

**Mary Seier**, a graduate of Regis Jesuit High School with a GPA of 4.16, received the \$3,000 Arabell Burnett Scholarship this year. She is a 9 year 4-H member and currently enrolled in the Lucky Clovers 4-H Club. She was formally a member of the Cove Circle Creations 4-H Club where she learned her basic sewing skills. She will be attending the University of Denver to study Business Management and Leadership and/or Entrepreneurship.

Mary at about the age of five developed a great passion for a simple needle and thread. The needle and thread allowed her creativity to become a reality which led her to becoming a 4-H member mastering her skills with a needle and thread. Her passion is sewing and her desire is to help those in need and to establish her own fashion brand that is sustainable, employing marginalized people. Needless to say, she has spent nine years in 4-H Sewing projects receiving State Grand Champion twice in clothing construction and State Reserve Grand Champion in Fashion Revue as well as many Grand and Reserve Grand champion awards at the county fair. She has passed on her skills to the younger clothing project members in her club.

She has served as President of the Arapahoe County Junior Leader's Council and she represented Arapahoe County at Citizenship Washington Focus this past June. She has also served as a District 3 4-H Senate member and served as Vice President.

The highlight of 4-H for Mary was learning to be self-confident. She says that 4-H will always be with her and that 4-H instilled in her the knowledge that she is competent in her skills as a leader and that she will always strive to make the best better. She also attributes who she is today to her family. She states that they are her greatest blessing.

**Courtney Bauer** received the \$2,000.00 Melody Kollath Memorial scholarship. Courtney is a 10 year 4-H member of Antelope Crossing 4-H Club and is graduating from Lotus School for Excellence with a GPA of 4.213. She has been accepted at Concordia University in Wisconsin to study Pediatric Nursing. As a former patient at Children's Hospital Colorado, Courtney would like to return to Colorado and work at Children's Hospital Colorado to give back to an organization that has done so much for her as a patient.

Courtney has excelled with her Swine, Poultry and Baking projects. She has exhibited her foods projects nine out of ten years at the State Fair. In the poultry project she has consistently placed in the top five for showmanship at the county fair. She has worked with the younger 4-H members by teaching them how to feed and care for poultry and taught them how to show and care for and to identify different breeds of swine. She likes working with the 4-H Cloverbud age group.

She has served as reporter for her 4-H club and the Junior Leaders Council. She is currently Secretary for the Junior Leaders Council and is a District 3 Senator. She has helped put together a District 3 4-H Kids Retreat. She is a National Honor Society member and also captain for her high school cheerleading team. She received the "Outstanding Leadership" award for her role with the High School Cheer squad. Courtney is also Vice President of Children's Champions, a volunteer chapter at Children's Hospital Colorado which meets monthly. As a member of National Honor Society she initiated and led a successful donation drive for Children's Hospital at her school. Courtney has also helped multiple times with her church's bible school during the summer.

The highlight of 4-H for Courtney was being able to attending 4-H Leadership Development conferences and June Conference. Both of these conferences helped build her leadership skills.

**Tristan Davidsen**, is a graduate of Deer Trail High School ranking first in his class with a GPA of 4.0. He is also enrolled at Morgan Community College taking college entry classes. He plans to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University to study engineering. His goal is to become an engineer that works on infrastructure issues in our country, especially in rural areas. He is a 9 year 4-H Club member and is the recipient of the Barbara Holthaus Memorial \$2,000.00 scholarship.

His 4-H projects have included Gardening, Leathercraft and Poultry. He has raised Market Turkeys and Chickens and has also been active in egg production. He has shown the Overall Grand Champion county market poultry three times in the past six years and received the Poultry Herdsman award. He states that one of the most worthwhile accomplishments in 4-H was when he won the 2017 Grand Champion market poultry award.

Tristan has learned time management, project feed management which includes calculation of food prices, average daily gain, and use of excel to calculate gain and amount of food consumed. He has also learned how to prepare eggs for human consumption and has passed this skill onto the younger members in his club. He has donated hundreds of eggs to the local food bank.

At school, Tristan has worked with student leadership and served as treasurer of his class for four years. He also participates in his high school's football, wrestling and track athletic events. He has received the Deer Trail Football Fighting Eagle Award and served as team captain in 2021 – 2022. The Colorado High School Activities Association also honored him in 2021-2022 as an All-State First Team multi-sport athlete. The Deer Trail Elks Club also named him Student of the year in 2021.

**Ava Griffiths**, a 5 year 4-H member of Elk Creek 4-H Club, received the Sally Eliassen \$2,000.00 scholarship. Ava will graduate from Highlands Ranch High School and has been accepted at Gallaudet University in Washington DC to study American Sign Language and education. She would also like to study Animal Science and pair that curriculum with her sign language education and work at Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom. Ava is a hearing impaired young woman that relied on amplification systems for most of her life until she reached 8<sup>th</sup> grade and began to learn sign language. She would like to teach sign language and to be able to have a small hobby farm with therapy animals to help children recovering from trauma. She has spent many hours with therapy animals herself, which helped her gain strength and confidence and she would like to pass that opportunity on to others.

Ava joined 4-H after attending the Arapahoe County 4-H Urban Ranchers Camp. She has since served two years as a Camp Counselor at the Urban Ranchers Camp. She is presently serving as President of the Elk Creek 4-H Club.

Ava has taken the Horseless Horse project but her main 4-H project focus been Dairy and Market Goats. She has learned how to clip, wash, milk and feed her goats and has passed those skills onto the younger members in the club. The highlight of 4-H for her was winning Grand Champion Dairy Goat at the 2022 County Fair.