

Indiana 4-H Volunteer Awards of Excellence

Saturday, October 29, 2022



Indiana 4-H
LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT

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Extension - 4-H Youth
Development



2022 Indiana 4-H Volunteer Awards of Excellence Recipients

Sawyer Eastridge, Crawford County – Excellence in 4-H Animal Science Programming, Youth

Jason Scott, Monroe County – Excellence in 4-H Animal Science Programming, Adult

Becci Smith, Owen County – Excellence in 4-H Animal Science Programming, Adult

Thomas Hogan, Crawford County – Excellence in 4-H Civic Engagement Programming, Youth

Kathy Newman Arthur, Owen County – Excellence in 4-H Civic Engagement Programming, Adult

Nora Howat, Lawrence County – Excellence in 4-H Club Programming, Youth

Brandi Staggs, Owen County – Excellence in 4-H Club Programming, Adult

Keri Barker, Lawrence County – Excellence in 4-H Club Programming, Adult

Dakota Szakacs, St. Joseph County – Excellence in 4-H Healthy Living Programming, Youth

Sawyer Scheid, Monroe County – Excellence in 4-H Science Programming, Youth

Rhonda Sanders, Dena Held, and Team, Martin County – Excellence in Youth and Adult Partnerships, Team

Excellence in 4-H Animal Science Programming, Youth

Sawyer Eastridge, Crawford County

Sawyer Eastridge is a 10th grader at Crawford County Jr. & Sr. Highschool. Sawyer is the son of Dexter & Sarah Eastridge and a 7-year 4-H member. Sawyer exemplifies strong leadership and serves as a Crawford County 4-H Youth livestock mentor. Sawyer is heavily involved in the 4-H Beef Project and exhibits cattle at the local, state and national levels, representing the Indiana 4-H Program. Sawyer was the 2022 4-H Jim Ade Senior Supreme Large Animal Showmanship recipient! This award is made possible by the Ade Family in memory of former Extension Educator, Jim Ade.

We're extremely proud of Sawyer's growth as a young leader within the Crawford County 4-H Program. He is the perfect example of a "True Leader" and we're excited to see where his future leads.



Excellence in 4-H Animal Science Programming, Adult

Jason Scott, Monroe County

Jason Scott is the father of a 10-year member of the Monroe County 4-H Program. He has served as the Swine Project Leader and member of his county's livestock auction committee. For the last six years, he has also been actively involved as a member of the Monroe County 4-H Board and has even served as the 1st Vice President and Livestock Chairman for the past two years. Serving in this role, Jason has been able to expand his involvement by being the primary livestock leader. Not only is he a big part of the decision making, he also takes care of arranging monthly meetings for all of the animal program leaders to discuss how the leaders can bring new and old ideas together and ensure that the best are being made better through the animal programs.

Another big role that Jason has played within his county is being part of the livestock auction committee. This involves contacting sponsors, getting items donated for club auctions and scholarships, arranging locker plant pickups, working with Purdue Extension Staff, and ensuring that sponsors and recipients get proper recognition. Although Jason was not introduced to 4-H until he was an adult, he has made it his mission to ensure that 4-H members have the best experience and a role model to look up to.



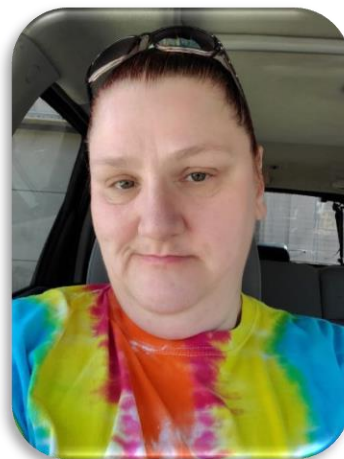
Excellence in 4-H Animal Science Programming, Adult

Becci Smith, Owen County

Becci Smith has been an Owen County 4-H volunteer for over 26 years. She has been the Dog Club leader for most, if not all of that time. Every year she works with the youth and their animals in Dog Club at least twice per week beginning in February.

Becci is knowledgeable on how to work with dogs but is always open to expanding her own skills. She is patient with both the humans and the four-legged friends. She is caring and willing to go above and beyond to help a young person who wants to learn. She has a strong commitment to 4-H and has recruited and is actively training new club leaders.

She is an advocate for her club, club members, Owen County 4-H, and the values of hard work and leadership that 4-H stands for. She is also an active supporter of 4-H Horse and Pony, taking many photographs of group events and shows for the H&P club.



Excellence in 4-H Civic Engagement Programming, Youth

Thomas Hogan, Crawford County

Thomas Hogan is a 10th grader at Perry Central High School and the son of Troy & Geana Mason. Thomas is a 7-year 4-H member who exemplifies strong leadership and serves as a Crawford County 4-H Jr. Leader and program mentor. Thomas is heavily involved in the 4-H livestock program and exhibits sheep at the local, state and national levels, representing the Indiana 4-H Program.

Thomas' involvement includes, but is not limited to, the following: 2022 4-H Statehouse page, Advocate for Extension as he addresses the county council at budget hearings; volunteer and team leader for 4-H fundraising; 4-H community service volunteer; developed video to showcase 4-H as a grant recipient of the Community Foundation-Crawford County; exhibits high level of sportsmanship at local, state and national livestock shows.

We're extremely proud of Thomas's growth as a young leader within the Crawford County 4-H Program. He is the perfect example of a "True Leader" and we're excited to see where his future leads.



Excellence in 4-H Civic Engagement Programming, Adult

Kathy Newman Arthur, Owen County

Kathy Newman Arthur has been an active leader of the Owen County Fishing Team for 24 years. Because of her leadership, the Fishing Club has been consistently one of the most active clubs in the Owen County 4-H program and is well known in the community for its active participation in community service projects. Kathy leads her club in many service projects, ranging from serving Thanksgiving dinner at a nursing home to planning a huge egg hunt for the entire community. Kathy spent many hours to ensure that all of these service projects were carefully planned, fundraised, and labored to achieve the end goal.



One of the biggest projects the Owen County Fishing Team has taken part in is bringing the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall to their community. They spent many months fundraising as well as gathering supplies and laboring in preparation for the wall to arrive. Once it arrived, each panel had to be unloaded and put together for the final product. In the very few days that the wall was in place, Kathy organized an opening ceremony, closing ceremony, a Vietnam helicopter landing, a cookout for the community, and 24/7 around the clock volunteers as “security” for the wall.

Excellence in 4-H Club Programming, Youth

Nora Howat, Lawrence County

If Nora commits to doing something (which is a lot) you can guarantee she is going to follow through with it and likely do better than you expected. She is always looking for new opportunities to grow herself, the Junior Leader Club, and the overall Lawrence County (and Indiana) 4-H Program. Nora has made great strides in increasing communication and encouraging participation in her Junior Leader Club. She has a positive attitude while there (no matter how many things are piling up on her plate), and she goes out of her way to talk with new members and encourage their growth.



Nora is constantly looking at who might be a good fit as a future officer, and talking to them about the opportunities. She is forward thinking in her planning and trying to find new and better ways to do things. This year, Nora helped Lawrence County host the first leadership retreat for Junior Leader Officers, and she regularly attends Area and State Leadership opportunities looking for programs and ideas, which she brings back to Junior Leader Club meetings. She extends this to Lawrence County 4-H as a whole. For example, she is currently planning activities for National 4-H Week 2022 to help promote our program and get her peers involved in ways we have not been able to do before. Nora’s outstanding accomplishment in this category is all about her dependability and desire to bring program ideas to strengthen her club.

Excellence in 4-H Club Programming, Adult

Brandi Staggs, Owen County

Brandi Staggs is an active 4-H parent and has been an adult volunteer leader of the Willing Workers 4-H Club for four years. She has also just finished her first year of a three-year term as an Owen County 4-H Council member. Brandi increased her 4-H involvement by serving on a grant proposal team this past year to help support a new after school club program in her local school system.

Brandi has utilized her skills in marketing to not only get important information out to 4-Hers and parents, but she also never hesitates to promote the 4-H program. She routinely shares promotional posts and creates her own club programming to harness youth interest in a variety of projects and events. She shares photos of club success to encourage others and keep enthusiasm going. Brandi has put together “Sunday Spotlights” to highlight her members as well as attend shows, events, and plays that her members participate in. Brandi has also begun a series of “Mini 4-H Kids” meetings to focus on the Mini 4-Hers in her club.



Excellence in 4-H Club Programming, Adult

Keri Barker, Lawrence County

Keri Barker is a relatively new 4-H volunteer, but has already taken on many volunteer roles within the Lawrence County 4-H program. She is currently serving as the Rabbit Club Leader, Club Leader Representative to the 4-H Council, and as a Food, Fun, 4-H Distribution Volunteer. When the Lawrence County 4-H program has a need, Keri is the first to step up and try to fulfil it. This year, she took on a role as a Club Leader Representative on the 4-H Council. She constantly uses her retail and marketing background to look at what they are doing and give creative solutions to improve their recruitment, fundraising, and educational methods.

Keri has served as the Rabbit Club Leader for the past three years. She strives to grow the Rabbit Club in unconventional ways and looks out for her members as young people, and not just rabbit owners. She is interested in the whole package her members bring to the table and how she can help them excel in life after Rabbit Club. Keri goes out of her way to plan a well-balanced combination of educational events and fun for her club. She strives to ensure a year-round program. When you go to a Rabbit Club meeting led by Keri, you are not simply going to learn about rabbits. You may receive a lesson to help you handle stress, do a community service project to help those in need, or be encouraged to try something new like a public speaking contest. She has not only increased participation when numbers were shrinking, but has inspired other projects to adopt some of her methods.



Excellence in 4-H Healthy Living Programming, Youth

Dakota Szakacs, St. Joseph County

Dakota is a 9-year 4-H member who has participated in activities such as Junior Leaders, Meat Hunger, Photography, Veterinary Science, Consumer Clothing, and Foods. Additionally, Dakota served as a member of the 2022 State 4-H Junior Leader Council. In this role, she worked with a team of 16 other Council members to plan and implement the annual State 4-H Junior Leader Conference at DePauw University in June.

Part of Dakota's role on the Council was to co-teach a session for all of the delegates titled "Money Heist". She and her partner focused the session on financial wellness, including topics that helped the high school students learn to manage their money, get the most out of their money, and being mindful of financial decisions they make.

Using a series of example scenarios and hands-on activities, Dakota was able to help the delegates learn about personal budgeting, scholarship and student loan applications, the benefits and limitations to credit and debit cards, and determine the difference between needs and wants.



Excellence in 4-H Science Programming, Youth

Sawyer Scheid, Monroe County

Sawyer is well deserving of this award for his efforts in data collection related to invertebrate biodiversity in the area around Monroe Reservoir and for sharing his knowledge and experience with many individuals. Sawyer's knowledge, drive to learn more, and enthusiasm for entomology are impressive.

Sawyer received a Research and Collecting Permit from the Indiana DNR and conducted multiple outings to document insect diversity. Sawyer is always looking to learn more about insects, how best to collect them, and the documentation required in order to collect good data. Sawyer attended entomology summer camps at the University of Kentucky the past two years and prior to that attended a similar camp at Mississippi State University.

Sawyer has been a wonderful ambassador for entomology and for the 4-H program during the community Bug Fest event. Many of the attendees of this event are unaware of all that 4-H offers. Sawyer's presence at the event inspired some families to find out more about the 4-H program. For the 2021 Bug Fest, Sawyer brought a collecting screen and lamp, an expansive insect collection for people to look at, and a number of live insects. Visitors to Sawyer's display learned about insect collecting methods, were exposed to the diversity of insects, and many of them were able to handle live insects in a safe environment. Sawyer readily engaged with most of the approximately 800 people who attended the event. He shared information in an approachable and friendly way.



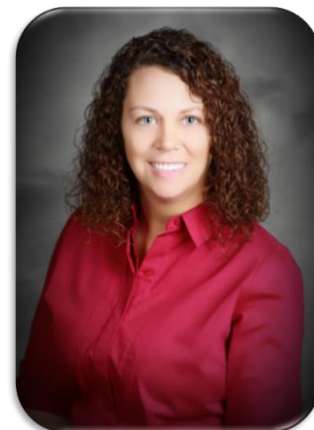
Excellence in Youth and Adult Partnerships, Team

Rhonda Sanders, Dena Held, and Team, Martin County

As the primary Martin County 4-H Jr. Leader adult advisor, Rhonda Sanders' innovation and excellence led members of not only the Jr. Leader Club, but also the Jolly Jug Rox Community Club, and members of the Rabbit Project. Rhonda and co-leadership have impacted county wide programs, people, and created feelings of inclusiveness. Rhonda's leadership has included Rabbit Superintendent, member of 4-H Council & Vice President, Community Club co-leader, Extension Board Member, and more, to empower the development of the team formed through 4-H. Always willing to step up to help the youth of 4-H, Rhonda and the team members work with the youth and empower them to learn and grow.

Other members of the Martin County team include:

- *Eli Ausbrooks*
- *Erin Bateman*
- *Mackenzie Craney*
- *Audra Deckard*
- *Mitch Green*
- *Megan Hawkins*
- *Melanie Hawkins*
- *Mimi Hawkins*
- *Dena Held*
- *Makenzie Mauder*
- *Russell Mauder*
- *Ella Parker*
- *Alysse Wadsworth*
- *Carter Walton*
- *Tucker Walton*



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