



KATIE ROSS

4-H LIFE SKILLS

Communication – A sense of belonging is created through communication. 4-H has enabled me to hone my verbal and written skills. I enjoy participating in the Illustrated Talk and Public Speaking competitions each year, and will compete in the state Public Speaking contest in 2024. Meeting 4-H members from around Florida through Executive Board has taught me to communicate effectively with a diverse group of people with different backgrounds and interests.

Leadership – Elected to every officer position in 4-H, I have served at the club level each year since becoming a member when I was 10 years old. As soon as I was eligible to join my county's Teen Leadership Council, I became an officer at that level. My peers recently chose me to represent Duval County on the new Northeast District Board for 2024-2025. And it is an honor to serve as a member of the Florida 4-H Executive Board.

Marketable Skills – An award-winning graphic designer and photographer, I discovered my passion through 4-H, and have been able to utilize these skills in many areas of my life. Every year, I complete a photography 4-H project. I have been awarded Best of Show for Youth Digital Arts & Graphic Design and Youth Photography at the Florida State Fair, and have won the Florida 4-H State Graphic Design and Photography contests. I have also had my work published.

Nurturing Relationships – Through the years, people have told me I am a natural leader. I often find myself taking charge of situations, and when there are decisions to be made, I help guide others to reach a consensus. As a member of multiple clubs, with 4-H friends from across the organization, I revel in the opportunity to bring others together. To find common ground, and to foster positive connections among my 4-H peers.

Planning / Organizing – Organization has always been one of my greatest strengths. I am known as a planner. As a 4-H club and county officer, as well as committee chair, I've had the opportunity to arrange community service projects, education programs, fundraisers, and member events. Through serving on the 4-H Legislature planning committee, I have learned what it takes to coordinate a large scale event at the state level.

4-H OFFICER POSITIONS HELD

Historian – Rabbiteers Club, 2019-2020

Treasurer – Rabbiteers Club, 2020-2021

President – Animal Ambassadors 4-H Club, 2021-2022

Vice-President – Animal Ambassadors 4-H Club, 2022-2023

Reporter – Animal Ambassadors 4-H Club, 2023-2024

Sergeant-at-Arms Elect – Animal Ambassadors 4-H Club, 2024-2025

Parliamentarian – Duval County Teen Leadership Council, 2022-2023

Treasurer – Duval County Teen Leadership Council, 2023-2024

Secretary Elect – Duval County Teen Leadership Council, 2024-2025

ABOUT ME

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, I have been a 4-H member for over five years, involved at the county, district, and state levels. My passions include animals, conservation, photography, and public speaking. Driven and hard-working, I began taking high school classes when I was 12, and college courses at 14. Currently a dual enrollment student, I hope to attend the University of Florida to study zoology. My career goal is to become an ethologist, a scientist who studies animal behavior.

WHY I'M RUNNING

I want to ensure as many Florida youth as possible have the opportunity to benefit from 4-H. I have been exposed to a wide variety of learning experiences. Developed essential life skills. Met fascinating people from around the state. Found a place where I belong. Discovered the importance of service, and the many different ways I can give back. Being a state officer would enable me to continue my development, while supporting the organization I love so much. All while helping others grow.

CERTIFICATIONS

Junior Herpetologist

EDUCATION

Homeschool student –
4.60 GPA (4.0 unweighted)

Dual-enrollment student –
Florida State College Jacksonville

EMPLOYMENT

Pet-Rageous Pet Sitting
Pet Care Assistant
2023 - present

INTERNSHIPS

Tree Hill Nature Center
Animal Care Assistant
2024

RECOGNITION

Best in Class - Youth Photography,
Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair
– 2021, 2022

Best of Show - Youth Digital Arts &
Graphic Design, Florida State Fair –
2023

Best of Show - Youth Photography,
Florida State Fair – 2022, 2023

*Florida Country & Coast Magazine -
Picture Perfect Feature* – 2022, 2024

4-H COUNTY WORKSHOPS TAUGHT

Black and White: How to Succeed with Monochrome Photography – 2023

Flora and Fauna: Tips for Photographing Plants and Animals – 2024

Florida's Venomous Snakes: And What to Do if You Encounter One – 2024

Photography Tips: It's Not the Equipment That Matters, But How Well You See – 2021

Preparing for County Events: How to Make Memorable Photographs – 2022

4-H SERVICE PROJECTS LED

Jacksonville Humane Society Rice Sock Heaters – 2021

Lubee Bat Conservancy Collection Drive – 2023

Operation Gratitude Letter Writing Campaign – 2020

St. Johns Riverkeeper Native Pollinator Garden Project – 2024

Tree Hill Nature Center Collection Drive – 2022

UCOM Urbanserve, Inc. Holiday Cake Kits – 2023

4-H AWARDS AND HONORS RECEIVED

Emerald Clover Award Recipient – 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Gold Clover Award Recipient – 2020

National 4-H Council's "Gallery of Greats" Museum of Art Featured Member - 2023

National 4-H Council's "This is 4-H" Social Media Campaign Featured Member – 2023

State Graphic Design Contest Winner – 2022, 2023

State Holiday Card Design Contest Winner – 2023

State Nature Poetry Contest, 2nd Place – 2021, 2023

State Photography Contest Winner – 2023

State Poultry Judging, 2nd Place Team – 2022, 2023

State Poultry Judging, Highest Individual Score – 2022, 2023