

# SAMPLE

## “My Experiences” For ages 8-14, as of Jan. 1

### 4-H EXPERIENCES

I have been a part of 4-H since before I was even born! My parent’s met at a 4-H event, so you can say 4-H is in my DNA. I have been an active member of my county 4-H program since I was 5 years old. I can still remember how excited I was to no longer be a clover kid and finally compete and earn purple ribbons at the fair!

When I first began in 4-H, I only wanted to try one project area: baking. I loved to mix ingredients and make yummy treats. I soon learned 4-H is filled with so many more ways I can grow and learn. I now participate in 4 county competitions, and enter static exhibits in 4 different project areas.

Here is a chart of all the ribbons I have earned in the contests in which I have competed:

Contest	Ribbon
Speech Contest	1 Red, 2 Blue
PSA Contest	1 Red
Presentation Contest	1 Blue, 2 Purple
Cat Show	2 Blue, 1 Purple,
Table Toppers Contest	2 Blue

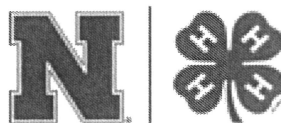
Through my experiences, I have learned you don’t always get things right the first time. I have learned how to hear and receive feedback from adults. My teachers comment on how well I can handle their feedback for my writing in class. I say, “4-H taught me that”.

During the last year in 4-H, I have been involved in my club. My club leader has been working hard to help us get to know each other because we are from all different parts of the city. We formed a club because we had similar interests and are similar in age. I have been involved in all the club meetings, and have shared about my past experience as an Independent 4-H member.

The highlight of my past year was being elected club President I can’t believe they elected me as the President because there were 2 others people running for this office. It made me feel like I was really a part of the club and that this group trusted me to introduce them to 4-H. Each meeting I followed the agenda we created for our meetings. I rotated who would lead us in the pledges and made sure everyone had a role that day so they could feel included. It was a great experience sharing all that 4-H can do with my friends.

Another highlight was leading the cookie decorating activity during the winter holidays. My mom and I took a cookie decorating class, I learned some cool techniques with royal icing. My mom prepped the icing, I made the cookies, and I taught my club how to “flood” with royal icing. We decorated 3 dozen and shared them at a senior citizens center. I was so proud we all wanted to share and the work we did.

Both of these highlights help me know what I want to do in the future wit 4-H. I want to help grow our club to include more kids our age. I want to plan another service



project that includes baking and sharing with others. I want to make sure someone else is elected president so that person can learn from that experience.

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

This past year I was the President of my 4-H club. I led club meetings, made job and tasks assignments, and made sure we always said the 4-H pledge. I learned that leaders can be about positions, but don't have to be. I also learned that when my club recited the pledge, we felt connected to each other and other 4-H members. It was cool to be a part of something bigger than me.

One of the most influential experiences that has helped me build my leadership skills has been being a part of the Worship Committee at my church.

As the only youth on the committee, I am responsible for sharing what music or scripture would be meaningful for youth to hear as they participate in worship. In order to be a success, I have really worked on developing my assertiveness and my listening skills. I meet monthly with the Worship Committee, and am an important voice in their planning for the month.

I have learned the following things about leadership:

- Not being afraid to say your opinion, even if you are the youngest in the room
- Asking my friends for their opinions before I attend meetings so I can represent them
- Public speaking skills as I read scripture and welcome people to church

*Leading worship services at my church as I give the welcome for the day*



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/SERVICE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Picking up trash may not seem like a fun way to spend Saturdays, but the members of 4-H club love getting together every other month for trash cleanup day in the Old Market. We have been doing this for the last year.



*My 4-H club cleaning up the Old Market*



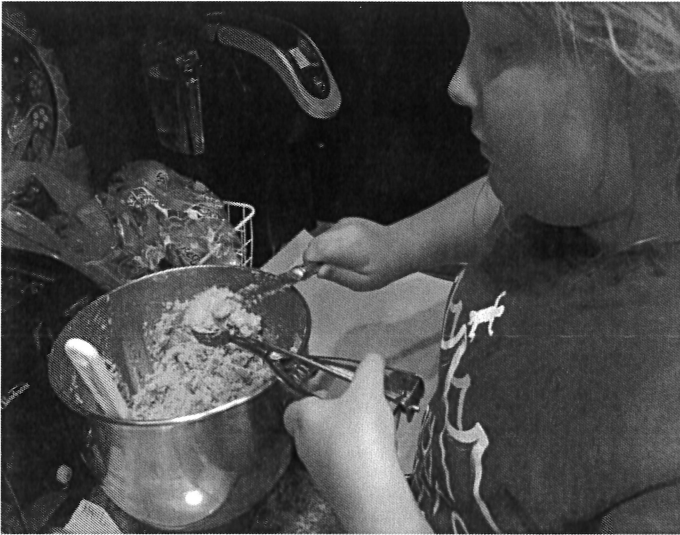
We compete to see who can fill up the most bags and what is the most unusual piece of trash we can find. So far the most bags has been 3 for one person, and we find about a dozen single socks each time we pick up trash. I have learned to enjoy serving my community and that when we work together, jobs that may be boring become a lot more exciting. I have also learned that littering is the worst. If I ever did litter when I was younger, I never litter now!

I also am a member of National Honor Society at my school. This club is very involved in collecting donations for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. We completed 2 fundraisers for this organization. I was in charge of writing the speech that encourage my classmates to participate, and was also the person that visited all the classrooms in my school to deliver this speech. I learned that I like sharing information like this and hope to be able to keep talking to people about service.

### **CAREER SPARK**

My love for baking began in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade as I was working on mastering different cookie making techniques with 4-H. I have continued to learn new skills in baking, and have taken 10 projects to the state fair, earning all purple ribbons. As a result, I want to become a professional baker. Here is a list of things I am doing to follow my spark:

*My first summer mixing it up with baking!*



- Enrolled in French at my school. I am learning the language because I want to study at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, France following earning a degree at UNL.
- Volunteer as a teen leader for food science camp at Metro Community College.
- Plan on majoring in business at UNL because I want to be confident in my skills as an entrepreneur when I open my bakery.