

My 4-H Story

By Hailey Drake – Valencia County Novice 4-H Member

My name is Hailey Drake and I am 9 years old. This is my first year in 4-H as a member of the Bandits 4-H Club. I have really enjoyed learning new skills from the different projects that I enrolled in through 4-H. My interests are animals, baking, arts and crafts and archery. This year, I chose Archery, Baking I, and Poultry as my projects for the year.

I went to County archery practices to help myself to become a good shooter. At county contest this year, I didn't place but I had a good time. I know for next year what to expect. At the Valencia County Expo, for my Archery project, I entered a poster titled "Scoring a Ten Ring" and received a 1st place ribbon. For my Baking I project, I entered chocolate chip cookies, sugar cookies, muffins and a funfetti ice cream cone cake. I was proud of myself because I received 2nd place for my cake. My chocolate chip cookies received 3rd, 4th place for my sugar cookies and my muffins received a 2nd place ribbon. I also entered a poster for my Poultry Project, which received a 1st place ribbon and was able to compete at the New Mexico State Fair. I received first place at the VCC Expo with my Garden poster and received 3rd at State Fair. My poultry project has been fun too. I placed Reserve Champion with my meat pen at VCC Expo, my chickens made sale, and I received \$500. I also showed at County Fair, but didn't do that well there. Then I entered a meat pen at State Fair and placed 3rd. I was very happy with the job I did with all of my projects entered for competition. 4-H has allowed me to try different projects that have taught me new skills.

Being involved in 4-H has helped me to learn that if we work together we can help our community. 4-H has also taught me new important skills that I can use later in life. 4-H promotes responsibility, discipline and the importance of agriculture in our world.

Community service is a big part of 4-H. I have volunteered time and company to others in our community. As a member of our Bandits 4-H club, I volunteered my time at the Beehive Nursing Home. Our senior citizens get very excited to have company and people that want to spend some time with them. Other community service projects we did was singing Christmas

carols to the senior citizens, and making and bringing them Valentine cards. We helped to make the residents smile and that makes me very happy.

I will continue to learn and grow by being an active part in 4-H. I plan to run for offices in my club. I want to continue to help others in our community learn more about this program. I am thankful for the things that I have learned by being involved in 4-H.