pages ahead, you will read examples of how Ohio 4-H members rose to the challenge: stories of service, leadership, and young alumni giving back to pay it forward. As we move toward 2022, Ohio 4-H will continue our focus on growing the next generation of true leaders by helping youth find their spark.

Yours in service to 4-H,

Kirk Bloir, PhD

State 4-H Leader

Assistant Director, Ohio State University Extension



Dearest Ohio 4-H friends and families,

2022 will be the 120th anniversary of the creation of 4-H. On Jan. 15, 1902, A.B. Graham conducted the first meeting of the Boys and Girls Agricultural Experiment Club. This was the founding spark of what we know today as 4-H. Throughout these years, the 4-H mission has remained the same: Develop youth to be responsible and productive citizens. A.B. Graham's spark has grown into our nation's largest youth development organization.

These past two years, the world changed due to COVID-19. Our educators and volunteers have embraced the challenge using their heads, hearts, and hands while keeping their health intact to continue youth development during unprecedented times. The enthusiasm, curiosity, and creativity that our 4-H members have experienced while learning by doing has never dimmed. In 2022, let's continue to find those sparks in our young people and continue the legacy of A.B. Graham!

The Ohio 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees sincerely appreciates your generosity. Your financial support directly impacts 4-H programming that enables our youth to "find their spark." Thank you!

The Ohio 4-H Foundation is proud to work with CFAES and OSU Extension to support and promote the goals and objectives of Ohio 4-H. We invite you to review this report and join us as we invest in Ohio's future leaders, today's 4-H youth.

Thank you for your support,

Elizabeth A. Thomas, PhD

President,

The Ohio 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees

OUR FOCUS



Creating True Leaders

At Ohio 4-H, true leaders aren't born; they're grown. Youth grow these skills through both project work and experiences.



Endowing Future 4-H Success

Gifts to Ohio 4-H endowments help provide youth with the experiences, support, and encouragement they need to thrive for years to come.



Growing 4-H Across Ohio

Young people need the kinds of hands-on, youth-led experiences that Ohio 4-H provides. Ohio 4-H is engaging new audiences while continuing to grow traditional programming.



Ensuring Career and Workforce Readiness

The 4-H approach gives young people the guidance, tools, encouragement, and experiences they need in life and in their careers. Through Ohio 4-H, youth make great things happen in their own lives and in their own communities.



CREATING TRUE LEADERS

4-H ROYALTY AT OHIO STATE

Ohio 4-H alumna Maddie Allman was selected for The Ohio State University Homecoming Court for 2021. It is a significant honor, and she attributes much of her success to her 4-H experience.

Court members are selected based on their spirit, involvement, leadership qualities, and academic standing. Applicants complete a written application and interview process before being selected. Fortunately for Allman, these are all things that she learned through her involvement in Ohio 4-H.

At age 8, Allman joined her 4-H club in Vinton County because she wanted to show rabbits. Rabbits led to non-livestock projects, 4-H camp, Junior Fair Board, and eventually, the Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council (TLC). As part of TLC

in 2019, Allman took a position as the Ohio 4-H state vice president of outreach. The culmination of these experiences taught her life skills that she continues to use as a college student.

Allman attributes her passion, ambition, confidence, and public speaking abilities to 4-H. Without 4-H,

she doesn't believe that she would be where she is today: "4-H made me who I am, and it has given me the confidence to do things like run for homecoming court," said Allman.

Court members are responsible for helping with several back-to-school events. Allman assisted with Ohio State's Welcome Week, Involvement Fair, and Freshman Convocation. In October, along with the rest of the homecoming court, she was recognized at halftime of the Ohio State-Maryland football game.

On top of these skills, 4-H has also led to Allman's career choice. She is majoring in community leadership with a focus on community and Extension education, and she is minoring in both youth development and rural sociology. She also works as a student assistant at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center. Following graduation, Allman plans to go to graduate school and pursue a career in Extension education.

When she isn't focused on work or academics, Allman is actively involved on campus. Currently, she serves as president of Ohio State's Collegiate 4-H Club.

Each member of The Ohio State University Homecoming Court also chooses an organization they are passionate about and for which they are expected to conduct a fundraiser. For Allman, it was an easy decision.

"I couldn't think of anything else except for 4-H. I thought to myself, 'I have to fundraise for 4-H!'" said Allman.

Allman was able to successfully raise \$730 for the Ohio 4-H youth development program fund. These funds will be distributed to counties to help support their programs in The Ohio 4-H Foundation grant process.



FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT

Family History Treasure Hunt is an Ohio 4-H project that members can take for up to six years. Members learn about their family history by going on a treasure hunt for jewels of information, such as interesting events, people, and stories.

For Johannah Thacker, a nine-year 4-H member from Hardin County, her hunt not only led to discovering early Ohio relatives, but also to developing her leadership and service opportunities.

Thacker has taken the project for the past four years. This year, she realized she could be a positive influence by helping others in her community. She focused on her mother's third grade class and created a social studies unit that follows her family's ancestor,

Jacob Houck, a settler and founder of Houcktown, a town in northwest Ohio.



In the presentation she gave to the young students, Thacker discussed her ancestor in the Revolutionary War, his son who fought in the War of 1812, and his grandson, Jacob Houck. The curriculum included maps, census data, and photographs to show the differences between life then and now.

"This 4-H project gave me the opportunity to take my research and create something that will have a lasting impact on hundreds of third graders in the coming years. Looking beyond what is right in front of us, to how we can be a lasting positive influence, is a trait of a good leader."

PANDEMIC PEN PALS LEAD TO 4-H FRIENDSHIPS

Dashing off a text message or sending a quick email is the easy way for many to communicate, but Wood County 4-H members discovered that mailing a letter can make a lasting memory.

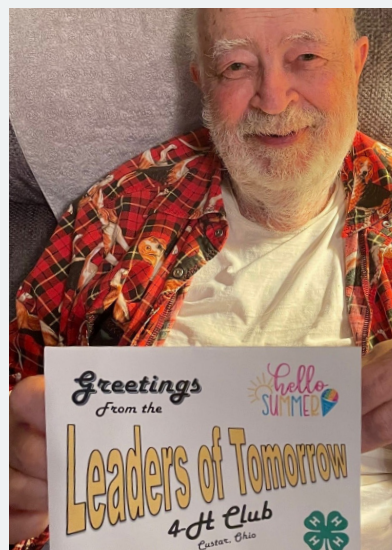
The Postal Project began last spring after the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted many. Sixteen 4-H clubs mailed "4-H Greetings" to over 200 people who were isolated

at home. Jenny Morlock, a Wood County 4-H program assistant, got the idea for the program after a phone call from a longtime OSU Extension supporter who shared how alone she felt.

"I wanted a way for 4-H members to reach out to those who were in that same situation, and the response was overwhelming," said Morlock. "It really made a difference to the recipients."

Alta Baker-Codding, a 4-H alumna from Crawford County said, "I was so excited to get a letter from a 4-H member and hear about his projects. It made me think about my days in 4-H many, many years ago. I dug up my 4-H member pins and photos of when I participated at the county fair. Now I can follow the 4-H career of my new 4-H pen pal!"

Another pen pal wrote, "Every day has been lonely at home. I can't



tell you how much these greetings mean to me."

While people are now able to get out and about, the 4-H Postal Project will continue with more Wood County 4-H members picking up their pens and sharing their stories.





ENDOWING FUTURE 4-H SUCCESS

Each year, The Ohio 4-H Foundation awards county 4-H professionals funds through a grant process. These funds provide new opportunities for innovative 4-H programming, which benefits youth and volunteers all around the state. These grants come from endowment funds provided by generous donors to the Ohio 4-H youth development program. Fundraisers such as Celebration of Youth help support this endowment. In 2021, The Ohio 4-H Foundation awarded \$95,614.20 for new programming around the state of Ohio. And since 2012, The Ohio 4-H Foundation has awarded \$1,694,847.67.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OHIO 4-H!

In October, the 24th annual Celebration of Youth: 4-H Leading the Way resulted in over \$137,000 for Ohio 4-H youth development programs. More than 220 4-H supporters participated in an evening of fun-filled fall activities at Leeds Farm in Ostrander.

It was a new venue for the annual event. Lisa Peterson, The Ohio 4-H Foundation board vice president said, "A huge thank you to Rob and Christy Leeds for opening their farm for this year's Celebration of Youth. We weren't sure how receptive people would be to the change, but there was something for everyone."

Guests were able to enjoy traditional activities that included a silent auction, as well as new activities such as zip-lining, peddle-cart races, and a pumpkin

plunge. "We hope the event grows and attracts 4-H friends of all ages and stages of life," said Peterson.

The National 4-H Conference for older 4-H members was in the spotlight when this year's celebration concluded with auctioneer Johnny Regula seeking \$1,000 sponsorships to send teens to the conference in Washington, D.C. Over \$10,000 in pledges were received to support Ohio's delegation in 2022.

Plans are underway for the 2022 Celebration of Youth, with the goal of including more young alumni.

Hannah Peterson was active in 4-H for 11 years. As a young professional, she was looking for a way to give back to the 4-H program that was so important to her: "I really enjoyed the evening at Leeds Farm and plan to bring some of my 4-H alumni friends back with me next year."



Proceeds from the Celebration of Youth support innovative programs throughout Ohio. A special thanks to this year's sponsors for their support and dedication. Find a list of all of our Celebration of Youth sponsors at go.osu.edu/COY.



INTERESTED IN HELPING TO SUPPORT OHIO 4-H?

Please consider a gift online (ohio4h.org/give-now).

ENSURING QUALITY ASSURANCE

When Tracy Winters, 4-H educator in Gallia County, realized that resale prices of fair market animals were dropping due to poor meat quality, she was determined to find a solution for her 4-H members. She knew education was key, and with the assistance of an Ohio 4-H Foundation grant, she designed a series of trainings for youth to learn how their actions as livestock producers affect the quality of their product.

From experts with the CFAES Department of Animal Sciences, Ohio 4-H members learned about food safety and the ethical considerations that go into raising quality meat. They were also able to take animal quality assurance training in small-group settings. This required training teaches youth best practices when dealing with food animal production.

Six training sessions were held throughout April and May, with 320 4-H and FFA youth participating along with their parents. Kits created with the grant funds provided youth with hands-on activities used in club settings and large-group demonstrations.



The result? “Youth didn’t realize their practices were hurting the quality of their products,” said Winters. “They learned how stress can affect meat products, and our program evaluations reflected a change in youth attitudes, especially when thinking about transporting animals and while on the fair grounds.”



DID YOU KNOW THAT THE OHIO 4-H FOUNDATION ANNUALLY PROVIDES A COUNTY ENDOWMENT MATCH?

Counties who raise \$1,000 for their local Ohio State endowments will receive a \$1,000 match by the foundation. Since 2018, the foundation has paid \$174,000 to counties for endowment matches. You can donate to your county 4-H endowment online (ohio4h.org/countydonation), or you can contact The Ohio 4-H Foundation with any questions: ohio4hfoundation@osu.edu.

Save
the
date!

4-H CELEBRATION OF YOUTH

at Leeds Farm

THURSDAY, OCT. 6, 2022*

*Please note: This is a change from the original date advertised due to the Big Ten Conference change in the 2022 Ohio State football schedule.



GROWING 4-H ACROSS OHIO

CLOVERS CODE—CREATING OPPORTUNITIES DESIGNED FOR EVERYONE

What happens when you combine kids, iPads, and 4-H? The result is Clovers CODE, a statewide program from Ohio 4-H that introduces problem-solving, computer literacy, and coding through hands-on activities.

Clovers CODE (Creating Opportunities Designed for Everyone), began in Franklin County and since 2019 has grown to include 3,115 4-H youth in 44 counties. As part of its Community Education Initiative, Apple provided the Ohio 4-H youth development program with devices, programmable robots, and professional learning and support.

As part of Clovers CODE, the Warren County Tech Creators began

meeting in the spring with a group of middle-school-aged youth. According to 4-H educator Steve Brady, Clovers CODE expanded their initial interest in technology: “This was more than just playing a computer game. By exploring the iPads and using the Everyone Can Code curriculum, they learned how to write code to create an app, program a robot, and explore video editing.”

Ben Dirksen, 14, joined the Tech Creators at the urging of his aunt, a 4-H

advisor who heard about the club: “She thought it would not only be fun, but good for my resume!” Dirksen had taken coding, robotics, and other tech classes in school, but the focus in Tech Creators was a bit different.

“This club was more hands on,” said Dirksen. “We used iPads and Spheros (robotic toys) to learn coding.” Those activities and working in a group environment offered him an important lesson. “This taught me about teamwork and how to work with technology and other people.”



Tech Creators also gave Dirksen and other members the opportunity to teach one another. “We had

one member of the group who told us they knew nothing about technology. We worked together, and by the end of the program, he was teaching newer members of the group.”

The skills Dirksen learned have come into play with the start of the school year: “There’s not a single job where you work by yourself, and I keep hearing that in my engineering class. With Tech Creators, we were able to accomplish a lot as a group.”



THE WARREN COUNTY TECH CREATORS WORK TOGETHER TO ASSEMBLE A PROGRAMMABLE JIMU MEEBOT. ONCE BUILT, IT ENABLES YOUTH TO WRITE CODE THAT MAKES THE ROBOT MOVE AND DANCE.

In Marion County, Clovers CODE was introduced to third and fourth grade students through Boys and Girls Clubs. In addition to the computer skills they acquired, 4-H educator Margo Long saw another important benefit: “Some of the kids started the program thinking it was like school and didn’t want any part of it. At the first session, I asked them to give me just 20 minutes, but as soon as they got their hands on the equipment, they didn’t want to quit. They built important

relationships with one another by working together on these projects.”

Clovers CODE was set to reach even more youth this past fall. In September, Ohio 4-H professionals from 14 new counties met with current program participants at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center.

“Our first-year counties will showcase their successes and share what works,” said Mark Light, leader, Ohio 4-H STEM and digital engagement specialist. “We

are excited to see how the new counties will introduce their youth to Clovers CODE.”

The next phase of the program will focus on creativity, with youth learning the skills needed to share stories through digital drawing, photography, video, and music.

BEN AND NATHAN WITH THE WARREN COUNTY TECH CREATORS COLLABORATE TO PROGRAM THEIR SPHERO ROBOT.



GROWING 4-H PROGRAMMING IN LORAIN COUNTY

In Lorain County, 4-H is making sure youth are getting a head start on the STEM skills needed for the future.

Over the past six years, Sally Hennessy, 4-H STEM program assistant has worked with more than 100 local

agencies with her school enrichment efforts, developing collaborations that have led to innovative programs focused on STEM activities.

Elyria Public Schools added the 4-H ChickQuest curriculum to all third grade life science classes. The district produced a podcast sharing the impact

and success of the program. Lorain City Schools also uses the curriculum in many elementary classrooms, finding it helps bridge the language barrier with Spanish-speaking

students and sparks their interest in hands-on learning.

One teacher shared, “My students do best with learning that involves hands-on problem-solving and sensory-based experiences. If it’s a mess ... it’s a success!”

Youth participating in an eight-week summer program focused on electricity, engineering, and agriscience. “If it moved or lit up, we did it!” said Hennessy. This program also engaged teen counselors who assisted with activities and fostered teamwork with participants.

The success of the STEM outreach program in Lorain County is due in part to grants from the Community Foundation of Lorain County and The Nordson Foundation, both of which have made a positive impact through increased access to hands-on learning.



SINCE 2016, OVER 18,000 YOUTH HAVE PARTICIPATED IN LORAIN COUNTY’S STEM-RELATED PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.



ENSURING CAREER AND WORKFORCE READINESS

THE MAKING OF MISS OHIO

Lora Current is making 4-H history while serving as Miss Ohio.

Current, an Ohio State senior, was crowned as Miss Ohio in June and attributes to her involvement in Ohio 4-H the hard work and communication skills she has used.

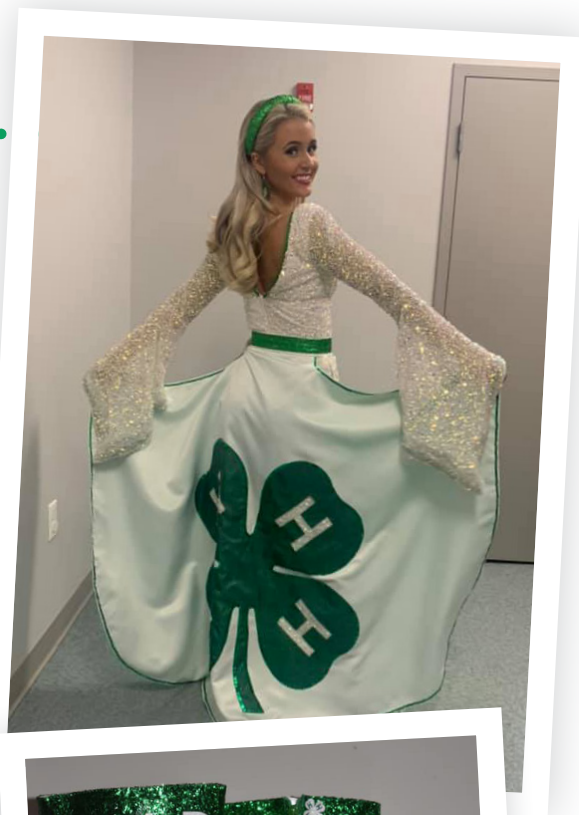
Growing up, Current was active in her 4-H club. Through showing livestock and taking other projects, she became the person she is today.

Current's involvement in the Miss Ohio competition began after she served as the Champaign County Fair Queen. She participated in the Ohio Fair Managers Association Queen Contest and was named the 2019 Ohio Fairs'

Queen. Next came the Miss Ohio competition.

"Something I'm very passionate about is agriculture, and that's something the Miss Ohio Scholarship Program has never seen before," said Current. "The skills I acquired, lessons I learned, and people I met through the program have not only helped me succeed in the Miss America program, but in each part of my life. I am forever grateful to 4-H!"

In December, Current travels to Connecticut for the Miss America competition, and she'll be taking those lifelong 4-H lessons with her.



Fun Fact:

Lora shares her birthday with A.B. Graham, the founder of 4-H.



CLEVELAND'S 4-H AGRISCIENCE IN THE CITY PROGRAM

What are red worms and meal worms good for? Youth in Cleveland's 4-H Agriscience in the City program are finding out as they study these invertebrate decomposers.

Activities hosted by Agriscience in the City help youth practice the skills they will need for college and careers: teamwork, safety, using technology and scientific instruments, critical thinking, and solving problems using engineering design. But as Rob Isner, 4-H educator and Agriscience in the City coordinator,

said, "They just think they are having fun!"

Agriscience activities geared back up in the summer, with eight Cleveland community agencies partnering with 4-H to host weekly STEM programs, reaching almost 100 youth each week.

Fall saw Agriscience in the City programs back in classrooms with Cleveland Metropolitan School District scholars.

And what about those wiggly worms? Cleveland school students moved on to explore them with microscopes and practiced using the scientific method. They'll continue expanding their knowledge and looking



at possible careers by learning about Ohio bats, and then they will blast off with 4-H Rockets to the Rescue.

OHIO YOUTH CAPITAL CHALLENGE

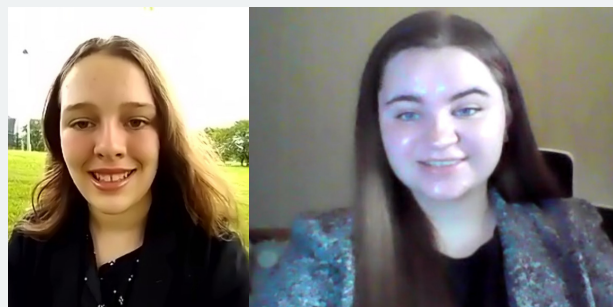
Endangered species, food insecurity, farm safety, and eminent domain were just a few of the topics tackled by youth who participated in the 2021 Ohio Youth Capital Challenge.

What began 10 years ago as a partnership between Ohio 4-H, FFA, and Ohio Farm Bureau Federation to help youth learn more about local government, has grown into an opportunity for high school youth to develop public policy proposals and college mentors to hone their leadership skills.

Ten teams participated in this year's virtual program. The challenge began in the spring as students worked through a series of online modules focused on public policy, including communication, consensus-building, identifying credible sources, and understanding how policies can become laws.

Teams narrowed their focus by selecting a single issue and developing a solution. They were aided by mentors, a new initiative for 2021, that saw college students from Ohio State, Ohio State ATI, and Wilmington College offer guidance throughout the four-month process.

In May, teams presented their findings in a final competition where they outlined the steps necessary to have their proposal adopted. The winning team of Cadence Richard from Allen County and Emily Scaff from Scioto County focused on fighting feral cat overpopulation.



THE PROGRAM LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON CADENCE, A 4-H MEMBER FROM ALLEN COUNTY:

"The OYCC taught me so much that will help me in the future, especially with workplace readiness. It taught me how to make important decisions and work with a team. It also helped prepare for the stress that comes with making important presentations."

THE OHIO 4-H FOUNDATION

at The Ohio State University

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INTRODUCING ...

Young 4-H alumni have much to offer the Ohio 4-H youth development program—from enthusiasm to their recent experiences to fresh ideas. The Ohio 4-H Foundation board is pleased to capitalize on this knowledge and introduce its three newest members.

Emmy Beck-Aden

ATHENS COUNTY



Currently pursuing a BA in media production and entrepreneurship at High Point University.

“I’m excited for the opportunity to both personally invest in the program that has shaped my life and provide the platform for others to do the same. By engaging our young alumni, they could be inspired to stay invested in 4-H and in the next generation of 4-H members.”

Lynnze English

ADVENTURE CENTRAL



BA and JD from Howard University; ML from University of Florida; currently a tax associate at Ernst & Young in McLean, Virginia.

“I would love the chance to use my personal experience alongside the contributions garnered for the board in order to bring more Black and Brown youth to 4-H and amplify the youth development program in previously untapped communities. When I look at my personal accomplishments, I know that growing up in 4-H greatly contributed to my ability to achieve success.”

Kameron Rinehart

FAYETTE COUNTY



BS in agriculture from Wilmington College; currently pursuing an MS in agricultural communications, education, and leadership from Ohio State.

“This organization allowed me to grow as an individual and leader. 4-H is about developing today’s youth to be the leaders of tomorrow, teaching them skills they will use for the remainder of their lives. I hope to encourage other young alumni members to begin giving back to the Ohio 4-H program.”