

My 4-H Story – 2017

By Trinity Park- Lincoln County Senior 4-H Member

My name is Trinity Park. I am in 8th grade and am homeschooled. I live in Capitan, NM, and am a member of Winners Circle 4-H. I currently serve as Vice President of our club.

Coming into 4-H as a 13 year old and never really knowing much about 4-H, I was very excited when I saw all the animals that I could possibly raise and show and the many projects that I could do. I made a very strong declaration to my parents, "I want to do them ALL!" Wisely, my parents and I sat down and looked at about 15 project books and I saw quickly that I should pick just a few for my first year and concentrate on doing them well and learning the 'ropes.'

For my main project, I chose to raise dairy goats. I also decided to do sewing and scrap booking.

Goats are my favorite animal, they are always into mischief, and they are so much fun to watch when they're out playing. I have two LaMancha Goats, a doe and her doeling. The doe, I named Isabella and the doeling, I named Sadie. I showed them at the Lincoln County Fair and the Eastern New Mexico State Fair. When I first started training them to show, I thought they would show alike, but they don't! Sadie, in the ring, preferred to jump and play than to behave and be shown. While Isabella, was calmer and much easier to show, if you ignore the fact that she was more interested in eating my clothes!

At the Lincoln County Fair, Isabella won First Place 2-year-old and then won Grand Champion Dairy Goat. With Isabella, I won Junior Showmanship, ultimately for knowing all the parts and attachments of the udder. Sadie won First Place Yearling and Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Goat.

At the Eastern New Mexico State Fair, Isabella won First Place 2-to-5-year-old doe in milk, also winning Grand Champion Dairy Goat. Once again, with Isabella, I won Junior Showmanship, a very close competition but finally winning because I was the only contestant who could identify the Medial Suspensory Ligament. Sadie won First Place Yearling.

For my sewing project, I did an embroidered apron and an embroidered denim jacket. I enjoy sewing because every piece is unique; no one's work is like yours. My grandmother taught me that. At Lincoln County Fair, I won First Place on my jacket and Second Place on my apron. At New Mexico State Fair, I won First Place on my jacket, and at Eastern New Mexico State Fair, I won First Place on my jacket as well. My apron did not go to NMSF or ENMSF.

Scrapbooking was another project I chose for my first year. I entered a two-page scrapbooking layout. Deciding what pictures to use and how to embellish the pages is the most difficult part of the project, in my opinion. Since I have come to enjoy sewing so much, I chose sewing as my subject. At the Lincoln County Fair, I won Best of Show and First Place, Second Place at New Mexico State Fair and First Place at Eastern New Mexico State Fair.

While at New Mexico State Fair, I along with two other members of our club participated in a Food Competition. We won junior First Place on our dish for taste and for our reasons. We also won the "Mr. Clean" award for being the only team to clean our station before setting out our supplies.

I did animal judging while I was at the State Fair. We judged market steers, breeding heifers, pigs, sheep, and meat goats. I did not place, but it was a lot of fun and I was able to learn and know what to study and improve on for next year.

I also participated in the Lincoln County competitions such as Horse Bowl, Home Economics, Consumer Decision Making and Horticulture. Afterwards, at the Roswell, NM, District Competition, I participated in Home Economics, Consumer Decision Making and Horticulture.

My parents have always had me involved in activities in the community we live in, our church and organizations that help me to learn to serve others. Smokey Bear Museum and Historical Park in Capitan, NM, has events that I enjoy volunteering and assisting with. These events include the annual Easter egg hunt for children, Smokey Bear's Birthday celebration and Smokey Bear Days. I also like to help with the Fun Run during Fourth of July as well as participate and assist with the Halloween Open House.

My Grandmother and I regularly visit a nursing home in Roswell, NM. We particularly visit and take care of a 94-year-old woman who loves us to bring her bacon and Ginger Ale! She talks about times when she was young, giving me the opportunity to learn a lot about the 'good ole days.' Ms. Mary really enjoys our conversations about my goats, which she usually forgets are goats and lovingly calls, "Rabbits."

Throughout the year, I participate with my mother in raising funds through charity events to benefit indigent veterans. These funds help pay cost that are charged for veterans who have died and their families want them to be buried in the cities they live in rather than away from their home. There would be no cost if they were buried in a Federal cemetery, but since their families want them buried at home, they have to pay. I have helped raise quite a lot of money for this cause over the last year.

I also like to help around my aunt and uncle's business, a funeral home. I am my mom's assistant in the finance office. With my mom, we look for ways to assist families who have lost infants and babies in any way we can.

I look forward to showing my animals again next year, as I become a senior 4-H member. I would love to become more of a leader and be able to teach new members who join our club the things I have learned and continue to learn. I look forward to growing my dairy goat herd and get to the point of showing other animals such as dairy heifers, steers, meat goats, rabbits and sheep.

I would like to thank my mother and father for allowing me to join 4-H. My father for helping me train and prepare my dairy goats for the fairs this year. I would like to thank the wonderful woman who sold me my goats and for being so generous to take time to help me and teach me how to take care of my goats. I would also like to thank my grandmother for teaching me how to sew, and to thank my grandparents and uncle for providing me with all the sewing equipment and machine. I would like to thank my 4-H leader and her husband and their kids for helping me learn everything I needed to know about 4-H. I would like to thank my aunt and mother for helping me with my scrapbook layout, and to my aunt and uncle for giving me advice and ideas for 4-H. I would like to thank all of the above-mentioned people for supporting me throughout my first 4-H year and keeping me going even when things got hard.

I am enjoying 4-H as I go into my second year and can hardly wait for next year's competitions.