

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT 4-H HORSE AMBASSADORS



Elyssa's goals include expanding her county's participation in 4-H Equine knowledge competitions and promoting greater communication and teamwork between the two regions in the Southeast District. She has been active with this goal through the Intro to EquiSmartz programs. Elyssa additionally, has plans to create a county wide newsletter to promote more participation in the knowledge competitions and provide information needed to help clubs succeed. Her email is parkereq2@gmail.com. She is a member of the Silver Stirrups 4-H Club, in Hanover County.

Stephanie's goals include planning additional equine educational events to support both her club and others in the Southeast District to promote the Horse Ambassador and 4-H Horse program. She has also been active with the Intro to EquiSmartz program and is available for additional support as called upon. In addition, she also envisions inviting guest speakers to programs, but also wishes to speak at other events to spread the word on the benefits of 4-H participation. Stephanie may be reached by email at stephdig11@gmail.com. She is a member of the VA Beach Wave Riders, VA Beach.



COLLECTIVELY, all three Ambassadors plan to create a southeast district youth horse council to unite the two regions 4-H members and encourage cross-region activity at both horse shows and educational contests.



Megan, Chesterfield County, plans to work on reestablishing a county level 4-H horse schooling show for Chesterfield. Megan feels the local show is needed to attract more horse enthusiasts to the 4-H program and provide a training ground for younger riders. This was available to her as a young rider and now she hopes to revive the local show for young riders to enjoy the same experiences she did. The show is scheduled for April 4, 2020, in Amelia, VA. Megan's email is meganandhope12106@icloud.com. She is a member of Chesterfield Classic Equestrians 4-H Club.

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Mary, Tazewell County, has seen a need to grow the Gaited Division at the state show and is making efforts toward connecting the Gaited community and the youth with 4-H by reaching out to area contacts and clubs. She also is working with groups to teach about proper care of horses. Mary's email is marysfamily1@gmail.com and she is a member of Trailblazers 4-H Horse Club.



Audrey's goal is to increase knowledge about 4-H opportunities for miniature horses by starting a miniature horse club in her county, which she has since created. It is called Little Bits Miniature 4-H Club. Members are invited to attend from surrounding counties as well. They meet February through May on the third Monday of each month at the Washington County Extension office. In addition she plans to visit schools to promote minis in the 4-H program. Audrey's email is audreya276@gmail.com and she is a member in Washington County's 4-H Saddle Club.



Mattie has plans to participate at as many local community events as possible to encourage non-horse owners to join 4-H and has created a tri-fold brochure to distribute. She may also seek to create an event with the help of her fellow SW District Ambassadors to put on a special event to serve the same purpose and help to promote hippology. In addition, Mattie has also established two Summer Fun Horse Days, July 7 & 14, in Washington County. These are equine education programs open to any youth. Mattie has learned a great deal about horse care and has hopes to give back to the community by sharing what she has learned to kids who enjoy horses. Mattie's email is mattiedebord@gmail.com and she is a member in Washington County's 4-H Saddle Club.

Rachel, Botetourt County, has a goal to develop a 6-hour SPIN horse project club. SPIN stands for “Special Interest”, where special interests are addressed and focused on according to participants needs. Of course, her focus will be directed toward equine related activities and topics. She will host this over a span of three days, with 2-hour weekly classes in the spring of 2020. As a Reserve Champion National Hippology winner, her knowledge of horses will help to educate youth on various facets of equine knowledge. She will distribute flyers through social media, at schools, and local businesses. Her hope is that it will grow 4-H enrollment and interest in the Horse Program. Rachel’s email is rachelandbuddy707@gmail.com and she is a member of the Botetourt 4-H Horse & Pony Club.

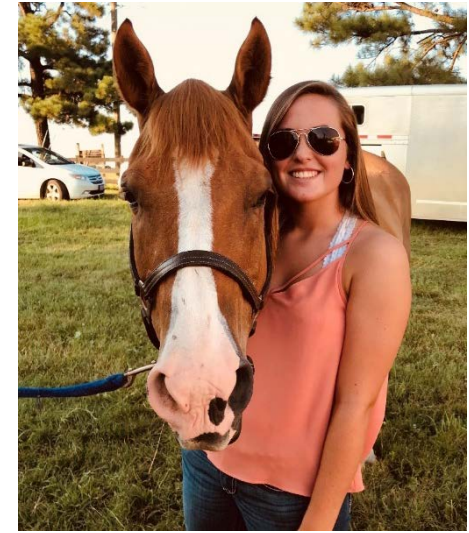


NORTHERN DISTRICT 4-H HORSE AMBASSADORS



Kayla, Prince William County, is establishing a 6-Hour SPIN club targeting a Title I school in Prince William County in the spring to teach elementary school-aged children about basic equine knowledge, with topics such as colors, breeds, and markings. She has created a lapbook which will be the tool kids will use as one of her hands-on learning activities. In addition, with Kayla’s creative skills, she is working to develop a much needed promotional digital and printed media to encourage donations and sponsorships to support the VA 4-H Horse programs. Kayla is a member of the Nokesville 4-H Equestrian Club and her email is kayladixon515@gmail.com.

Emily, Albemarle County, plans to help riders step outside of their comfort zones and try other disciplines the Virginia 4-H Horse Program has to offer. By promoting the program through a slideshow presentation, advertising the diversity of the riding program, she plans to encourage current members to try different riding styles, as well as show non-members the opportunities in the program. This promo video will include a diverse variety of pictures and videos from 4-H shows as well as personal statements from current members regarding their desired disciplines. This presentation will be available for display at various equine events. Emily hopes her creation will be used in years to come, after her time in the Ambassadors program. Emily is a member of Hoof-N-Woof 4-H Club, Albemarle, and her email is searse1@gmail.com.



Alina, Fairfax County, has plans to help promote the 4-H Horse Program by finding ways to display posters and other media as advertisement, outside of social media, to garner more interest in 4-H and grow enrollment numbers. Alina will be finding opportunities for photo shoots and use National 4-H promotional materials to merge materials for display. Please reach out to Alina if your club has active hands-on horse activity photos that you can share. Alina's email is alina.ampeh@gmail.com. She is a member of the Virginia Trotters 4-H Horse Club.



Kimberly, Frederick County, has goals to help create the final Horsemanship Skills Level One video. Material has been filmed and collected and Kimberly is now in the process of stitching together the final product. She hopes that this will help to promote consistent and safe practices in good horsemanship. Kimberly's email is kimberlylaue@gmail.com and she is a member of the Golden Horseshoe 4-H Club.





Samantha, Prince William, has plans to do a specific fundraiser for the 4-H Horse Program by way of running a Bingo Night game. She is planning a Bingo Night as a county fundraiser first, to work through the logistics and hopes to be able to offer this at one of our state events. It is hoped that the 4-H families and friends will enjoy a fun social evening together all to benefit the Horse Program. Samantha also plans to establish a program to help foster positive mental health in youth by using horses as the catalyst for teaching lifeskills and healthy coping mechanisms. Samantha's email is horserider113@msn.com and she is a member of the Nokesville 4-H Equestrian Club.

Ambassador Advisors

Central District - [Dillon Robinson](#), 4-H Extension agent, Lunenburg
Northern District - [Kimberly Buonomo](#), 4-H Extension agent, Albemarle
Southeast District - [Krista Gustafson](#), 4-H Extension agent, Gloucester
Southwest District - [Lauren Kopp](#), 4-H Extension agent, Smyth
At Large - [Sam Leech](#), 4-H Extension agent, Rockingham
Mentor Advisor, Northern District - [Camryn Madagan](#), Frederick
Mentor Advisor, Southwest District - [Mattie Ruth Stanley](#), Dickenson
Mentor Advisor, Southeast District - [Martina Essert](#), Chesapeake
State Advisor - [Leona Ransdell](#), Youth Equine Extension Specialist
State Lead Advisor - [Sandy Arnold](#), Youth Equine Extension Associate



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