

## **Fantastic 4H**

What being a 4-H'er means to me

By: Katherine Roeland

As a member of the Hamilton-Wentworth 4-H association since 2014 I found that being a 4-H'er means that you are part of an incredible family, full of opportunities and new beginnings.

To me being a 4-H'er is the opportunity of a lifetime. It is an experience like no other, one that helps create connections to people who would have never been met, teaches you skills that are essential for the future and provides opportunities for all the different paths going forward.

The people of the 4-H community are welcoming and full of ways to welcome all, the leaders want all those in the 4-H community to have a good time. Without 4-H leaders I personally would not have had so many of the amazing experiences and opportunities that are greatly treasured and have made me who I am today. It is not only the leaders of 4-H that make it a community,

it is the youth. The older youth are willing to help and teach the younger ones, they make the experience and provide the younger ones with someone they can call a friend. Being a 4-H'er means to me that I am part of this wonderful community.

In the same way that a family is not short lived, neither is 4-H. There are 12 wonderful years to be a participant, another 3 before being a member to be part of the cloverbud community and the rest of life to be a volunteer to provide more wonderful experiences to others. For the past 7 years 4-H has been my family and community for now as well as for the future.

Being a 4-H'er is an experience in which all are part of an incredible family, full of opportunities and new beginnings. This is because there are families that have been part of the organization for generations. These people have a lot of knowledge about the organization and are willing to share

with whomever wants to know. There are stories to be heard and things to learn. There is always something new to do. Being a 4-H'er is not just one single thing, it is many experiences and opportunities that come together to make each person a better version of themselves. A youth that has learned things and done things that are beneficial to the future you and success in the world.

Additionally in Hamilton-Wentworth there is a close knit community where the meetings and others are never far. This makes the community more close knit than ever. The close proximity to opportunities provide an even greater sense of community and being part of a family.

As a result of the community and family-like feeling of 4-H, being a 4-H means opportunities, connections and ways to grow. To me being a 4-H'er means that I will always have the ability to learn to do by doing.

