

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



### *Candidates for Secretary*

#### Ricardo Fernandez - St. Johns

I believe that service, especially one rooted in sacrifice and love, is paramount for any leader, especially one running for such an office as this one. I love 4-H, not only for the great program and structure that it provides, but especially for the people that make up that structure. For that reason, my goal and my motivation as State Council Secretary will be to spread as many 4-H stories and experiences as possible, expanding interest in 4-H to more schools, and more areas that may not be familiar with 4-H. Because service is rooted in sacrifice, I will work around the clock for all 4-H members, the very essence of 4-H. I strongly believe that the State Officer Team should be accessible and available to all 4-H, regardless of where or who they are. I will work with a great State Officer Team to ensure that. I am inspired by past 4-H State Officers who have served this program so very well, and I hope to follow in their footsteps of sacrifice and service. I am also inspired by the work of my great county, St. Johns, and all the progress I have seen St. Johns County 4-H make in recent years, in terms of the programs they run, and the members which participate. I will learn from my county's successes and failures, informing me as a State Officer. 4-H is a great program, which should be accessible and available to more youth across the great State of Florida. For that reason, I am most inspired and motivated to be State Council Secretary when I think of the youth that struggle to fit in, struggle to stand out, or struggle to find a passion. I know that 4-H has helped me with that struggle, and I want it to help others.

#### Brooklyn Hansford - Nassau

I have found true connection and family through state events and want to help Florida 4-H continue to help others find their sparks.

#### Vera Howe - Martin

Serving in 4-H for the past 12 years has been one of the most rewarding parts of my life. It has given me confidence, leadership skills, lifelong friendships, and a deep passion for helping others grow. My determination to teach others about the power of 4-H, and how it can prepare you for the future, is what motivates me to run for state office. I want to take the lessons I've learned and use them to help others discover their spark in 4-H. I believe that guiding someone to success, one person at a time, is the foundation for a strong future, not just for Florida 4-H, but for the national program as a whole. As a state officer, I would be committed to inspiring, encouraging, and empowering members across our state. Beyond leadership, I value connection. I strive to build lifelong friendships and be someone others can rely on. Being a leader means more than just teaching, it means listening, supporting, and standing beside others through their journey. I'm excited for the chance to serve and give back to the organization that has shaped who I am today.

#### Emma Wickham - St. Lucie

I am running for state office for the little girl who walked into her first 4-H meeting ten years ago. She was nervous, excited, and thinking it was just something she had to do to show her rabbit at the fair, not knowing that this would become a life-changing journey. Over the past decade, 4-H has shaped me into the person I once looked up to. It has taught me leadership, responsibility, confidence, and compassion. Now, I have the opportunity to give back to the organization that has given me so much. I am running for state office to be the role model I always had growing up. If elected your Florida 4-H State Council Secretary, I will represent 4-H proudly and professionally at events across the state, serve as a positive example and mentor for current and future 4-Hers, and help lead with purpose, passion, and a commitment to making the best better.