

## **4-H Speech to County Board-January 2022**

**By Lindsay Propst**

My name is Lindsay Propst and I have been a part of 4-H since the second grade, and I am currently in my final year of 4-H as a freshman in college. Some projects that I have been a part of in 4-H include, swine, cake decorating, art, crops, photography, and sewing. Outside of projects, I have held a few leadership roles including club vice president, treasurer, and I was a youth leader for both swine and cake decorating.

Being a part of 4-H has had such a strong impact on me. When I was starting out in 4-H I was a very shy and passive person, but 4-H has forced me to step out of my comfort zone and find my voice. Through speaking contests, demonstrations, and leadership roles, I am no longer as shy and passive and am more likely to speak up and be a leader. Not only has 4-H made me a more confident leader and communicator, 4-H also opened my eyes up to the importance of serving others through community service. I have learned that it not only feels good to contribute to your community, but that volunteering is also essential to the success of a community. Communities rely on volunteers for so much, and 4-H has inspired me to volunteer in my community so that I can help it succeed.

Being a part of the swine and crops projects has also taught me a lot about agriculture. Through these projects, I have been educated on both the importance of agriculture and the misconceptions many consumers have. Using this knowledge, I have had presentations and speeches in school about agriculture and it surprised me how uneducated people are about agriculture and how little understanding they have about where their food truly comes from. Gaining this knowledge of agriculture has inspired me to look into careers involving agriculture so that I can both help and advocate for the agriculture community.

Another part of 4-H that has had a major impact on me is the trip opportunities that are included in 4-H. Through 4-H, I went on the Leadership Washington Focus trip to Washington D.C where I got to learn about leadership in Washington D.C., the location where many of our country's major leaders meet. I also got to go on the American Spirit trip where I had the opportunity to travel up the East Coast to learn about America's history and the leaders that helped to form our country. These trips allowed me to not only experience new places and meet new people from all over the state, but it also allowed me to see the importance of leadership outside of a club or community viewpoint. Being able to see the bigger picture of leadership helped me to truly see the importance of leadership because it showed me how truly important it is for people to step up and take charge. Leaders are needed in everything, running a meeting, running a company, and even running a country. These eye-opening trips have inspired me to continue being a leader because I now better understand the importance and need.

I will forever be thankful for my 4-H experience and I hope others get the chance to have these same experiences as me. 4-H is playing a great role in building the next generation of leaders and volunteers, and I think more people should be a part of the program because personally, it has done so much for me.

Thank you