



2021 END OF YEAR AWARDS

2021 4-H Member of the Year: Samantha Whysong, Nokesville Equestrians 4-H Club, Prince William County

Samantha began making contributions toward the Horse Program when she first started as a junior, and now she continues several years later contributing to not only the Virginia 4-H Horse Program, but in the National 4-H programs too. She has recently assumed the role of Mentor to the Horse Ambassador Program and proves



to be a wonderful and supportive addition to the members. Sam, through and through, has shown her dedication to the Horse Program by taking on many roles, including competing with the state hippology team at Southern Regionals as an alternate when one of her teammates was unable to attend, serving as her club president and mentoring the many members of her club, presenting a heart-warming and informational presentation at Eastern Nationals, and volunteering her time and knowledge to the Intro to Equismartz program. Her nominator adds that, as her coach for the hippology team, she developed enormous respect for her

dedication to the team and bettering her understanding of horses, working to become a better horsewoman through the many struggles that learning challenged during the pandemic. Her great knowledge and skills not only helped her to be successful in contests but were well used in teaching endless hours to her devoted members of her 4-H club. Samantha's activities and contests ranged from the local to National level and she achieved many top awards. At the VA 4-H Congress she won the Presentation contest and was inducted as a State Cabinet Member. She won the VA Youth in Action Healthy Living Pillar with her anti-bullying program, a goal and project she developed as a Horse Ambassador with her dwarf miniature horse, Ruben. For the State Show she was the highest fundraiser for the Horse Show Hero program, raising thousands of dollars to support the show for all competitors. She has won this award for several years now. She competed at the District level contests winning six awards in the top three with presentations, hippology and horse showing. At the county level she won the Joanne Guhl Scholarship, was a camp counselor, and developed, supported, volunteered and participated in numerous local 4-H programs, spoke on behalf of 4-H to County Supervisors, and did fundraising efforts on behalf of 4-H. She served as her 4-H Club's President, and organized many club opportunities beyond horse programming, to include many community service activities. And on the National level she attended National 4-H Conference and competed successfully at the All American Quarter Horse Congress, winning 1st with her presentation, and 5th at Eastern Nationals, supporting the Communications

Team with the Championship. Using her state Youth in Action program, she applied and became a the first awarded National Finalist in Virginia. We are proud of Samantha and all her accomplishments in 2021! Congratulations Samantha!

2nd place - Emily Sears, member of Hoof N Woof 4-H Club, Albemarle County

3rd place – Iyla Anders, member of Four-Legged Clovers 4-H Club, Chesterfield County

Volunteer of the Year: Hannah McDonald, Golden Horseshoe 4-H Club, Frederick County



Congratulations to Hannah McDonald for being the 2021 Horse Program Volunteer of the Year! Hannah started in the 4-H program at age 7 and at age 9 she joined Golden Horse Shoe 4-H Club and the rest is history. She excelled in 4-H as a member just as she does today as a Volunteer. Hannah wears many hats in the 4-H Horse Program as well as in other 4-H programs. She has a wonderful passion for sharing her knowledge and skills. Our 4-H program is fortunate to have Hannah serve as one of the state horse judging volunteer coaches and puts in an untold number of hours for the state team, educating them and coaching them to championships. She also serves as a leader in her club, county, district, and other state appointments, as well as on a national level. She gives so much of her time and money to travel far and wide helping our youth have the best experiences. If you know Hannah you know that she works diligently and well alone or with others and is always seeking to make things better for the Horse Program. She serves on many committees in the Horse Program and also in the 4-H Shooting Sports Program. Just to name a few of her appointments, she

organizes and hosts the Northern District Horse Judging Contest, chairs the state Horsemanship Skills Committee, is the Division Manager or Co-Manager for three Divisions at the State Show, serves as a lead volunteer at Equismartz, serves on the state Horse Show Steering Committee, Budget Committee, Fundraising Committee, Awards Committee, Equine Advisory Council and Northern District Horse Council. In these roles she serves as a wonderful and supportive team member, always contributing sound advice and recommendations, and always looking out for the best interest of the youth and the program as a whole. We are proud that she is a Virginia All Star and continues to give back to the 4-H program in the spirit of an All Star. Locally, Hannah helps organize the Frederick County 4-H Horse Camp, judging team, county fair show, their awards programs, and serves as the secretary of the Frederick County Leaders Association. In addition she is also a volunteer leader for the shooting sports club and helps run their club kitchen, score and run events, and serves as a certified instructor! Hannah is always willing to step up and do whatever is needed. Hannah is a remarkable young woman with a deep love for the 4-H Horse Program and our youth. She is and always will be an asset to 4-H for many years to come.



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