

## WHAT IS MOTIVATING YOU TO RUN FOR A STATE OFFICER POSITION?



### **Candidates for Treasurer**

#### **Dylan Collins – Clay**

I am motivated to be the Florida 4-H State Council Treasurer because I see several opportunities where my involvement could help to improve the 4H experience for all youth. First, I aim to ensure that Florida 4-H's current financial standing is not only maintained but improved. This will be achieved through innovative fundraising strategies, which I have employed successfully as both a chair and member of the ways and means committee. That being said, money isn't everything, and I also intend to leverage my position to contribute to the continued health of our organization through non-monetary means as well. I believe that 4-H's objective of making the best better is a goal well set and well executed, but in some cases the capable student who does not dare to acknowledge himself among the best may miss out on opportunities to better himself. I would likely not have had the confidence to involve myself in 4H at the state level, or even attempt to participate in leadership positions if not for the mentors who identified and encouraged me to set lofty goals within 4H and reach for them over the last three years. As a senior, I hope to pay it forward by bringing those who are uninformed or limited by their own mindset into the fold and welcoming them into state and leadership positions. I also plan to improve communication and awareness of the many opportunities offered through Florida 4H. This organization has so much to offer on a national, state, and local level and removing as many barriers to entry as possible will only benefit us all. Increasing awareness and inclusion will allow more growth among more youth, which will benefit both the youth and the organization as a whole. I have grown and gained so much from my various experiences within 4-H, and because of that I am motivated to spend the upcoming year working hard to contribute what I can to make 4-H even better for the young leaders to come.

#### **Timmy Hawes – Broward**

The biggest motivator in my journey to run for state office is the opportunity to make an impact on the program that has undoubtedly changed my life. 4-H has been my home for 11 years and has shaped me as an individual. I desire to follow in my older brother's footsteps, serving as a role model for younger generations of 4-H'ers. My older brother, Hayden, is my biggest role model and has shown me what it means to be a 4-H'er and I hope to accomplish the same. Lastly, I strive to fulfill my pledge to better myself for my club, my community, my country, and my world. As a 4-H'er, I feel as though it is my duty to better myself and to strive for excellence while serving others.

#### **Jerick King – Alachua**

Some reasons motivating me to run for State Treasurer are my realizations of what 4-H has done for me in just three years. All of the skills I have learned so far should be shared with the world. I hope to provide obtainable ways to bring more people into 4-H so we can create more leaders in this world who will take us even farther to accomplish even greater accomplishments. I want to show the world that the sky is not our limit. That together we can push past the sky. This is my motivation.

#### **Kathryn MDO – Okeechobee**

In my family, 4-H has become a tradition and a way to unite the whole family. This family runs on love and the motivation for a better tomorrow. My family firmly believes in the future of Agriculture, and they are delighted that I am a member of that future. I'm Kathryn Montes De Oca, or KMDO; I am 16 years old and have loved 4-H fostering since I was 5. Now, I show dairy and beef cattle while participating in shooting sports and leadership activities. I am highly active in my community and want to move onto a bigger stage to help others. As the treasurer, my role encompasses much more than just financial management. It involves earning and maintaining the support and trust of those who have placed their faith in me by voting for me. My ultimate goal is to build a strong and unwavering foundation built on trust. This trust needs to be comprehensive, as we rely on the support of our entire 4-H 'family' across the entire state. My understanding of Trust aligns with the definition provided by the Oxford Dictionary, which defines Trust as "believing in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of." I aim to be reliable to those around me, mainly through my commitment to our youth development program. I strive to be adaptable and contribute to advancing our future generation in agriculture and other fields. Honesty is crucial, and I endeavor to uphold the standards of truth as referenced in John 17:17. Regarding my capabilities, I am dedicated to allocating time and effort to this organization, as it reflects my values. I am incredibly grateful to be a member of 4-H and actively participate in Florida. However, I want to be even more involved and do more. This is my chance to make a difference, and I couldn't want anything more. I consistently encourage you to vote for Kathryn Montes De Oca for the 2025 Florida State 4-H Treasurer. Remember the motto "Vote for Kathryn MDO to watch 4-H grow!"

#### **Tucker Padgett – Escambia**

I would like to broaden my horizons and increase my leadership opportunities and responsibilities.