

Kyle Landwehr received the Sally Eliassen Scholarship. He is a 12-year member of the Antelope Crossing 4-H Club and graduated with a GPA of 4.2 from Vista Peak Preparatory School. He will be majoring in Psychology and Theater Education at the University of Northern Colorado. His goal is to become an elementary school psychologist to teach healthy coping mechanisms so that teenagers do not have to be saved but will have the skills to help themselves.

4-H project work has taught him strong communication and record keeping skills and patience, especially when working with his dog, poultry, and rabbit projects. He found that getting frustrated with your animal just leads to more stress for you and your animal! Kyle also was enrolled in small engines and twelve years in the Cake Decorating projects receiving a grand champion with his Garfield Cake at the County Fair.

The District Leadership and State 4-H Conferences were Kyle's most impactful leadership learning experiences as a 4-H member. As you have heard, he also represented Arapahoe County at Citizenship Washington Focus in Washington DC. He applied these experiences into his leadership experiences at school by serving as Treasurer of Vista Peak Preparatory Student Council and President of his Theater Troupe. He helped plan and coordinate many different 4-H Club events and volunteered at the County Fair each year setting up cages and stalls for animals and as a runner and judge's helper in the Public Competition division. He also volunteered at the Urban Ranchers Camp teaching urban students about agriculture and animals.

Kyle's 4-H highlight was competing at the State Fair with his dog in the rally and obedience competition. His experience began as kind of a nightmare because he and another competitor were given the same exhibitor number. This led to both of their scores either being lost or marked as no shows for some events, but it was finally resolved. Even though he did not place very high at the state level, he believes that the learning process of problem solving in such a strange scenario lead to a very good experience.

Kreighton Westendorf received the Barbara Holthaus scholarship. She is a 10-year member of the Champion Drive 4-H Club and graduated with a GPA of 3.8 from Bennett High School. She will be attending the University of Wyoming to get an Agriculture Business and Economics degree. Her goal is to work for a company that is agriculture oriented and educates the public about agriculture. She also hopes to own her own cattle operation for production as well as breeding. Kaitlyn has worked in the family feed store, O'Malley's Mercantile, since she was 12, where she developed her love of customer service and the business side of agriculture.

For ten years, she showed hogs in the 4-H Swine project. She received the reserve grand champion hog carcass in 2022. She also is a seamstress, sewing her way to a county grand champion in her three years in the 4-H sewing project.

She states that 4-H has played a big role in the person she is today. The skills that she learned through 4-H are hard work, dedication, responsibility, and leadership. Observing the lack of a work ethic in society today has motivated her to work even harder. The younger 4-H club members have benefited from her knowledge of animal nutrition and providing a safe environment for animals. She has enjoyed watching the younger members grow and succeed.

As club president from 2021 to 2023, she helped plan and participated in community food drives, hygiene drives and feeding volunteers at the fairgrounds during the weekend prior to fair.

The highlight of Kaitlyn's years as a 4-H member has been the connections she has made thru the 4-H program. Not only did she make friends with other exhibitors, but she also met many role models that she will always look up to. She believes that 4-H isn't just about showing an animal but also about the people you meet that have and will help you achieve your career goals.

The Melody Kollath scholarship was presented to **Tyler Sefcovic**, a 9-year member of the Elk Creek 4-H Club. He graduated from Bennett High School with a 4.07 GPA and will be attending the University of North Carolina Charlotte to study Mechanical Engineering with an emphasis on Motorsports Engineering. Tyler has been interested in racing since he was six years old and currently races an IMCA Northern SportMod. He has been racing for over a decade. Career possibilities with this engineering degree range from working on a race team, working for a performance component company or a chassis builder at many levels of racing.

His 4-H projects included three years in market beef and 8 years in the shooting sports program. Tyler learned decision making skills early on in 4-H. He realized he could not continue to juggle .22 and Shotgun shooting sports practices and meetings, racing, showing cattle and working as he was not able to develop his skills the way he wanted, so he dropped his beef project and the .22 project which enabled him to concentrate on his shotgun training. He has learned communication, interviewing and problem-solving skills also.

Tyler volunteered at the Urban Ranchers Camp educating urban youth about cattle. He has also worked with younger members in the Shooting Sports program and serves this program in a leadership role at trainings and practices. His biggest 4-H highlight was being able to participate in the State 4-H Shotgun competition.

Tyler has also been active in FFA, helping rebuild the chapter membership after the pandemic. He has served as treasurer and Vice President of the chapter. He also has been a member of Bennett's Cross Country team.

Deborah Loseke, a nine year 4-H member and graduate of Grandview High School with a 4.7 GPA was granted the Arabelle J Burnett Scholarship. Deborah was a three year 4-H member in California before moving to Colorado and joining the Lucky Clovers 4-H Club.

She will be attending the University of Colorado, Boulder to study Media Production. Deborah has chosen Media Production as a major because media is a topic that should be taken seriously because of its capacity to have great positive or negative effects. She states that taking care to produce media with quality and integrity is meaningful to her and that the balance between creativity and professionalism is an exciting territory to explore. She is hoping to be equipped with the skills to produce her own creative media projects.

Clothing construction has been her major project, but she has also been enrolled in Foods and Nutrition, Scrapbooking, Photography, Visual Arts and Cake Decorating. She has participated in Fashion Revue and Cake Decorating contests at both the local and state level. She has been very active in leadership roles with her 4-H Club, Arapahoe County 4-H Junior Leaders Council, District 3 Senate, and the Arapahoe County 4-H Foundation as its youth representative. She has also been a member of the Fashion Revue Committee and a counselor at Bakers Space and Crazy Critters Camps. Deborah is a member of the Wolf Pride Marching band and is active with the Grandview Theatre Thespian Troupe, the Crossroads Community Church Worship Team, Skills USA and is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society.

Her 4-H highlight was volunteering with Rake Up Colorado, an organization helping the elderly with their yardwork. Moving from California, Deborah had never held a rake or raked leaves. Her 4-H club raked leaves for the same elderly woman each year. She says the project benefited everyone as it brought them all together as friends. Now she is also proficient at raking!