2019 Connie Collier Scholarship Winners

Katie Define – Albemarle - $1000
Kacy Goodson – Chesapeake - $750

This scholarship is made possible through contributions given in memory of Constance “Connie” Collier (1946-2010). Connie spent countless hours over her lifetime to improve and promote the equine industry in Virginia, but her biggest passion was supporting youth involved in the 4-H Horse Program. Among her good works, Connie served as a 4-H Horse Club leader in Henrico County, Treasurer of the Virginia State 4-H Championship Horse and Pony Show and also played a key role in the drill team division’s growth and improvement. Connie was also a Virginia 4-H alumnus and was an exhibitor in the early years of the Virginia State 4-H Championship Horse and Pony Show. Through this scholarship, we hope that Connie’s lifetime commitment to the 4-H Horse Program will live on and inspire current and past exhibitors to give back to the Virginia 4-H Horse Program.

2019 Leg Up Award Winner – Emily Sears – Albemarle

This year as usual it was difficult to select the Leg Up Award recipient. We received 6 incredible nominations.

The Leg Up Award is given each year to an outstanding and inspirational 4-Her. Qualities looked for include dedication, leadership, high personal standards and the internal drive to make themselves and their horse to be the best they can be. Equally important is the demonstrated efforts to help others to “make the best better”.

This 4-Her is the president of her 4-H Club, a drill team leader, and previous recreation leader. She was inducted as a 4-H Horse ambassador for 2019-2020. Beyond 4-H, this 4-H member volunteers with therapeutic riding camps and equine rescue. This 4-Her is thoughtful and kind to both children and adults. An example of this kindness in attitude is her offer to film a 4-Her in the show ring for a mom, so that the parent could watch her child. “You watch your child, “she said, “I’ll take the video.”

This 4-H member has been a mentor to other 4-Hers, teaching braiding appointment skills, horse show etiquette, and time management. She encourages her club members to participate in non-show events including the Mary Cole 50 Mile Horsemaster Trail Ride and local parades. This 4-H member has participated in several riding disciplines and recently switched from Hunter to Western Speed competitions. She is mostly self-taught in Speed, and just today earned first place in her 3 speed events.

A parent in her 4-H club gave the following commendation for today’s award winner; “Emily Sears has led by example from the first day I met her. She leads in a way that makes the younger girls want to follow. She teaches excellent skills with the horses, but beyond that, models kindness and thoughtfulness towards others. She leads in such a way that a mother wants her daughter to grow up to be like Emily.”

Congratulations to Emily Sears, from Albermarle County with Hoof N Woof 4-H Club.