

Nickolas Lopez

9/27/2024

4-H

### My 4-H story

Hi, my name is Nickolas Lopez, and I would like to share my experiences in 4-H with you. I am part of the Elk Mountain Outlaws, and I am a senior both as a student and a 4-Her this year. I have been in 4-H for over ten years; I joined as a small tumbleweed and have grown into a senior now approaching the end of my 4-H career. Throughout my time in 4-H, I have gained valuable experiences such as raising animals, developing my leadership skills, and actively engaging in community service projects. I am grateful for the memories and friendships I have made along the way. I am also thankful to all the people who helped me.



I decided to join 4-H because my older sister was involved, and her influence on me was significant. Following in her footsteps was a natural choice for me when I reached the right age. Later down the road, my older sister was no longer in the program, but I continued to participate in 4-H. Although I may have never been on the same level as my sister with everything she did in 4-H, it was still a valuable experience that shaped my future. The skills I learned in 4-H, such as leadership, responsibility, and teamwork, have been helpful in both my personal and

professional life. The sense of community and support I found in 4-H has stayed with me. I still carry those lessons with me today and am grateful for the impact it had on me.

This year, I undertook a range of projects in 4-H, from crocheting to showcasing my chickens. One of my most memorable projects this year was a beautifully crafted cup I made during my ceramics class. This was not only one of my favorite projects that I did; it was also the project that did the best in my class and overall. My second favorite project was my crocheting project. This is only my second year crocheting, but I feel like this is a wonderful skill that I can use later down the line. Although I may not be the best at it now, I am determined to improve and create even more pieces in the future. Overall, I have learned many wonderful skills that have truly shown me that you can do anything that you can put your mind to.

Not only have I learned project skills, I have also learned life skills that I can use all through my life. I have learned skills of problem-solving, time management, effective communication, and so much more. I have learned skills that will benefit me in all aspects of my life. One of the best skills that I have learned from 4-H is problem solving. You never know what is going to go on in life, so having a good understanding of how to problem solve is a wonderful skill to have. It will help me navigate challenges and find creative solutions. 4-H has truly shaped me into a better person.



I have actively participated in a wide range of activities within 4-H, with a particular focus on community service projects as a member of Elk Mountain Outlaws. One of the big activities we do twice a year is highway clean-up. We clean up two miles of the highway, trying to make a community a better place. The most rewarding part is seeing the difference we can make in such a short amount of time. It may not be a

big part, but coming into town and seeing a clean highway brings so much joy to my face. I feel proud of the impact we have made. These community service projects, though small in scale, play a vital role in improving the environment and enhancing the well-being of the entire community. It's amazing how a simple act can bring about positive change and inspire others to do the same.



Education is in 4-H, and it has the potential to create a meaningful impact on the world. You learn life skills and skills for fun. Among the skills I acquired, learning how to crochet stands out as a creative and enjoyable pursuit. I really like this skill; it shows how you can take some scrap and turn it into something different. Crocheting has become a relaxing and creative outlet for me, and I enjoy making gifts for my friends and family. The best part is that later down the line I could sell my goods, so not only

has this skill shown me something new, it has also shown me that I can start something new with it. Crocheting has not only been a creative outlet for me but has also instilled qualities of patience and perseverance, challenging me to master this skill over time. The sense of accomplishment I feel upon completing a project in 4-H is truly rewarding and reinforces the personal growth I have experienced through my endeavors.

Overall, 4-H has shown me so much that I can do with life, and if I had the chance to continue to do it, I would feel like there is so much more I can learn to do in 4-H. The supportive community within 4-H has also been instrumental in my growth, providing encouragement and guidance as I navigate new challenges. Through 4-H, I have developed valuable life skills and formed lasting friendships that have enriched my overall experience. Hopefully my last year in 4-H will bring out more fun times with the people I have met in my club, my country, and my community. I will always cherish the memories and lessons learned from my time in 4-H.