

<p>Martie Dyer Arrowood</p>	<p>First what a wonderful idea. My memories of the State 4-H Horse Show basically span a good part of my life. And ironically, I never owned or showed a horse. I began at age 9 as a ribbon marshal with the most excitement being able to work the championship show when we dressed in long dresses and felt so elegant. There were advantages to living in Henrico County. I then moved to recorder for the sessions when Sue Mullins (Ramsey) called and needed help. I worked the entire fair and learned more than I wanted about everyone involved. I was like most of the announcers little sister. From there I moved to helping Sue with the secretarial work during the show, learning the ins and outs. The fondest memories of working with Sue are no matter what happened, she never got flustered. From missing ribbon boxes, to people who didn't want to give back trophies, to the arguing over the judging and finally the practical jokes, she always smiled. Then Sue went to work full time for the State Fair and I took over as secretary. I can remember before computers, sitting on my living room floor handwriting the class lists, making corrections and then having to type all the pages. Then came computers and I was the first one to utilize that new technology. It sure was a lot faster and changes didn't mean retyping the whole page. I did that even long distance from North Carolina after moving in 1983. My most fondest memories are of that nuclear group that came back year after year because we truly loved working with each other and believed in the goals of the 4-H horse program. I promise to keep those secrets that have best been kept close to my heart over all these years. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Arden Huff for believing in me and supporting me for all the years I was involved.</p>
<p>Emily Bonnette</p>	<p>When I was 5 or 6 I remember feeling like I was lost at the show. In fact I was panicked. I looked around and couldn't see my parents, the photographers of the show, or my big brother. Then suddenly this big wonderful cow mascot came up to me. She didn't talk or at least I don't remember her talking but she knew I was lost. Looking back she probably knew who I was and saw my parents in the ring doing their job. She sat with me on the bleachers and got me an ice cream. She never let go of my hand and was such a great comfort. My fears went away. My parents of course "found me" and all was well in the world. That moment was very important to me throughout my life. I love cows to this day!</p>
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<p>Fae Herbert</p>	<p>This happened in the first or second year that I was a steward for the State Show. There was a Hunter Over Fence class in the ring. There where a few of us in the Announcer's stand at ring 1. A mother of one of the riders who had just finished and the class had been pined came up and asked me if she and her daughter could Look at the judge's card. I told her I would find out so I whet out into the ring to ask if I could show it to them. The judge said it would all right if I stayed with them. I went back up and found the folder for that class and took the card down so they could look at it. When I went back u p to put if away, I sked for the class folder, That is when tings got interesting. General Disten was the other Steward that year, but he sat u p in the announcer stand and worked on a Horseman's Dictionary That he was writing. He asked me what I was doing with the Judge's card, I told him that an exhibiter had asked to see it. He looked at me and said "You can't do that". I told him a had permission from the Judge. His reply was "I don't care what he said, I am the Senior Steward and I say they can't see the cards.</p> <p>All I did was to look at him, turned around and went downstairs. After the afternoon session I made sure that Gen. Disten was not there and went back up to get my things. There where several other staff members thee when Arden came up put his arm around my shoulder and told everyone that he was "taking her Junior Steward to dinner and</p>

	<p>he didn't care if we got back in time for the evening session. We made it back in time to see the last class.</p> <p>An other time I will never forget is the night the transformer blew up. There was a timed event in the ring, as I walked up I noticed that the transformer just outside the Gate to the parking lot was smoking. When into the announcer's stand and told them to call the Fair Office and tell them that there was a problem. Of course before Anyone came to take a look, it did blow up. Thank goodness there was a rider in the ring at that time. I have never seen a place to so dark so fast. The only way we could take To the riders was with the loudspeaker from the ambulance. They told all of the riders to dismount and wait for someone with a flashlight to help them get back to their stalls.</p> <p>I guess this happened around 8:30 or so. Well at 9:00 the fire works went off over at the race track. The parents and leaders did a great job of getting their rides back to the Barns. In fact they set up a patrol to make sure that no one climbed over the fence by the stalls. About 10:30 Arden told me to go back to the motel, because he wanted me Back on the ground by 6:00am. Just as I got there the powder did come back on. With all the help from parents and leaders we where able to get on schedule by the Classes.</p> <p>One of the strangest things that happen at the show was the year the hurricane came thru. We decided to move the classes to the covered arena. We had one judge there all day. It was getting close to time for the evening show and we had a little break. Someone had gone down to VT's chicken bar-b-que to get her something to eat. She was up in with the Announcer. Since it was raining we had the Costume Class come on in to the ring. There where enough entries that we had at least four line that ran from one end to the other. We waited and waited for the judge. Then we heard them call the Rescue Squad to the announcer's stand at the Covered Arena. So we looked at each other and the rain came down Harder and the horses where getting upset. We found out that the judge was eating so fat the she choked on a bite of chicken. So two of said give us the strip ribbons and we will Jude that part of the class. Thankfully the judge was able to come down and judge all the blue ribbons for the placing ribbons.</p>
Kristen Thomson	<p>My favorite 4-h state horse show memory is about my favorite project pony: Jester or Surely You Jest. I worked with him for over 5 years and took him to multiple state shows. The first year I took him to states, I was so nervous but so excited! Jester was a firecracker and greener than grass when I first hopped on him. He was so sensitive and spooked at almost anything including his shadow. I knew when I started working with him, he was my soul pony. He was slow to trust but always happy to learn. Over the course of a year and a half, I gained his trust and confidence in and outside of the ring. Our goal for states was to stay on and stay calm. When we got into our first class, pony pleasure, and Jester was such a gentleman and so relaxed. He went around the ring with ease! We ended placing second. I was beyond proud of him and myself. He worked so hard for me and it showed. Jester and I finished the show with reserve champion in Pony Pleasure and a beautifully won fourth place in our classics class. Those memories will always be with me.</p>
Martie Dyer Arrowood	<p>I have so many memories working with Sue Mullins in the secretary's trailer at fairgrounds. We seemed to also have to hide Tucker Hill from whomever he had pranked. There were lots of long hours but so much love</p>
Fae Herbert	<p>This is probably the last, but it may also be the best.</p>

	<p>We had moved to South Carolina and was scheduled to Steward the State Show in September of 2001. Then 9-11 happened. I got a call to see if I still planed to come, I told them that if they where going on with the show that of course I would be there. I was pleased to see most of the 4-H kids and a lot of parents there. But I will always be proud of what happened on Saturday night At the opening ceremony.</p> <p>The building was packed with everyone, then the Honor Guard from VMI came into the ring with the American Flag , with Lee Greenwood's song I am proud to be an American playing in the background. I doubt that was a dry eye in the building.</p> <p>We went on from there to have one of the best shows that I was the steward for.</p>
Daniela Lee	<p>Hi everybody I am Daniela Lee I have been volunteering at the 4H wolf and wolf club about seven years and I love every bit of it even as an adult you learn things I want to have learned in the past I am so honored to be able to be part of this community volunteer I love everybody I love meeting people and of course I love meeting new horses I work full-time at Harris teter store in Charlottesville, VA plus sometimes I even help at the other to Harris teter's. I always make time to volunteer at the 4H events because I know without us volunteers we cannot make this stuff happen for our future younger people that are growing up they need to have fun experience like I did. horses are my passion and I started out riding when I was very very little due to my disability. it teach me how to talk and and also volunteer at a therapeutic Charlottesville riding center called cart and I love to give back as always. if you don't see me at work you know where to find me I'm always at the Barns for hours and hours and with that I got to ride with Jen Daly for about nine years now. I'm getting into all Trail Riding because I was becoming a shower pony in the rain not really wanting to stay in the ring. I was just getting bored so I understand when I say not to tell me he's refusing jumps it makes you wonder are they really having fun or did I just need a break. in my case I needed a break so now I ride a North Garden equestrian center. I get to help train a lot of horses with aby that we don't even know their background. it's amazing what a 1500 pound animal can do for the soul. that is my sharing of why I'm in the horse world everybody and as always thank you so much again for letting me be part of the state show and many more show to come 😊🐾❤</p>
Martie Dyer Arrowood	<p>My first memories (nightmares) as Secretary were the weeks between Districts and the State Show pre-computer. Entries came in, had to be handwritten individually per class, alphabetized and then typed. You always had to wait until last minute to type all class sheets because you always had last minute changes. By last minute, it was usually the day before.</p> <p>My first association with state show was as a ribbon Marshall. Saturday nights were so special. All dressed up with flower corsages and all that polished silver.</p>
Debbie Agnew	<p>I will always remember showing at my first VA State 4-H Horse Show! It was in 1967 and I was 10 years old. I had the best little Chincoteague pony named "Danny Boy". My favorite class was "Costume Class" and he wore a Santa Suit (with a beard!) and I was dressed as an elf.</p> <p>Later, when I was an adult volunteering at the show in Richmond (when it was held during the VA State Fair), Costume Class was still one of my favorite classes to watch. But boy was it ever exciting as somehow each year the State Fair set off fireworks every evening - and no matter how hard show management tried to time it so Costume Class was NOT held at the same time - it never seemed to fail that the costumed exhibitors and horses were in the ring when the fireworks went off! All the volunteers would spread out in the arena to help catch any horses that bolted when they heard and saw the fireworks!</p> <p>I know now that there must have been adult volunteers doing that for me back in 1967! THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS who have given of their time at the State 4-H Horse Show...I know some of you have been volunteering for 6 decades! Happy 60th VA State 4-H Horse Show!!!</p>

<p>Sue Mullins Ramsey</p>	<p>A FEW STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW MEMORIES Sue Mullins Ramsey</p> <p>I first participated in the Virginia State 4-H Horse Show in 1965 as Susan Groppe, a member of the Varina Hoofprinters in Henrico County. 4-H was a big part of our lives and our year included the Demonstration Contest, Public Speaking Contest, "Share the Fun" Talent contest and Dress Revue. Bill Griffin was a fantastic County Agent who inspired and encouraged us. He even came to my home so I could rehearse my demonstration "Breaking and Training the Young Horse" in front of him so he could provide some tips and coaching. He really wanted me to win at the northeast district contest and I did!</p> <p>The Virginia State 4-H Horse and Pony Show was the highlight of the year. I first showed there in 1965. My first horse, Apache, was a cross of some sort but had raced in the "non-Thoroughbred" categories of the old Virginia Triple Crown (Varina Races, Goochland Races, and Camptown Races). He was a handful, especially for a first horse, but I learned so much with him and the challenges that came with him which I would never learned with a finished horse. He loved to run and was not a good show prospect. In one class at the State Show he decided to take off when they called for the canter; he tucked his head, grabbed the bit and took off at a full gallop. I turned him in tight circles until he stopped. Needless to say we were DQ'd (or maybe we came in last), but the judge commended me on handling a challenging situation well. I was just glad to have remained mounted and remember being greeted by applause as we left the ring. One year, I entered the costume class with an Arabian costume. It was homemade and I was quite proud of it. It had been a long and exhausting day. My mom and I went to the car for quick nap; we woke up just as the class was leaving the ring! These memories stand out much more vividly than the more ordinary.</p> <p>My next horse was Keller's Kimberly, a registered Tennessee Walking Horse, that I got as a 6-month-old and trained myself. At the time the show had halter classes for young horses including "Yearlings at Halter." Kim was black, with four white stockings and a wide blaze face. She was a beauty! We placed second, beat by a gorgeous Thoroughbred owned by Ferris Allen who went on to be a noted Thoroughbred trainer. We were in the same club and were friendly rivals. Some years later Kim produced a beautiful bay filly, nicknamed "Sunny." I took both horses with me to Texas A & M to study Animal Science.</p> <p>A few of us slept in the stalls with our horses (no doubt against the rules) but our parents were willing accomplices. I remember my mom bringing hot chocolate and donuts to the fairgrounds at 2 a.m. to find me and my horse both asleep in the stall, my horse lying down in the stall with his nose in a feed bucket.</p> <p>The State Show was held during the State Fair of Virginia for many years and it was so exciting to be part of all that the Fair entailed including all of the other livestock shows, the rides, exhibits, food. As 4-Hers, many of us also volunteered in Young MacDonald's Farm and the VPI Dairy Bar (where we wore dresses that we made from green and white striped official 4-H material.)</p> <p>I became Show Secretary in the 1970s. Bill Griffin coerced me, but that decision created lasting memories of show traditions of bygone years. The "Show Office" was the open announcer's stand of Ring I of the State Fairgrounds on Laburnum Avenue in Henrico County. Remember, it always rained at some time during the State Fair! Entries were mailed to my home with a deadline in early August. Around the deadline, the entries were so numerous, the rural postman tied them in bundles and hung them on my mailbox as they all would not fit inside. There were no computers at that time, so entries were typed individually on class sheets - on a manual typewriter, no less, requiring inserting and reinserting class sheets over and over. I used carbon paper and a second sheet to have a copy. Amazingly, this is the same way the A-Rated Virginia State Horse Show handled entries (I worked in that office one summer) as there was no other way! So night after night I processed entries late into the wee hours while the anticipation built! All of the entry blanks and class sheets were kept in large loose leaf ring notebooks. Class changes were handwritten on the sheets. The announcer worked behind us so we could hand him class sheets as they were needed. We would open the "office" at around 7 a.m. and had a coffee "percolator" and donuts to get the day going – much needed and</p>
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	<p>appreciated. By the end of the day our notebooks would be damp or covered in dust or both. Championship Night was always Saturday night and it was a BIG DEAL! Tuxedos and long dresses were the rule worn by judges, ringmasters, award presenters, photographers, announcers, show staff. We all wore corsages and boutonnieres. Flowers decorated the ring. It was absolutely beautiful and we just didn't want it to ever end!</p> <p>These early 4-H years provided the foundation for a unique 30+ year career at the State Fair of Virginia (Atlantic Rural Exposition) from 1979 to 2012. I started as assistant to the Agriculture Manager, but spent the majority of my years as Equine Director and Race Director for the Strawberry Hill Races. Thank you 4-H!</p> <p>(In loving gratitude to my parents, leaders, extension agents, fellow club members and all the volunteers and friends involved in the Virginia State 4-H Horse Show)</p>
Jessica Zarudzki	<p>I remember my first time at the VA State 4H horse show back in 2008. I went with the Stafford County Stablemates. This was my junior year of high school but we never had a truck or trailer and I was so excited to just be there! I signed my spunky Arabian rescue pony up for gaming and western pleasure. Well both didn't go as planned as we flew around the rings ha-ha but the cheering and congratulations for just being there was amazing. Key hole is what I remember the most because my pony stopped dead in her tracks before the entrance as she had noticed the white sand for the keyhole. I eventually got her in and everyone was yelling you've got this from the stands. When we made it back across the timers I laughed so hard with everyone because horses are horses and have their moments. They teach us so much! My pony taught me patience with everything and just be grateful to be where you are at as you will grow. 4H has some of the most supportive people. I was able to hold multiple leadership positions within the club, met amazing people and earned scholarships for college. For all that I am thankful. I will always give back to the kids because they deserve to be cheered on and succeed the way that I did.</p>
Nancy Brubaker	<p>I never played a big role but within our club my memories are wonderful. At the show I never committed to more than a few hours because we had kids there and that was most of my volunteer work. I was usually a fill in or an extra set of hands for set up or clean up. One my favorite tasks was working the gate. I loved being there to encourage a smile as they entered the arena and would breath deep and laugh as a visual reminder to breath and have fun. I enjoyed watching the classes, seeing the victories of 4-Hers, even without earning a ribbon. The lessons learned, although detailed around horsemanship, were life skills of hard work, persistence, and willingness. I loved hearing 4-H leaders tell their 4-Hers that they just had the best performance ever and it was usually clear that the 4Her that went into the arena doing their best and came out doing better. I witnessed the skill development of successful citizens. I am glad to be a part of 4-H and I hope that one day we will have an agent in our county so our youth will not have to travel to other counties to experience how 4-H 'Makes the Best Better.' Best wishes in your show this year. Alum (VA Horsemaster, All Star, National 4-H Horse Judging Team member (several years). I've sponsored a rider from another county and I wish you all a safe and rewarding event.</p>
Amanda Ramey	<p>It is difficult to pick just one favorite memory from my time in 4-H and more specifically my adventures at the Virginia State 4-H Horse Show over the years. I have participated at the show as a 4-her myself, as a show volunteer and stable management judge, and now as an aunt to a first-time exhibitor.</p> <p>It is common to want to reflect on the friendships made and ribbons won when thinking about the VA State 4-H Horse Show, but it is especially important to me to look back on the project animals that made all of the camaraderie and accolades possible. Within 4-H as well as our daily lives, my family and I have been able to gain a sense of responsibility and respect for our horses as well as each other. Caring for a project animal requires effective communication, efficient time management skills, diligent record keeping, and so much more. One thing that I did not expect to gain from 4-H but am forever grateful for is the unconditional love I received from an animal who turned out to be way more than a project.</p> <p>My sister, my younger brother, and I were each blessed to have known and shown horses and ponies worthy of being called saints. My "heart horse", Just Dreamin', was not the easiest or most comfortable ride, but he always knew how to keep you smiling. I look back on my final</p>

	<p>year in 4-H with Dreamy and count my blessings. He would humble even the most confident of riders. At my last VA State 4-H Horse Show, I went in the Sidesaddle class. We had practiced it many times before; so it was nothing new to me or him. I remember when we were asked to canter, Dreamy let out a couple good hard bucks. I heard a gasp in the crowd, but I was not the least bit worried. All I could do was laugh. My grandmother, who was in the crowd watching, still reflects on that moment as well to this day. I never worried about the placings when showing him. I was always out for a good time and was ready to expect a few joyful bucks now and then. Oddly enough, the next year, my sister Ashleigh Ramey showed Just Dreamin' at the VA State 4-H Horse Show, and won almost every class she went in...even the Sidesaddle class. Dreamy crossed the Rainbow Bridge into horsey heaven in 2017, and he kept us smiling all the way to "see you later."</p> <p>Ashleigh too was blessed to have a "heart horse" of her own. His name was Bold Liberty. Liberty was eager to please anyone who was around, but he would always add in a little of his own flair. Sometimes he would pack around a beginner like it was what he was born to do, and other times he would swish his tail and flap his lips as if to show off how proud he was of himself. He helped me to become more confident showing in Ladies Sidesaddle at places like Upperville and The Devon Horse Show, even earning a few blue ribbons at such prestigious venues. He was the ultimate teacher, and he left his mark on the VA State 4-H Horse Show as well. Liberty and Ashleigh won a number of championships in the Working Hunters and won quite a few ribbons in the equitation classes as well. Outside of the tangible achievements Bold Liberty help to accrue, anyone who was around him could appreciate his honesty and truth to himself. It is difficult to describe his personality to those who did not know him, but one thing I can say for sure is that he never let anyone down. He was predictable yet mischievous and he always kept you thinking. His expressions were some of the most endearing things about him. Bold Liberty's love for "his people" knew no limit. I like to say that he was Ashleigh's first true love. Sadly and very unexpectedly, Liberty had to be laid to rest in 2019, but we are comforted in knowing that he is with his old buddy Dreamy.</p> <p>One other special pony that my family has been touched by was A Mocha Moment. She was like the little engine that could. Mocha was the ultimate 4-H pony. She and my brother Bryan Ramey had many years together in 4-H. The pair did Hunter Pleasure, Equitation, and Showmanship. One year, they even did Western Pleasure Pony and ended up winning Reserve Grand Champion overall at the VA State 4-H Horse Show. She truly lived up to her name...A Mocha Moment. Mocha never put up a fuss or complained. She was very easy-going, and she absolutely adored Bryan. She helped spark an interest in horses in both of my nieces, one of whom is showing this year at the VA State 4-H Horse Show for the first time. Later in her life, Mocha went to a therapeutic riding center and continued to spread her loving and comforting nature. She definitely left a hoof print on many people's hearts. Mocha too is now enjoying her time in heaven with her boyfriend Dreamy and close friend Liberty.</p> <p>If I look back on all of my years in 4-H and think about what I am most thankful for, it would have to be the relationships that I have made with the project horses who I have been lucky enough to be around. The four Hs, head, heart, hands, and health, are all found within the bonds created from caring for and being loved by a horse. They help to clear your head when you are feeling overwhelmed, and they encourage us to use our head and think about things. They win our hearts and try not to break them with every step they take, just as we try not to break theirs. They require loving and gentle hands to care for them, and they are the ultimate healers. I am forever grateful for my horses and for my experience in 4-H, which I intend to help pass on to other generations.</p>
Dan Ketterman	<p>It was 1974, I had just entered the ring with about 60 other contestants,. The show staff stopped the show because cars were parked in the barn area. They told us we could not leave the ring and the show would resume when all cars were out of the barn area. It took about an hour to get the cars all moved. In the meantime I tie my horse to the rail and went and got a coke.</p>
Dillyn Ketterman	<p>2009- I was the first and last person to ride side saddle in a regular hunter over fences class.</p> <p>I started riding aside when I was 14, we were doing a demonstration on different disciplines for our county fair and a family friend gave me a few lessons, just enough to keep me alive. My AMAZING horse Fool Proof (Dude) was always happy to do whatever I asked and so he took</p>

	<p>great care of me and I fell in love with side saddle. My last year I wanted people to remember me, so I decided that Dude and I would show off how far we had come in side saddle by showing in the 2'6" hunter division at the state horse show. Some trainers were unhappy but the steward, saw no issue since side saddle is a hunter discipline, I was 18, and I had qualified at the district show riding side saddle.</p> <p>The 2010 rule book stated that side saddle was only allowed in the side saddle classes. I achieved of being memorable and in Loudoun cCounty we call it the Dillyn Rule.</p>
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Thank you for sharing your most wonderful memories captured above!

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