

2022 VA State 4-H Horse Show Leg Up Award Winner

The VA State 4-H Horse Show is proud to offer the 20th Anniversary Leg Up Award. The show committee is committed to bringing recognition to an outstanding and inspirational 4-H member in the Horse Project that attends the 2022 State 4-H Horse Show.

The Leg Up Award winner shows qualities such as dedication, leadership, high personal standards, and the internal drive to make themselves and their horse the best they can be. Equally important are their demonstrated efforts to help others "make the best better." Perhaps this person has faced challenges in life and risen above the hardships in an admirable fashion. Their involvement in the horse project is important but they do not have to have an extensive show record. The committee seeks to honor 4-Her who has become a role model among their peers and betters everyone around them.

This 4Her is currently the President of her club has held many officer positions in the past, earning her the All Star award in 2021. Being a leader, she has learned much about money, mentoring, and organizational skills. She makes the agenda for each monthly meeting, is involved in all the fundraisers, and attends the community service projects. She is a great leader and organizer and makes sure everyone has the tack and supplies they need for the State Show. She works hard to make the meetings fun for guests or new members. She likes to make them feel at home.

As a 4-H Horse Ambassador for the past two years, she has improved her public speaking and overall ease with helping others and promoting 4-H. This year her goal has been to promote the 4-H Horse Program. This was accomplished by putting up flyers in the districts, posting on the Instagram Page, attending the State Fair and the Farm Festival Booths, and at Ambassador Day at the Capitol. She helped with the Southeast District Intro to EquiSmartz, teaching members how to participate in Hippology Contests and educating them on what materials to study. Other great accomplishments are presenting "What 4-H Is" at the "CALs talks" at VT, and creating 2 horse management videos.

Diagnosed with dyslexia in second grade which cause significant challenges. Horseback riding became her outlet to these challenges and it has helped her become more organized, improve her communication skills, and become a better leader. She could not have accomplished this much without horses in her life.

With her own horse still in rehabilitation, she has been borrowing a project pony from her friend. She has learned how to ride him over the past 2 years protecting his arthritic neck. With all these challenges, she still succeeded by winning Reserve Champion at the District Show. She takes care of him as if he were her own riding him several times per week and competed him all summer to prepare for state.

Soon she will start college and then attend her last 4-H State Show. It's bittersweet but it's time for her to move on to the next phase of her life. All the above examples show that she exemplifies the qualities of a Leg Up Award winner. Congratulations to the 2022 Leg Up Award winner- Sydney Waldrop from the Silver Stirrups Club in Hanover County!

