

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



Candidates for Reporter

Jamie Dockery - Putnam

I have been in 4-H for 12 years and I have always loved being a leader. I thoroughly enjoy leading the youth in my community and I love watching their love for 4-H grow. I have always thought about holding an officer position at the higher level, but never knew if I would accomplish it. This year, I had the pleasure of being on the Florida 4-H State Executive Board, which made me appreciate all of the behind-the-scenes work done by everyone on the Florida 4-H Staff and the committees involved with the State Events. Being able to run for State Office has given me something else to look forward to in my final year of 4-H. Being that I am going into my senior year of high school, I decided that today was the day that I put into action what I have wanted to do for so long. Whether I get voted into office or not, I will appreciate everyone that voted for me and I will make the most of my last year of 4-H. Thank you for your consideration!

Katie Ross - Duval

Through the years, people have told me I am a natural leader. I often find myself taking charge of situations, and when there are decisions to be made, I help guide others to reach a consensus. Although this has always been a skill of mine, 4-H has helped me to grow and polish my talent. I have learned a great deal about leadership through 4-H. In addition, I have served as an officer for all of my clubs each year since becoming a member at the age of 10. As soon as I was old enough to join my county's Teen Leadership Council, I was elected an officer at that level. And the moment I was eligible to do so I applied for, and was appointed to, the Florida 4-H Executive Board. Very early in my 4-H journey, I found out about the State Council. From that moment on, I decided I wanted to become an officer. It has been a dream of mine from the beginning, and is the next step I am eager to take!

I believe one of the greatest, if not the greatest, benefit of 4-H is having a place where you belong. It's simple human nature to want to belong to something. Belonging feels good, like you have a purpose. And chances are, if you ask a 4-H member if they feel that way, they would say yes. Many 4-Hers participate at the county level. Others the district level. Some participate at the state level. And a few are active at all three. But these three levels share one major thing in common: belonging. Being a member of a club, a district board, Executive Board, or anything in between feels amazing. Because it provides a sense of community.

Of course, there are many more ways to benefit from 4-H. In addition to finding somewhere I belong, I have been exposed to a wide variety of learning experiences, developed essential life skills, made many close friends, and discovered the importance of service. But that is just the tip of the iceberg. According to a study conducted by Tufts University, 4-H members report better grades, higher levels of academic competence, and an elevated level of engagement at school. They are also nearly two times as likely to plan to go to college, and more likely to pursue careers in science, engineering, and computer technology. There are no limits to the benefits 4-H offers. I would love to help more youth discover the opportunities offered.

If I was elected Reporter, not only would it further my personal development, it would allow me to achieve my goal of assisting others and supporting Florida 4-H. I want to reach for more awareness of, more participation in, and more support for 4-H across the Sunshine State. That is why I am so motivated to run for state office.

Hayley Rossetti - Charlotte

The reason I am running for this position is because I want to be able to make a difference in Florida 4-H and improve it for the years to come. I also have a very big passion for leadership and 4-H helps me improve my leadership skills every day. I want to help my fellow 4-Hers solve problems and be a mentor to 4-Hers all over. I want to develop skills through out my experience as a state officer such as I want to become a strong leader and I want to better improve my public speaking skills.

Kimberly Tanner - Hamilton

I want to be a 4-H State Officer because I love what 4-H is all about: leadership, learning, and lifting each other up, and I'm ready to take that to the next level. This program has given me so much. I've tried new things, met some of my best friends, and gained confidence I never thought I had. Now I'm excited for the chance to give back in a bigger way.

Running for State Reporter means more than just taking photos or writing updates. To me, it's about sharing the real heart of 4-H the moments, the people, and the impact this program has on all of us. I want to help tell those stories, highlight the awesome things members are doing, and make sure every 4-Her feels seen and celebrated.

I'm especially passionate about agriculture and sharing why it matters, whether someone lives on a farm or in the middle of the city. I'm full of energy, ready to work hard, and always down to get my hands dirty, literally and figuratively. I'd be honored to represent 4-H youth across the state and help spread the excitement of this program as your next State Reporter.

Musiq Williams - Palm Beach

I am running because I believe in the power of our voices being used to build a stronger, more connected 4-H community. This year, I had the honor of serving as Vice President of the Southeastern district board, which was the first time my district had convened since COVID. During this time, I not only had the opportunity to work with 4-H members across Southeastern Florida, but I was able to learn about the diverse projects each of them were passionate about and the unique ways their counties contributed to Florida 4-H. I was amazed by the variety of interests and the difference in impact that 4-H had on communities that were just minutes apart. This opened my eyes to how much is happening across the state that many of us never hear about. That experience got me interested in hearing more, SHARING more. Florida is such a large state and it is so easy for voices to get lost in the distance. As state reporter, I want to spotlight the creativity, leadership, service, and innovation happening in as many corners of our 4-H family as possible, because when we amplify each other's stories, we don't just communicate, we form lasting connections that will continue to grow our Florida 4-H family stronger.