

LEADERSHIP

Most people do not know about what great things 4-H does for their children. As a fifth grader, I did not like speaking in front of a crowd. I never raised my hand in class and was involved in very few extra-curricular activities. But the moment Oconee 4-H walked into my classroom it all changed. As a fifth and sixth grader, I got a small taste of 4-H. I participated in County and District Project Achievement and summer camp at Rock Eagle. Through many of the classes and activities, I started to learn how to assert my opinion and lead a group. In seventh grade, I was given the opportunity to run for Northeast District 4-H Junior Board. During my campaigning, I spoke out and made people remember my name in order to win. As I started to blossom as a leader, I made more friends and was elected as a board member of the District Board.

Now as a Senior 4-H member, I serve as a teen leader at events and make a difference in the children's lives. It still amazes me how many kids have stayed involved just because they heard how cool 4-H is through the teen leaders and counselors they interacted with. Because of my involvement in 4-H I have met so many new friends and have learned to speak in front of a crowd. These skills led me to earn Master 4-H status in the Health category this past summer at State Congress.

I also have learned how to take my ideas and focus them into a great event. This past summer I organized a fundraising event called "Mom Prom" and with the help and support of my friends raised \$1,700 for the In Their Shoes walk. Finally, I have become the Vice President of Oconee County 4-H. Being chosen by my fellow 4-H'ers is the most rewarding feeling. I get to lead on the county level for the club that I love. Without 4-H, I still would be a quiet kid and wouldn't be making the best better all year long.

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