

Indiana 4-H Volunteer Awards of Excellence

Saturday, October 23, 2021



Indiana 4-H
LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT

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2021 Indiana 4-H Volunteer Awards of Excellence Recipients

Sue Pfrank, Vigo County – Excellence in 4-H Animal Science Programming, Adult

Dalton Clahan-Mitchell, Parke County – Excellence in 4-H Animal Science Programming, Youth

Alyssa McGaughey, Montgomery County – Excellence in 4-H Science Programming, Adult

Amelia Timberlake, Crawford County – Excellence in 4-H Science Programming, Youth

Allie Matthews, Hamilton County – Excellence in 4-H Civic Engagement Programming, Youth

Danielle Sommerman, Crawford County – Excellence in 4-H Civic Engagement Programming, Youth

Jenny Merritt, Boone County – Excellence in 4-H Healthy Living Programming, Adult

Ava Sayre, Benton County – Excellence in 4-H Healthy Living Programming, Youth

Teresa Adams, Parke County – Excellence in 4-H Club Programming, Adult

Andrew Bailey, Elkhart County – Excellence in 4-H Club Programming, Youth

Criseida, Emma, and Lilly Green, Dearborn County – Excellence in Youth and Adult Partnerships, Team

Excellence in 4-H Animal Science Programming, Adult

Sue Pfrank, Vigo County

Sue Pfrank has been a Vigo County 4-H Volunteer for 42 years. She serves as the Vigo County Dog Club Adult Leader and has also served on the State Dog Committee. Sue enjoys spending her summers judging at various Indiana 4-H Dog shows. During the fair, Sue celebrates the 4-H members' hard work by putting together a showcase and demonstration for the public.



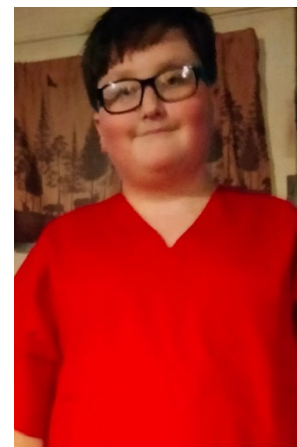
Sue has provided a reliable and fun club for 4-H youth to work with their animals. She is always responsive to her members and is good at giving feedback as well as answering any questions. Sue made club materials more accessible by putting together a training website. Vigo County has been greatly benefited by Sue Pfrank and her great work with empowering youth to be responsible for their own development. She has also worked on the State Committee to help shape all Indiana 4-H members' Dog experiences.

Excellence in 4-H Animal Science Programming, Youth

Dalton Clahan-Mitchell, Parke County

Dalton Clahan-Mitchell is not afraid to jump in and get his hands dirty to help others and animals. He is a very hard working and honest individual. Dalton was a part of his local Animal Science program at his school. Despite challenges, Dalton is a hard-working individual who loves his animals and keeping them healthy. Dalton hopes to one day be a veterinarian to help treat all kinds of animals, from small to large.

Dalton encourages everyone, no matter their background or disabilities, to join in on the Animal Science fun! He has held virtual runs with Junior Leaders to raise money for farms or organizations in need. One example of this was raising money in order for a family to have the ability to buy their children Christmas gifts. Dalton takes pride in his animals and his ability to take care of them. No matter how Dalton is feeling, he is always there to help out, even if it's bottle feeding his sheep late at night.



Excellence in 4-H Science Programming, Adult

Alyssa McGaughey, Montgomery County

Alyssa is not only a 4-H Club Leader for the South Union Shooting Stars, but she is also a 4-H parent to Dean and Elouise. Alyssa has served as the primary club leader for South Union Shooting Stars for three years and has taken a small club that was inactive for a few years to a club that saw participation and engagement from members, even in the midst of a global pandemic. As a 4-H alum herself, Alyssa understands the heart of the 4-H program and empowers her members to take on leadership positions, such as having young people serve as officers for the club and lead meetings. Alyssa assists with fair set-up, check-in, judging, check-out, and anywhere in between. Her willingness to step up has helped the Montgomery County 4-H program thrive and still engage young people, despite barriers faced from COVID-19.



Despite an already full plate and the challenges that come with being a teacher, Alyssa agreed to serve as a facilitator to three afterschool programs that would be delivered in a hybrid format from the Purdue Extension office. Each of these programs taught STEM education in varying formats. In a hybrid format, Purdue Extension Educators provided the education and instruction via Zoom and Alyssa helped facilitate those youth that were part of Hoover's afterschool program. In the spring, Alyssa helped facilitate a Chef University afterschool club to 20 youth. As a parent, 4-H Club Leader, and teacher, Alyssa went out of her way to ensure that 4-H programming, specifically Science, continued through innovative methods. Alyssa McGaughey truly understands what it means "to make the best better".

Excellence in 4-H Science Programming, Youth

Amelia Timberlake, Crawford County

Amelia Timberlake exemplifies a key purpose of 4-H: to build life skills which help youth become responsible citizens living healthy and productive lives. Amelia exhibits kindness, empathy and respect for all. Amelia participates in a wide variety of 4-H projects such as public speaking, horse & pony, STEM-robotics club, sewing, cake decorating, foods, genealogy, arts & crafts and consumer clothing. Along with her 4-H leadership roles, Amelia also serves on the community library board and is very involved in her church youth program. Amelia is a tremendous role model and leader in many community organizations where she exemplifies youth voice.



Amelia is an Indiana 4-H Teen Teacher & Crawford County 4-H Member and has taught the National 4-H Council curriculum, 2021 4-H Ag Innovators Experience (4-H AIE) Curbing Our Carbon Appetite Challenge to over 1,248 youth across the state of Indiana in the 2020-2021 program year. In February 2021, Amelia completed a three-day National 4-H training where she established new friendships with other land grant university 4-H youth. She defended her "teach backs" to peers as practice to pilot her AIE lesson plans. Amelia then brought the STEM curriculum back to Indiana for youth in grades K-12. Amelia's future plans include making her community, her country, and her world a better place!

Excellence in 4-H Civic Engagement Programming, Youth

Allie Matthews, Hamilton County

Allie Matthews led the Hamilton County 4-H Junior Leaders program in a unique time where plans pivoted and changed month to month. Serving as the 2021 President, Allie kept the organization focused on youth leading even if it was through zoom, hybrid programming, or in-person. She would check in with her other officers to make sure meeting presenters or service projects were prepared for the monthly Junior Leader meetings. With over 120 Junior Leaders, her positive leadership style helped ease the anxiety and create a welcoming environment wherever the location of the meetings and programs were held.

Allie served on the Hamilton County 4-H Council as the Junior Leader representative. Allie is an excellent representation of a 4-H Civic Engagement/Leadership member where she leads by example. She is always willing to help the program grow and reach new audiences. She even served as a social media Spark Club member to create content for the Hamilton County 4-H social media platforms. Allie also was a 4-H Camp Shakamak counselor for this year's reduced-capacity camp. She served as the camp's life guard during boating time. Throughout camp, Allie helped keep spirits high even as things had to be organized a little bit differently. Her behind the scenes leadership style keeps things running smoothly.



Excellence in 4-H Civic Engagement Programming, Youth

Danielle Sommerman, Crawford County

Danielle viewed 4-H as a year-round program that truly focused on youth development, building essential life skills, and giving back to a community she dearly loves. In March of 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic, Danielle recognized a need and rose to the occasion as she spent many hours sewing and donating face masks to local non-profits. Annually at her county's 4-H Showcase, educators could always count on Danielle's presence for set-up and assisting the judges. Aside from exhibiting projects at the Showcase, she also donated a sewing project for the auction with all proceeds going to 4-H.

Danielle served on the Crawford County 4-H Expansion & Review Committee and has requested she continue serving as an adult volunteer. Even though Danielle was in her senior year, she sought to make the Crawford County 4-H program better suited to the needs of all our youth members for today and the future. Danielle developed a new Grand Champion Award system that sought to recognize excellence in any project area, whether it be in the show arena or the Clover Exhibition Hall. She also has been very active in other local organizations including Ann's Angels of Hope and the local school clothes closet. Danielle shows kindness and respect to all. She has truly helped to make the Crawford County 4-H Program better.



Excellence in 4-H Healthy Living Programming, Adult***Jenny Merritt, Boone County***

Jenny has been a 4-H volunteer for 4 years in Boone County. She started out as an assistant project leader for the Outdoor Chef project, but quickly became the main volunteer/mentor for the Teens as Teachers Healthy Living track for Boone County. As a Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Lebanon High School, she has been able to recruit youth in her culinary classes to be on the Healthy Living Team for 4 years.



She has recruited 11 non-4-H youth and 4 current 4-H members to the Teens as Teachers Program over those 4 years. She has also secured funding in 3 of the 4 years for the Teens to be paid to teach during the summer months. She partnered with the Boys and Girls Club in Lebanon in 2018 and 2019 so that the teens could teach over 300 youth at the Club.

Excellence in 4-H Healthy Living Programming, Youth***Ava Sayre, Benton County***

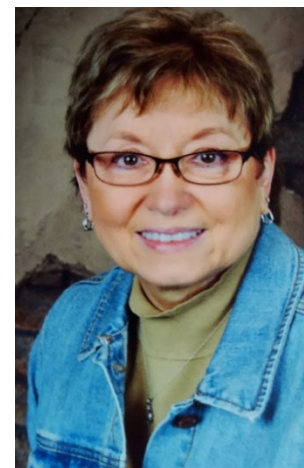
Ava is a very involved 4-H member in her county. She serves as the Secretary for her 4-H club, is an active member of Jr Leaders, and is a 4-H Camp Counselor. She strives to have perfect attendance and is very committed to her involvement with the 4-H program as she continues to set a high priority to serve her community.



Ava is a strong contributor to the Benton County Teens as Teachers, where she serves on the Healthy Living Team. She has been instrumental in bringing the program's curriculum to her county. Ava facilitated different healthy living activities at Mini 4-H days and at 4-H camp. She has a passion for healthy living and holds physical fitness as a priority in her life. She carries this passion into her Teens as Teachers work!

***Excellence in 4-H Club Programming, Adult
Teresa Adams, Parke County***

Teresa was a 4-H member for 5 years while growing up in Newport, IN. She took projects such as sewing and cooking, as well as various poster projects. During her time as a member, one of her 4-H leaders was her mother. She continued that tradition of being a 4-H leader starting in 1988 and continues to this day with more than 30 years as a 4-H volunteer. One thing that she strives for is that all of her club members complete their projects once they've started, and she works very hard to help them reach that goal.



Teresa works with her 2 co-leaders, Brandi Adams and Brooke Meschen, to embody the 4-H slogan of "Learn by Doing" through club activities. One of the ways members of the Wabash Ramblers learn by doing is through career exploration. Annually her club takes a field trip to the WTHI news station to talk with news anchors and meteorologists about their careers and what they do. They also have the opportunity to work in front of the green screen and learn about that technology. Their club has also had guest speakers in to talk with members about their professions. Recently the Sherriff's Department presented about careers in law enforcement and demonstrated work that they do with their canine.

Teresa also works with her co-leaders to provide civic engagement activities for her club. Not only do these activities help the community, but they also help develop leaders within their club. Youth are able to decide how they want to give back. Some of the ways they work to provide for the community are by organizing food drives for the food pantry and donation drives for the humane shelter. They also have an annual roadside clean-up and serve as bell ringers for the Salvation Army every winter. Members are given opportunities to develop leadership skills though club meeting activities. For instance, this past year, foods members were encouraged to do a demonstration on their foods projects at club meetings.

***Excellence in 4-H Club Programming, Youth
Andrew Bailey, Elkhart County***

Andrew is a lover of 4-H and an active member of Junior Leaders. In his ten years he has completed over 100 projects. Some of these include goats, swine, and poultry. He helped out with Mini 4-H day camp as well as 4-H camp. Andrew has an eagerness to help, positivity, and willingness to learn.

Andrew is an excited and skilled individual. He always went above and beyond in the Elkhart County 4-H program. He is always willing to try new things and even recruit additional 4-H'ers to join him. Andrew has helped with the 4-H building set up over the years and has contributed greatly to its success. He also helps numerous clubs and volunteers with their projects.



***Excellence in Youth Adult Partnerships,
Team***

***Criseida, Emma, and Lilly Green, Dearborn
County***



If something needs done, Criss will volunteer to do it, AND get it done! She is an invaluable volunteer in our county 4-H program. Her energy and positive attitude

are infectious! Criseida is a current member of the 4-H Board of Directors, Exhibit Hall Chairwoman and an archery instructor in the county 4-H SAFE program. She is also the leader for Stateline Roadrunners Club and is the adult leader for the county's Teens as Teachers Leadership program.

Criseida is originally from Puerto Rico, and wanted to come to the Midwest to be an agent of change as well as a Hispanic cultural guide for a community without much visible diversity. She sees herself and her daughters, Emma and Lilly, as leaders in the 4-H program and the community. They served on the National 4-H True Leaders in Equity team. The team worked to present a program to Dearborn County to make 4-H more inclusive to youth with developmental and physical challenges. They attended a three-day virtual conference where they learned more about how to become agents of change and bringing 4-H to new audiences, specifically, the 58% of youth in the county that receive special education services across three school systems.

She wants to make a difference as a person, a woman, a mother, a wife, and a volunteer to those in her community, especially for the youth by providing empowerment, motivation, knowledge, understanding and acceptance. Her smile and her dedication to the youth in the 4-H program makes her an outstanding volunteer and treasured person in the Dearborn County 4-H program.

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