

Leg Up Award 2021 - Mattie DeBord, Washington County

This year we had 6 nominations for the Leg Up Award. And, as is always the case, the nominees were all incredible and impressive, so it makes it difficult to choose just one recipient.

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 the best they can be. Equally important is the demonstrated efforts to help others to “make the best better”.

This year’s recipient has been involved in all aspects of the 4-H program. Locally, she has served as President, Secretary, and Reporter. She is on the State Virginia Hippology Team, now training for Nationals this November and also serves as a State 4-H Ambassador. She has attended and spoke on behalf of 4-H at the Capitol for two years. In addition, she is a 4-H All Star and was selected to attend National 4-H Congress. This 4-Her has won numerous 4-H presentation titles as well as 4-H Member of the Year! This young lady also selected as a recipient of the nationally recognized William Danforth Leadership Award and attained the 4-H Achievement Metal, which is the highest goal level for Washington County 4-H.

During the pandemic, she created videos entitled “4-H Horses at Home” to engage/educate members at home.

This 4-Her has used the opportunities in the Ambassador Program to support youth at the local, district and state youth levels so much that there has been a renewed and greater interest in the horse program from the Southwest District.

In fact, after the District show was such a success, kids wanted to learn more about showmanship and so she and her friend, also an Ambassador, Madison, put on a showmanship clinic recently and did it single-handedly by themselves. They promoted it and hosted it!

This entire Southwest district deserves recognition for all they have done, and we would like to recognize Mattie DeBord as the recipient of the 2021 Leg Up Award! Congratulations Mattie!

Award: Horse Cooler donated and embroidered by In Stitches, our resident embroidery vendor of the State 4-H Horse Show.

