

4-H ambassador reflects on highlights

I have looked forward to graduating from high school for a long time, but you wouldn't have known it when I received a letter from 4-H a couple of months ago. No, it wasn't bad news, but it was the reminder for me to write my Senior Spotlight for our bi-monthly 4-H newsletter. It was the bittersweet realization that I have just over a year left to be involved in the 4-H program as a youth.

The friendships, experiences, and memories I have had through my 10 years in 4-H have been invaluable. This article will show some of my 4-H highlights in the Lincoln County 4-H program.

When I attended my first county fair at the age of 3, I was in awe of the older youths, particularly if they had animals. They were friendly and open, and I thought that they were so grown-up.

When I reached my teens, I realized something. Kids were looking up to me in the same way. Because



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of this, I went out of my way to be friendly and open with everyone. But it is not just at the fair that you do

this; it is everywhere you go. I became an ambassador, and I was able to work within the school district at 4-H after-school clubs. I wanted to impact these youths in a way that would encourage them to become active in 4-H. I learned their names, talked to them, shared some of my experiences with them, listened to them; the list goes on.

Another of my 4-H highlights is helping out at the Lincoln County Fair. As an ambassador, I spend part of the first day judging the Cloverbuds, 4-H members between kindergarten and second grade. Cloverbuds are allowed to enter up to three projects in the fair, and they talk about them with an ambassador. Then they receive a participation ribbon and a small

trophy or medallion.

I also help at the fair during the livestock judging. I work inside and outside the ring handing out ribbons and making announcements. In addition to assisting during judging, I help wherever needed and promote the 4-H program to fairgoers.

While this takes up most of my time, I still have opportunities to hang out with friends, eat fair food, and go on some rides.

A final important part of my 4-H story is serving on the local 4-H County Board. I enjoy the opportunity I have had to help shape the local program and to work in a youth-adult partnership.

4-H has impacted my life in many other ways, but I don't have the space to include them all. While I am disappointed to leave my involvement as a youth behind me, I am excited to see what my future holds as an adult volunteer.

Kelsey Schoeppler is a member of the Pesobic Pathfinders 4-H club in Lincoln County.