

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



Candidates for Treasurer

Abrey Ayers - Seminole

4-H is one of those programs where it's a safe and encouraging environment to grow and learn from. The main motivation I have to run for a state officer position is to get out there and to try boldly. We all have dreams, and being a state officer is one of mine. 4-H has taught me that if you don't try, then how would you know the possibilities you could have had?

Running for State Council Treasurer means a possibility to make the best better with my capabilities and to help shape the future of our youth. It's about unlocking potential, both in myself and the youth I hope to represent. Using my skills, my voice, and my dedication to inspire youth. I want to be a role model the same way the Lommersee and the Thorp families were to me. Growing up, watching them in state council positions, and being such prominent leaders. They weren't just leaders who held a title but rather leaders who made an impact. Which has inspired me and even shaped the way I view leadership today: not as a spotlight but rather as an ability to inspire and guide people to a goal.

If I am elected, I will bring hard work and financial responsibility to the treasurer role. As well as shaping the role of treasurer. I'll pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health for better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world. To ensure that I will bring my commitment to helping others dream big, try boldly, and grow stronger in 4-H. Also, to achieve my main 4-H goals, to raise money to provide for Florida 4-H, including scholarships, and to promote the beginning to reclaim what once was lost in the past with 4-H camp Ocala.

Cole Cassady - Duval

I'm running for state officer because I believe everyone's voice matters. I want to be someone who brings new ideas, makes events better, and helps make a real difference in Florida 4-H.

Being a state officer isn't just about having the title, it's about being someone others can look up to, doing the right thing and showing good leadership. I want to help people feel included and supported, and that's one of the biggest reasons why I want to run.

A big inspiration for me is my older brother Mason. He served as Sergeant-at-Arms on the state council last year. Watching him in that role showed me what it really means to be a leader staying calm under pressure, helping others, and being someone people can count on. Seeing that makes me want to do the same.

Another reason I'm running is because I want to grow as a person. I know this role will push me to try new things, speak up more, and learn how to handle bigger responsibilities. I want to get better at solving problems and being a strong communicator. Most of all, I want "To Make The Best Better."

What matters most to me is making an impact. Whether it's helping plan something fun, or just being there to listen, I want to help people be their best selves. I want my time as a state officer to mean something.

Jerick King - Alachua

My motivation for running again for Treasurer as a state council officer is to gain more experience through the opportunities it presents and to make connections that will help me to be successful in the future as well as to improve 4-H as a whole. I would like to continue to make sure that 4-H, without fail never stops developing strong and powerful leaders to help guide this world and the people around them. And like Mr. Derby said, I want to help the world to understand that 4-H is the way the world could be and to guide the world on its path to success which I know is possible through 4-H and the environment it presents.

Ella Morey - Martin

I've always been passionate about public speaking. For as long as I can remember, this took place in the form of pollinator education in my local Martin County community. Last year, however, following a first-place win in the state Public Speaking category in 4-H's competitive events, I received notice that I was eligible to represent Florida in the national competition. This larger recognition and opportunity to shed light on the decline of pollinator populations showed me just how impactful 4-H could be. Without the funding and coaching provided by my 4-H agent, Mr. Derby, and the Florida 4-H program, I would have never been able to afford to compete at this event. Despite this, with their support, I was able to have my travel expenses covered, allowing me to showcase my capabilities on a national scale. On January 10th, I was announced the 2nd place winner at the Western National Roundup.

Whilst I've always had a love and appreciation for 4-H and its opportunities, this process truly sparked my passion for the program. More specifically, my passion for opening doors for my fellow 4-Hers and making sure that everyone has equal opportunity to learn and grow. This personal connection has motivated me to run for state office, a place where I believe I can make a difference for the future of the program. If elected as Treasurer, I hope that my dedication to increasing opportunity can be implemented through my idea—The Pay it Forward Program. This program would allow for graduating 4-H members to leave a lasting impact on the program and support younger members by allowing them to directly sponsor a scholarship for state events. This would not only provide aid to 4H members in counties that are not able to provide scholarships, but with also foster connections between senior 4H members and the rest of the community.

Truthfully, each candidate running for state office is capable of amazing things. My motivation to run alongside them stems from the opportunities that 4H has given me that would otherwise have been unattainable. For this reason, I hope to make changes within our state office to make sure that these opportunities are available to people of all backgrounds, regardless of cost. As Treasurer, I believe that I would be able to implement such programs to give back to the program that has been so generous to me, and keep on making the best better.