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4-H Inspires Youth

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us. 4-H welcomes youth of all backgrounds and beliefs, empowering them with the skills and confidence to lead for a lifetime.

With more than 102,000 4-H’ers (ages 5-18) and thousands of adult volunteers, South Carolina 4-H is focused on providing positive youth development experiences to young people by enhancing and increasing young people’s knowledge of civic engagement, leadership, communication skills, STEM, natural resources, healthy lifestyles, and agriculture.

The 4-H community club is the foundation of South Carolina 4-H, where youth learn life skills such as civic engagement, community awareness, decision-making, interpersonal awareness, global awareness, communication, and leadership. Through involvement in community clubs, 4-H members are becoming self-directing, productive, and contributing members of our society while learning in safe and inclusive environments.

4-H empowers young people to be true leaders. True leaders are confident young people who know how to work well with others, endure challenges, and stick with a job until it gets done. In 4-H, we believe true leaders aren’t born, but rather, they are grown.

This year, we were fortunate to hire a director for the 4-H Pinckney Leadership Program, Rushawnda Olden, who joined us in January from the public school sector. She was personally inspired by the late South Carolina Senator Clementa Pinckney when she served as a page for him during her college years. Rushawnda has already brought new energy and fresh ideas to this youth leadership program through expanded participation and enhanced activities, and we are looking forward to soon providing year-round leadership opportunities for our state’s youth through this endeavor.

Additionally, we have been able to build our state’s 4-H team to provide professional coverage in all 46 counties this year. Together, engaged 4-H members, dedicated volunteers, selfless parents, talented agents, and hundreds of community collaborators will continue to learn and grow together to help South Carolina’s young people and their communities thrive in 2019-2020.

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Pam Ardern
4-H Program Team Leader
Cameron Huston of Edgefield County nabbed the first High Over All score ever for a South Carolinian at the 2019 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships with a near-perfect 99/100 score to take first place in the Shotgun Trap Individual competition held in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Huston, a recent graduate of Strom Thurmond High School, picked up shooting when he started high school and heard about the competition from a friend who had taken part and shared how much fun it was with him.

“I said I would give it a try and go and I’m so glad that I did because I met some good people, had a lot of fun and it was just an overall good experience,” Huston said. “My grandparents took me out there (to Nebraska) over the summer one year and that’s the place to live for me. I just really enjoyed it. It’s just the flat openness and you can see for miles in every direction.”

Four high school students are chosen each year to represent South Carolina in the event, and Huston was joined on this year’s Palmetto State team by Walker Kelly (Abbeville County/Rocky Knoll), Chase Land (Pickens County/Clemson 4-H) and Makayla Porter (Saluda County/Richland Creek).

To qualify, shooters must fill out an application that shows their involvement in the community, leadership, grades, as well as shooting scores, making it an “extreme honor” to be chosen for the team, according to South Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports coordinator Richard Willey.

“Every year four new shooters are chosen, so no one can go more than once,” Willey said. “This allows other shooters to experience this wonderful opportunity. All four members of this year’s team members have represented South Carolina very well both on and off the shotgun fields, and all four of them kept a positive attitude and worked hard for every target. Their sportsmanship, manners, fellowship and teamwork have been outstanding.”

On day one, the South Carolina team competed in sporting clays, with Kelly faring the best among the Sandlappers as he just missed the podium by a single target on a challenging course, Willey said.

The team continued to perform during skeet shooting on day two and finished in seventh place, missing the podium by only three targets. Huston posted the highest individual score of the four but missed the podium by two targets before following it up with his 99/100 score in Shotgun Trap on day three to garner top honors in that competition.

Huston said he was pleased with his performance, but reaching the 99/100 mark didn’t enter his mind during the competition.

“I’d kind of heard about it, but it didn’t really process for me that I was the first (South Carolinian to win first place in the Shotgun Trap competition,)” he said.

South Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports is one of several project areas offered in the area of natural resources to the state’s young people. The major disciplines offered include archery, BB gun, hunting, muzzle loading, pistol, rifle and shotgun. The program is flexible and adaptable to nearly any audience — rural or urban — and allows youth to learn marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms, career exploration and more.
The Child and Youth Services (CYS) program at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, hosted a 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Cooking Camp in July for the first time ever. Campers were able to create and sample foods from four different cultures while also learning about traditions, music, and arts and crafts.

The 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Cooking Camp is part of an educational initiative South Carolina 4-H administers through the Walmart Foundation Youth Voice: Youth Choice grant program.

“The cooking camp is a really worthwhile way to bring some essential life skills to the campers while teaching them how easy it can be to make healthy choices,” said Pam Ardern, South Carolina 4-H Program Leader and state 4-H Military Partnership Liaison. “We’re thrilled to be able to strengthen the 4-H partnership with military youth in this state through this opportunity.”

Campers divided into teams each day to prep and cook their recipes. CYS Nutritionist Brandy Schaefer organized the schedule, recipes, and ingredients and taught the youth how to properly and safely use the tools and equipment necessary for each day’s dishes.

After mornings full of prepping and cooking, campers enjoyed tasty lunches where they got to try their own creations. For each of four days, participants studied and celebrated Latin, Asian, African and Gullah foods and cultures. Gullah culture stems from a group of African Americans who live on the sea islands of South Carolina and Georgia and are descendants of slaves. They have their own dances, food traditions, songs, and language, all influenced by West African culture.

The campers and adults alike enjoyed dishes like steamed turkey wontons, chicken Sukuma wiki, homemade guacamole, red rice, tropical fruit salad, enchiladas, gumbo, and tomato pie. All of the recipes were developed by Professor Margaret Condrasky and her students at Clemson University and are examples of healthy, affordable, and easy-to-fix dinners and snacks. Each camper was given a booklet of the recipes to take home and share with their families.

After lunch each day, campers participated in talks on nutrition and culture. They were also able to complete a cultural craft each day and burn some lunch calories through physical activities like Salsa dancing with homemade maracas and dragon tail tag.

CYS Coordinator Sunny Bolton initiated the post’s involvement in the camp by sending a team of three teens and one adult to the South Carolina 4-H Health Lifestyles Cooking Summit in January to learn about the program. Professional chefs at the event taught participants basic cooking skills, including knife skills, proper measurements, and cooking hygiene.
Each year, South Carolina 4-H hosts the 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Challenge, which is modeled after such competitions as the Food Network’s “Iron Chef”. It challenges teams of 4-H members to create an assigned dish. They must prepare the dish, make a presentation about it to the judges, interpret a label, plan a menu utilizing the dish and prepare a fitness plan. The presentation includes information about the serving size, nutritional value, how to utilize the dish in a meal and the cost of the dish. The 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Challenge allows 4-H members to demonstrate their culinary and food safety skills to judges and observers. Each year, the Senior winners represent South Carolina at the Great American Seafood Cookoff in New Orleans.

This year, the winning teams were as follows:
Cloverleaf from Florence County
“Spicy Southern Sisters”
Ann Elise Truesdale, Lucy Truesdale, Charley Tippett and Anna Peyton Gaines

Juniors from Saluda County
“Country Cooks”
Avery Quattlebaum, Katie Altman and Ainsley Gibson

Seniors from Charleston County
“Hungry, Hungry Hippos”
Ian Adams, Joey Camarota and Lydia Potter
On the second Saturday of January, Clemson Extension and South Carolina 4-H relaunched the Junior Livestock Knowledge College. An event that provides education and experience across all livestock projects and associated educational events. Over 100 youth attended to hear a wide variety of speakers who discussed animal management, showmanship, skill-a-thon and livestock judging.

Starting early that morning, participants heard from experts on; rabbits/cavies, poultry, beef cattle, swine, and small ruminants. The afternoon was devoted to livestock judging. When participants were surveyed about the most important thing they learned, the responses ranged from “don’t fret over judging” and “be confident and honest” to “I need to know more about livestock…”

South Carolina currently has an active youth livestock exhibition program and livestock judging program, but has not produced a skill-a-thon competition. With the positive feedback from this program, it seems there is significant interest in starting one. Skill-a-thon is a program that tests a participant’s knowledge about general livestock management and Animal Science by working through a variety of stations designed to simulate practical management problems where students compete individually and in group events.

Livestock Judging is a contest that allows an individual (working independently and as a team) to make decisions about the ranking of 4 animals. In a judging competition, the contestant uses their knowledge of beef cattle, meat goats, sheep and swine to rank and defend their placings with oral reasons to a contest official. Livestock judging instills confidence in youth and reinforces decision-making and communication skills, which are important in all aspects of life.

The event was made possible by the generous support of National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, The SC Beef Board Check Off Plus program, the SC Cattlemen’s Foundation and the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service.
My 4-H Horsemanship Camp experience

By Katie Shaw

It seems like only yesterday that I remember loading the horse trailer full of supplies for myself and my Arabian pony, Salt, for the first South Carolina 4-H Horsemanship Camp. We drove three hours from the low part of the state to Clemson to give me the opportunity that I had looked forward to for months. I believe my mom lectured me the whole way on how to take care of my pony and myself. Imagine dropping off your kid and horse today without cellular phones. All the work and lectures were worth it, as it went down as one of the best weeks of my childhood.

Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined over 25 years later that I would be serving as one of the camp directors. South Carolina 4-H Horsemanship Camp was the genius creation of the late Liz Buist. A lot has changed in the world since my first trip to Clemson for horse camp, but, thankfully, a few key things at camp have stayed the same.

During SC 4-H Horsemanship Camp, campers get to experience the Clemson life. We stay in the dorms, eat in the cafeteria and even stop by ’55 Exchange for ice cream. For one week, campers learn what it would be like to be a Clemson University student. Whether they choose to attend Clemson after graduation or not, camp gives them courage to live on a college campus.

Campers gain independence by being responsible for their horse during camp with the guidance of camp staff. From cleaning their stalls to tacking up, youth are expected to independently tackle these tasks before asking for help. We have shocked many parents on pick-up day by having youth confidently tack up, wrap their horse’s legs, and even have a clean stall area without any adult assistance.

Each camper sets their own goals at camp. We work with them all week to help accomplish their goals. Even if a goal is not accomplished by the end of the week, the campers are sent home with the skills and homework that will help them reach their goal after camp.

Camp creates bonds that last a lifetime. Whether that bond is with their horse and/or other campers, this experience provides them with memories that they will cherish forever. Camp brings together a community of youth that love horses. Our campers often stay in contact with each other throughout the year and, then, meet back up at camp each year. Campers have gone on to be college roommates and friends for life.

The SC 4-H Horsemanship Camp experience has only slightly changed since my first experience and, although my role with it has changed greatly since then, it is still one of my favorite parts of my summer. I hope to give more youth the experience I had so many years ago.

South Carolina 4-H Horsemanship Camp is held each July in Clemson, SC. Horses are housed at T. Ed Garrison Arena and youth receive two lessons each day. Campers must bring their owned/leased horse to camp with them. For more information, please visit the South Carolina 4-H Horse Project webpage at www.clemson.edu/4h/horse.
South Carolina youth put wildlife habitat knowledge to test at national competition

As one of two states in the nation with both a 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) team in the National Wildlife Habitat Education Program Contest (WHEP) and with both teams posting stellar scores, South Carolina’s young people made their mark on the national stage after an extended absence.

For the first time in more than 20 years, South Carolina had two teams compete in the National Wildlife Habitat Education Program Contest at the Rock Springs 4-H Center in Junction City, Kansas on July 14-17. Its FFA squad finished in first place in the FFA division with a score of 277.36 while South Carolina 4-H finished third place in the 4-H division with a score of 301.56.

“The future of wildlife conservation is in good hands,” said Oconee County 4-H Agent Mallory Dailey. “Where else can you find over 70 youth from across the country representing their states at the highest level and putting their wildlife knowledge to the test?”

The Wildlife Habitat Education Program is a natural resources program aimed to teaching wildlife and fisheries habitat management to youth ages 9-18 and providing them the opportunity to make real-life wildlife management decisions and exposing them to potential careers in wildlife management.

Both teams earned the right to compete at nationals with their performance at the South Carolina State Wildlife Habitat Education Program Contest in April at the National Wild Turkey Federation in Edgefield. The contest was held in conjunction with Clemson Extension, Clemson University department of forestry and environmental conservation and private industries.

“While in Kansas, youth had the opportunity to explore one of the last remaining areas of tallgrass prairie in the entire world,” Dailey said. “The tallgrass prairie once covered over 170 million acres and now less than 4 percent of its historical range remains.”

The contest took place in the Flint Hills region of Kansas, which is home to the first land-grant university in the United States: Kansas State. The primary land-grant institution in South Carolina, Clemson is charged with improving the quality of life of South Carolinians by providing unbiased, research-based information through an array of public outreach programs, such as the 4-H program for youth development.

“Preparing for a wildlife contest that features species like greater prairie chickens and ring-necked pheasants was not the easiest,” she said. “Not surprisingly, there are not many prairies left in South Carolina and we had to use our imagination a bit to picture the vast rolling hills of grasslands from ‘Little House on the Prairie’ or the old computer game ‘Oregon Trail.’ Thankfully, we were able to utilize the Piedmont Prairie Garden of the South Carolina Botanical Gardens for practice before we headed out to Kansas.”

“Most importantly, by participating in a program like WHEP, the kids are exposed to a new career path and gain an appreciation for wildlife and their habitat,” Dailey said. “They also learn a little more about the Cooperative Extension Service and the opportunities that are out there for youth who are interested in the outdoors and wildlife. It certainly will not be 20 years until the next time that South Carolina has a team participate in the National Wildlife Habitat Education Program Contest and we hope to leave our mark next year.”
Founded in 2016, the 4-H Pinckney Leadership Program is a tribute to the late Clementa C. Pinckney. Pinckney was the pastor of Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church and a South Carolina State Senator representing the 45th District. Reflecting the standards and principals valued by Senator Pinckney the 4-H Pinckney Leadership Program strives to empower students to serve with compassion, lead with humility, and inspire all youth to be young men and women of integrity.

Designed for middle and high school students, the 4-H Pinckney Leadership Program is developing cross-cutting skills that will help them to be successful now and help to ensure they are ready for college, work, and life. Under the direction of new program director, Rushawnda Olden, the 4-H Pinckney Program focuses on four key leadership skill areas: Communication; Relationships & Collaborations; Thinking & Decision-making; and Initiative & Self Direction. After serving as a congressional page for the late Senator, Olden said that she hopes to inspire youth to lead the same way that Senator Pinckney inspired her.

The 4-H Pinckney Leadership Program takes the 4-H model a step further by reaching out to youth who have not traditionally been a part of 4-H programs. As a young man, Senator Pinckney had the opportunity to participate in 4-H and he attributed much of his success in life to his participation in his local club. With the additional funding from state legislators and hiring of a program director, the program was able to expand its programming tremendously.

The 4-H Pinckney Leadership Camp, conducted at Camp Bob Cooper in Summerton and Camp Long in Aiken, hosted 70 rising 7th and 8th grade students who participated in activities such as leadership workshops, team building on the high rope course and community engagement. This was an increase in participation from last year where the program only hosted one middle school camp session.

The program also experienced a record-breaking number in applicants for this year's 4-H Pinckney Leadership Conference. Geared toward rising 10th and 11th grade students, 72 students participated in various activities including: leadership workshops, team building exercises, and whitewater rafting. Because the conference takes place at Clemson, one of the most important aspects of the meeting is giving students an opportunity to experience life on a college campus. Youth surveys given during the closing ceremony indicated that participating in the conference increased students:

- self-awareness (91%)
- leadership skills (97%)
- communication skills (97%)

A new addition to the program, 34 students who participated in the Pinckney Leadership conference attended Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) in Washington, D.C. in June 2019. CWF is an opportunity for 4-H’ers to learn how to be citizen leaders and make a difference in their communities. During the visit, participants had the opportunity to have breakfast with Clemson University President Jim Clements, Senator Tim Scott, Clemson University's Board of Visitors, and members of the University's executive team. Following the breakfast, students enjoyed a day at Capitol Hill where the participants were able to meet with U.S. Congressmen Jeff Duncan and Jim Clyburn. Participants ended their trip winning a $500 community action mini grant to implement an arts program in the low-country area.

The South Carolina 4-H Pinckney Leadership program has exposed students to leadership opportunities that are not readily available in their communities, and helped introduce them to more leadership experiences through their participation in 4-H. As youth grow into adults and start entering the workplace, basic life and leadership skills will be necessary for their success. The Pinckney Leadership program looks forward to continuing to provide those necessary skills through yearlong programming beginning in October 2019.
Like many people, Jeffery Feaster once thought that 4-H was all about agriculture — sows, cows and plows, so to speak — but soon after learning about the program during a tour of Clemson University as a 14-year-old, he realized it could also stoke his passion for math and science.

Now a senior at Fairfield Central High School in Winnsboro, Feaster came to the South Carolina 4-H Engineering Challenge at the State Fairgrounds on March 30 to share his story about how 4-H Youth Development allowed him to develop those skills. “4-H guided me to actually learn more about math and science and how I can take math and science into other fields like agriculture or health and wellness,” said Feaster, who volunteered at the event. “My passion is engineering. I like math and science; those are the two things that I’ve just liked doing since I was a child. I’m here to show kids and inspire kids the ways of learning STEM.”

Now in its seventh year, the S.C. 4-H Engineering Challenge aims to raise student interest in science, technology, engineering and math — STEM subjects — and allow them to experience various STEM disciplines while competing against other students.

The youth development arm of Clemson Cooperative Extension, South Carolina 4-H offers the Engineering Challenge to allow students to compete in six different challenges: Bridge Building, Lego Robotics, Mystery, Rocketry, Coding, and Photography.

For Clemson senior genetics major Morgan Nichols, better known to many as Miss Clemson, the event was a chance to expose South Carolina’s young people to what’s possible through developing their skills in life sciences. “This is where it all starts for students,” Nichols said. “Going to these competitions and showcasing your skills; it allows you to see parts of engineering and science that you might have never thought were out there. It allows students to diversify what they think of when they think of STEM. It allows them to have hope for the future in applying what they learn in the classroom in a hands-on, real-world setting.”

The goals of the 4-H Engineering Challenge are to provide a safe learning environment where youth can try, fail and try again, gain valuable life skills, increase interest, confidence and knowledge in science, and encourage futures in STEM-related careers.

Greenville County 4-H Agent Patricia Whitener said those goals perfectly embody the land-grant mission of Clemson University — taking unbiased, research-
based science and sharing it with citizens across South Carolina to improve the quality of their lives.

“Getting kids involved with STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — is essential to not only building future career pathways, but also just encompassing all of those four H’s, that head, heart, hands, health, and getting kids excited about science and excited about STEM,” Whitener said. “There are so many challenges for all of our state participants today that they’ve been working hard on all year long, and today they get to show off and showcase those amazing skills that they’ve been developing.”

But while 4-H is about much more than agriculture these days, that doesn’t mean it has forgotten it’s roots. And for Erika Jones, her introduction to 4-H was very much via a traditional agricultural route.

“I got into 4-H because I had a horse trainer who was the club leader in Lexington, and she told me that I could not ride my horse if I didn’t come to 4-H meetings,” Jones said. “After that, I just kind of fell in love with it.”

Jones moved from the 4-H Horse Project into the Leadership Project area, served on S.C. State 4-H Teen Council in her last year as a club member, took an internship in the State 4-H Office and eventually, after graduating from Clemson, became a 4-H agent in Marlboro and Dillon counties.

“My agent in Lexington County was phenomenal, she was a great mentor to look up to and, seeing what she did for me and getting to work with her over the summers and see what she did for other kids, made me want to do the same thing and be the same person that she was for me to others,” Jones said. “I felt like being an agent was the best way I could give back to an organization that gave so much to me.”

And while Jones may have joined 4-H to be part of the Horse Project, she says the organization helped her expand her horizons — something that was epitomized by events such as the Engineering Challenge.

“Our 4-H mission is hands-on learning — one of our mottos is ‘learn by doing’ — so this is a great example of that,” Jones said. “Every challenge at the Engineering Challenge is extremely hands-on. I think it’s really cool too, especially with the Mystery Challenge where they come in not knowing what they’re going to do, to sit down, and watch how each individual thinks and problem-solves.”

The STEAM Fair at the S.C. 4-H Engineering Challenge exposed the state’s young people to steam, technology, engineering, arts and math through through hands-on and interactive exhibits, such as the one pictured by ThinkMove Chess Academy. Image Credit: Clemson University Relations

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** DID YOU KNOW 4-H’S ARE... **

5X MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE COLLEGE

4X MORE LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.

3X MORE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE THAN NON 4-H’ERS

2X MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH DURING OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIMES.

2X MORE LIKELY TO PURSUE A CAREER IN SCIENCE. 
South Carolina youth, lawmakers swap stories of 4-H journeys at Statehouse gathering

South Carolina 4-H Legislative Day brought a throng of 4-H’ers clad in the familiar green blazers to the Statehouse on March 12, and state Rep. Randy Ligon said South Carolina 4-H was a big reason he was there on so many other days, too.

Ligon, of Chester County, reflected on his experiences with 4-H from summer camps as a youth to a Citizenship Short Course as a 16-year-old in 1976 that included a trip to Washington, D.C., where he met U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond.

“If you don’t know who Strom Thurmond is, there’s a statue of him on the other side (of the Statehouse), and I encourage you to go read about a great statesman,” Ligon said. “We got on a bus early that morning, went to Washington and saw Sen. Thurmond, and that was the first time I’d ever left the farm in Chester County and gotten out of the Carolinas. 4-H got me to Washington, 4-H got me out of town, 4-H got me there (and) 4-H got me here today.”

More than 300 4-H’ers, family members and Clemson Cooperative Extension agents made the trip to the capital city for the event, which gave the youth and adults the chance to meet with their local legislators and share the ways 4-H has impacted their lives.

“I would like for all of us to take advantage of this moment in order to show that South Carolina 4-H grows here — at the Statehouse, on our farms, at our schools and in the hearts of each and every one of us, making the best better,” South Carolina 4-H State Teen Council President Garrett Ulmer said.

Quentin Murrell, South Carolina 4-H State Teen Council secretary, said the event’s purpose was to exercise the crucial role of citizens in making their feelings and opinions known to elected leaders.

“It’s important to be prepared when you meet with a legislator: Learn important information about them that can guide your conversation — their name, political party, length of service, what committees they are assigned to, what are their special interests and their priorities, what are the names of their top staff members,” Murrell said. “We’re here to learn about our state legislature and respect them and all they do to make our state and local communities better. We say, ‘Thank you for supporting us day by day to make sure our futures are bright.’”

Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette told the crowd gathered on the Statehouse steps that for decades programs such as 4-H have helped to produce the next generation of leaders in South Carolina and the nation.

“As leaders, it’s your responsibility to know what it means to be a good American and, most importantly, a good South Carolinian,” Evette said.

During the ceremony, Rep. Davey Hiott of Pickens County read a resolution, H. 4032, to recognize and commend the leadership and members of South Carolina 4-H and to declare Tuesday, March 12, 2019, as 4-H day at the state capitol.

State 4-H Teen Council member Jordan Snipes said the event provided the 4-H’ers with an opportunity to relate firsthand to lawmakers and to see the difference 4-H has made in their lives.

“We’re here to meet with all of our elected officials from our counties and from our cities and who represent us in the Statehouse and explain to them why we care so much about 4-H and what good it does for our communities,” Snipes said. “What it does for me is it exposes me to new things that I never thought I would try before. We have a lot to work on in South Carolina with agriculture, with new businesses, with new people coming in that need to find a place to feel like they belong, that they have a purpose here. And I feel like 4-H does that in every aspect.”
The achievements of South Carolina youth who dedicated themselves to specific 4-H program areas such as agriculture/livestock, healthy lifestyles, natural resources and science were recognized at the second annual South Carolina 4-H Project Awards Luncheon on July 12th.

Sponsored by the South Carolina Beef Council and South Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports, the event saw more than 270 people gather at the T. Ed Garrison Arena during 4-H State Congress to celebrate the achievements of South Carolina youth in specific 4-H program areas.

Ninety recognitions were given during the ceremony to youth between 9 and 19 years of age from across the state for demonstrating remarkable skill, effort, and service within their respective project areas.


South Carolina 4-H Youth Development uses a learn-by-doing approach, the involvement of caring adults, and the knowledge and resources of Clemson University and the land-grant university system to empower youth to become healthy, productive, contributing members of society.
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Pisgah Baptist Church  
Pickens County 4-H  
Quality Deer Management Association  
Rocky Knoll Youth Shooters  
Sandhills Research and Education Center  
Salkehatchie Cattleman’s Association  
Sandhills Research and Education Center  
South Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports  
South Carolina Angus Association  
South Carolina Association of County Agricultural Agents  
South Carolina Association of Extension 4-H Agents  
South Carolina Association of Retired Clemson Extension Employees  
South Carolina Beef Council  
South Carolina Cattlemen’s Association  
South Carolina Cattlemen’s Foundation  
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources  
South Carolina Family and Community Leaders Organization  
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
South Carolina Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company  
South Carolina Horsemen’s Council  
South Carolina Master Gardeners  
South Carolina Pork Board  
South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation  
South Carolina State Fair  
South Carolina Upstate Equine Council  
Spartanburg County 4-H  
Spartanburg Co. Livestock Association  
STEM Development Foundation/Ed Duffy  
Stevens Farm  
Henry B. Sumner & Co., Inc.  
Sumter County 4-H  
T. Ed Garrison Arena  
Think Move Chess Academy  
The Tides Foundation  
Tractor Supply Company  
Waccamaw Regional Council of Government  
Wannamaw Wildlife  
Walmart Foundation  
Wild at Webb Camp  
Willow Leaf Farms  
Wilson Roofing, Inc.
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Charles Haynesworth
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   Jimmy & Andrea Burdine
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Talley Sowell
Leslee Spivey
Sylvia Smith in memory of
   Dr. Daniel B. Smith
Talley Sowell
Heather Stacks
Lonnie & Yvonne Starnes
Gerald & Dawn Stuckey
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Emmy Vargas
Kristine Vernon
Rhonda Vincent
Leigh Walker
Sylvia Mcghaney Walker
Morris Warner
Mary Watson
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Victoria Willis
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Fran & Pamela Wolak
Rachel Wright
David Wylie
Barbara Yance-Braceful
Roy Young

4-H grows True Leaders
4-H teaches kids life skills such as hard work, respect, and compassion
to create positive changes in their communities and their world.
Adults 4-H volunteers play a vital role in the ongoing growth and strength of 4-H Youth Development program. Research indicates adults are motivated to volunteer with 4-H in order to support a child, help others, and make a difference. However, adults also personally benefit from their volunteer service. Communities are stronger because of 4-H Youth Development volunteers and volunteering has a positive impact on their lives and work. It is estimated that there are over 500,000 4-H volunteers across the country. South Carolina 4-H benefited from 3,127 adult volunteers in 2018.

Each August, we host a statewide Volunteer Leaders Symposium to help adults passionate about 4-H, network with each other, gain valuable insights about programs and working with youth, as well as share updates about the 4-H program in South Carolina. South Carolina 4-H also provides monthly updates and club activity ideas through our national award-winning, e-newsletter We CU Volunteer. Subscribers can be added on our website: clemson.edu/4h/4h_volunteers.

A distinguished group of outstanding volunteers are recognized annually at the State 4-H Congress banquet with the Glen Krohn Award for Volunteers in 4-H. It is named for the late Dr. Glen Krohn, retired Assistant Director, Family and Youth Development, who was a strong believer in volunteers throughout his career. Volunteers nominated for this award display a strong impact on 4-H youth, a commitment to local and statewide 4-H program responsibilities, and dedication to the long-term support of 4-H members. This year, the two outstanding volunteers that were recognized included Debbie Chapman of Florence County and Bernie Till of Orangeburg County.

In addition, a South Carolina 4-H Volunteer was voted Southern Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer for 2019 by National 4-H Council. Mrs. Vivian Johnson of Sumter County has been given this honor along with a plaque and $200 donation to the Sumter County 4-H program. Mrs. Johnson is a devoted, warm and caring person who has faithfully fulfilled her commitments as a 4-H Volunteer Leader. She has served as a 4-H Middle Manager volunteer leader for 24 years. Her expertise and experiences are invaluable to the success of the youth and the 4-H program in Sumter. She assumes her responsibilities with great dedication and commitment. She serves as an organizational leader for the Sumter County 4-H Cooking School, 4-H Sewing School, the Creative Crafts workshop and the 4-H Sumter County Junior Master Gardener Club. Mrs. Johnson is a member of the Sumter County Extension Advisory Board and is currently the Chairperson of the Sumter County 4-H Advisory Board. In addition, Mrs. Johnson is a retired educator who worked with the Sumter County School District for over 30 years. She was a Home Economics Teacher for Sumter School District and retired as a Fashion Designer Instructor for the Sumter County Career Center. We are honored to work with such an excellent example of 4-H volunteer.

There are a variety of roles that volunteers can play when it comes to supporting a 4-H program. From serving as a guest speaker or sharing one’s career path at a 4-H club meeting to being a chaperone for an event or an advocate for 4-H on foundation boards and advisory groups, we can connect you with opportunities that would best fit your time, experience, and interest level! Become a South Carolina 4-H Volunteer today and help create life-changing experiences for youth in your community! Find the 4-H program nearest you by contacting your local County Extension Office. You can call, email or visit your local 4-H office to learn how to make an impact in your community.
In September 2018, South Carolina had 13 representatives at the National 4-H Volunteer Conference at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, GA. Six workshops were presented by South Carolina 4-H staff and volunteers at the conference to share ideas and best practices with a larger audience!

$23.21
The wage replacement rate for volunteers in South Carolina in 2018 (Independent Sector - volunteer wage replacement rate).

3,127
The number of adult volunteers in SC in 2018.

32.1
The average time adults volunteer annually, according to the Corporation for National Community Service.

$2,329,743
The approximate value of South Carolina 4-H adult volunteer service.

**SOUTH CAROLINA 4-H CLUBS EMPHASIZE THE 4-H ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS:**

- **BELONGING:** Developing positive relationships with caring adults
- **GENEROSITY:** Providing and appreciating service to others
- **INDEPENDENCE:** Presenting frequent opportunities for self-discipline through community service.
- **MASTERY:** Enhancing participation in engaged learning experiences to grow new skills.
Presidental Tray Winners:

The Presidential Tray is the highest award that a South Carolina 4-H’er can receive. It is based on their leadership, civic engagement and overall project work. The youth receive a silver tray presented by President Clements and a $2,000 scholarship. The winners are selected based on their portfolio, resume and interview.

This year’s Presidential Tray winners are Ian Adams from Charleston County, Allie Trotter from Saluda County, Morgan Marlett from Greenville and Laurens County, and Garrett Ulmer from Colleton County.

National 4-H Conference Winners:

National 4-H Conference is the premier event conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C. These youth will represent South Carolina at National 4-H Conference in April. The youth receive the trip and a $1,500 scholarship. The winners are selected based on their portfolio and an interview.

This year’s National 4-H Conference winners are Marie Elizabeth Grant from Anderson County, Isabella Birket from Kershaw County, Charis Grabbe from Lancaster County, and Cordell Rush from Saluda County.

State 4-H Winners:

Each year South Carolina selects up to ten state winners. These individuals are selected on their leadership, civic engagement and overall project work. The youth receive a trip to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta and a $1,000 scholarship.

This year’s State 4-H winners are Loni McKenzie from Lexington County, Isabella Birket from Kershaw County, Charis Grabbe from Lancaster County, Marie Elizabeth Grant from Anderson County, Sianna Smith from Lexington County, Julia Kerber from Greenville and Laurens County, Arizona Bowers from Anderson County, Katelyn McCarter from York County, Katherine Ryan from Hampton County, and Jordan Snipes from Florence County.
PARTICIPATION
OVER 102K TOTAL PARTICIPANTS FOR 2017-2018

OVER 109,035 PARTICIPATED IN STEM PROGRAMS
OVER 30,216 PARTICIPATED IN CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMS
OVER 25,671 PARTICIPATED IN HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMS
OVER 102,000 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN 4-H PROGRAMS

VOLUNTEERS
3127 ADULT VOLUNTEERS
412 YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

RESIDENCE
TOWNS 29%
SUBURBAN 26%
RURAL 35%
CITIES 6%
FARM 4%

DEMOGRAPHICS
ETHNICITY
8.5% LATINO
91.5% NOT LATINO

DIVERSITY
55% WHITE
1% ASIAN
39% AFRICAN AMERICAN
4% OTHER

GENDER
51% FEMALE
49% MALE

GRADE LEVEL
K-2 29%
3-5 34%
6-8 23%
9-12 13%

4-H’ERS ARE...
2X MORE LIKELY TO BE CIVICALLY INVOLVED
4X MORE LIKELY TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES
2X MORE LIKELY TO MAKE HEALTHIER CHOICES
2X MORE LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

South Carolina
102,000 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN 4-H PROGRAMS
109,035 PARTICIPATED IN STEM PROGRAMS
30,216 PARTICIPATED IN CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMS
25,671 PARTICIPATED IN HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMS

South Carolina
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109,035 PARTICIPATED IN STEM PROGRAMS
30,216 PARTICIPATED IN CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMS
25,671 PARTICIPATED IN HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMS

4-H Inspires Kids to Do!

OUR MISSION:
Clemson University Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development uses a learn-by-doing approach to help youth gain the knowledge and skills to be responsible, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is accomplished by creating safe and inclusive learning environments, involvement of caring adults, and utilizing the expertise and resources of Clemson University and the nationwide land-grant university system.