

### Record of 4-H Experience

For assistance in completion of the "Record of 4-H Experience" sections, refer to the attached examples. Use L = local; C = county; D = district; S = state; N = national; I = International to indicate your level of involvement. **Do not add additional pages by exceeding the amount of room provided for each section.**

**4-H Projects:** List up to five (5) of your most significant 4-H projects. Describe years involved, knowledge and skills gained, scope and activity related to projects, demonstrations, talks, exhibits, workshops, tours, interviews, etc. Describe why these projects were important and what impact your involvement provided you to have on other people. **Put emphasis on the quality of your experience rather than quantity.**

#### CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES—1995-2004

**Fish Tank Care:** 4 hrs./wk. September-May 2001-present; 600 gal. 200 gal. & 100 gal. tanks; fed & moved fish, scrubbed & monitored tanks, checked pH and salt levels & checked equipment; Processed 535 lbs. fish

**Field Trips:** 18 hunting, 72 fishing, 42 observation; 11 parks; Observed & identified 138 kinds wildlife, aquatics & birds

**Collected, Identified & Mounted:** 263 insects, 57 plants, 30 pine cones, 43 shells correct mounting & labeling procedures;

**Workshops:** 1 of 30 youth selected for participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Bobwhite Brigade, 2001, Earth Day Training-2001

**Talks & Exhibits:** wildlife and entomology & opportunities; Local—11, County—4, 737 people; 1<sup>st</sup> grade class—C-1, 19p.

**Recycling:** 91 Freon Bottles into decorations, 56 donated fund raisers, \$1160. raised, 63 hrs.; Sold \$460.; 86 bags

**Insect Control:** 238 hrs. controlling insects in barn areas, gardens and yards & animals—prevention and treatment

**Teen Leader:** 27 youth recruited & trained in wildlife, entomology and recycling activities, Group Leader at Earth Day 25p.

**Equipment Purchased:** \$122. fishing equipment and supplies purchased; 1 plant press

**Project Meetings:** 99 project meetings and trainings, 9 years, 128 hours, 56 people

**Contests:** Roundup—Entomology Identification Contest—C8, D8, & S2; Entomology Illustrated Talk-L4, C1, D1

**Displays:** Entomology & Bobwhite Quail Exhibits prepared and used in presentations and trainings, two exhibits

**Record Books:** Prepared & entered record books each year and assisted two 4-H'ers with record books,

**Results & Learning:** Regular care, checking air filtration system, prevention of fish diseases, identification, conservation tech., data collection, selective harvesting, safety, decision making, comparison shopping, public speaking, leadership skills, organizational skills, resource mgt, eliminate sources of food & shelter for insects around the home & barns, involving others, responsibility, job opportunities, proper mounting & labeling, Latin names, reading & following labels, recycling, importance of sharing knowledge, comm. service, reward of hard work, importance of teamwork

#### BEEF—1997-2004

**Animals Purchased, Raised & Exhibited:** 14 steers, 1 heifer, 7 cows & 3 calves; Value of animals on hand-\$6,500.

**Tours, Clinics & Workshops:** C-7, D-7, S-27, Ranch Tours, Clinics, Holiday Classic, Dist. Prospect Training

**Scrambles:** Houston 2003 1<sup>st</sup> calf & mystery calf; Bell Co. & Star of Texas 2000—Received \$2,650. in certificates

**Shows:** C-7, S-11, Steers & heifers at Houston, Star of Texas & San Antonio Livestock Exposition

**Teen Leader:** Presentations on selection, fitting, showing, & mgt. of beef projects C-29, 184 people, 31 workdays

**Working Livestock:** Regular working of cow-calf herd for 2 families, 3 days/yr./ family for 4 years

**Management Practices:** Exercising, cleaning stalls, grooming, grinding & mixing feed & vet.act.2hrs./day, 3,150 hrs./7yrs.

**Results & Learning:** Built & repaired facilities; Selection, breed characteristics, comparison techniques, self-confidence, goal setting, sportsmanship, improved feeding & mgt. tech., responsibility, importance good record keeping, sharing knowledge with others, how to deal with success and disappointments, organization of time, safety with livestock

#### SHEEP—1997-2004

**Animals Purchased & Exhibited:** 23 lambs exercised, groomed, trained & showed, Lost \$2,400.

**Teen Leader:** Presentations at clinics & workdays on selection, grooming, exercise, feeding & training, C-5, 106 people

**Shows:** Market lambs shown at Bell Co. and San Antonio, Houston, Heart of Texas Shows, C-6, S-9

**Management Practices:** Feeding, exercising, cleaning of facilities, grooming, and veterinary act. 1 hr./day, 1480 hrs/7yrs.

**Results & Learning:** Breed characteristics, importance of daily exercise, good mgt. tech., decision making, responsibility, importance of record keeping, sharing knowledge with others, self-confidence, importance of good sportsmanship

#### CONSUMER EDUCATION—1999-2004

**Labels Read & Shopping:** 122 labels read and comparison shopping for clothing, recreational equip., music equip., Second-Time Around for clothing, cost of owning and operating an auto, budgeting, stage design supplies and equip.

**Results & Learning:** decision making, comparison skills, purchased recycled clothing, supplies for stage design act.

#### HOUSING AND HOME ENVIRONMENT—1996-2004

**Items Completed:** installed ceiling fan, home repairs, lawns mowed, gutters cleaned, lawn mowers repaired, built fences & wash rack, spread gravel & sand, fixed corral gates & plant stand, built butler & livestock tool equip. stand, 935 hrs/7yrs.

**Results & Learning:** safe operation of power equipment, learned to read & follow directions, home repairs and jobs completed for parents, grandparents and great-grandmother, to use the proper equipment, electrical wiring, motor parts

Record of 4-H Experience (Continued)

**4-H Leadership Roles:** List major 4-H leadership roles. Include volunteer, promotion, and elected/appointed leadership. List roles and responsibilities, years, levels of involvement, duties and accomplishments. Use L = local; C = county; D = district; S = state; N = national; I = International. Describe why the activities were important and what impact your involvement provided you to have on other people. **Put emphasis on the quality of your experience rather than quantity.**

**VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP: (Promotional Leadership included in all activities).**

**Bell Co. Leadership Extravaganza Task Force: 2001-2003**—planned & presented tr. on duties of secretaries, vice presidents & presidents as part of Extravaganza Training, 35 hrs., 135 people. Results: trained co. & club officers in their duties, as a result club meetings & council meetings were better planned & ran more smoothly & efficiently.

**District Leadership Lab Task Force: 2003**—Planned, set-up, handled registration & installation of officers, teen leader for Recreation Training Workshops, D-6, 135 p. Results: Co. representatives received training on importance of recreation and different types of recreation and how to use it in their local clubs & co. to strengthen and for promotional activities

**Teen Leader Multi-Co. Progressive Farmer Safety Day Camp: 1999-2003**—Group leader for 25 4<sup>th</sup> graders for 2 yrs., 12 Hrs. & presenter on Safety With Livestock 3 yrs., 23 hr., 2300 p. Results: Youth gained knowledge & skills concerning safety & as a result may have prevented an accident. Gained self-confidence, public speaking & the ability to share my knowledge.

**Bell Co. 4-H Program Development Committee: 2003-2004**—Helped plan, coordinate & evaluate Bell Co. 4-H Program C-4, 137p.; Results: Youth interests are represented & tr. are planned & conducted for youth & adults; teamwork, self-confidence

**Fashion Show Design Team: 2003**—Planned & submitted computer generated stage design, selected 1<sup>st</sup> in state & decorated Stage at State Fashion Show, Cost \$487.; 45 hrs. S-1, 1100 p., Fund raising-donated & managed sale, 12 hrs., Raised \$370., 40 p. Results: 3 guys learned to work together & to use & develop design ideas for state level competition on a budget; Props & design has been used for several wedding receptions. Learned : team work, budgeting, & design techniques

**Teen Leader Conservation of Natural Resources: 1999-2004**—Taught wildlife management & conservation & recycling, exhibits & presentations on ecology, environment & wildlife, entomology, and aquatic science. L-21, C-9, S-1, 163 hrs., 331p. Results: Youth gained knowledge concerning the environment & recycling; Learned the importance of sharing knowledge & experiences, public speaking skills, recycling, teamwork, you never really learn something until you teach it to someone else

**Teen Leader Ag. Projects: 1999-2004**—Served on Co. Ag. Task Force, set-up, clean-up & activities at Co. Youth Show, Helped planned & conduct trainings, clinics & workdays; Teen Ld. Ag. Awareness Days Results: youth gained knowledge in selection, training, grooming, exercising, & showing techniques, L-35, C-9, & D-4, 189 hrs., 3,867 p.; Results: knowledge & skill in better mgt., record keeping, selection, training & responsibility; Learned: to share knowledge, importance of planning & prep.

**PROMOTIONAL LEADERSHIP:**

**Bell Co. 4-H Ambassador: 2001-2003**—4-H Promotional Float, Ambassador Tr., marketing & recruitment , presentations on 4-H activities & opportunities, L-4, C-3, 175 p. Results: youth & adults gained knowledge & skills about 4-H opportunities & activities & how they could participate, Learned how to share knowledge & skills, public speaking & promotion act., marketing

**Co. Government Week: 2001-2002**—Prepared & presented appreciation gifts to Co. Officials & promoted 4-H act. 5p, 6 hrs.

**Bartlett 4-H Club Promotion: 1999-2003**—planned, promoted, & recruitment of new members swimming party & prepared & participated in Bartlett Parade; Results: promotion of opportunities, public speaking, marketing, planning, 230 p. 21 hrs.

**Co. Volunteer Recognition Week Banquet: 2001-2002**—Donated items, set-up, served & cleaned-up, C-1, 40p., 5 hrs. Results: Co. volunteers were honored for the contributions they made to co., gained skills in teamwork & planning

**Co. Fund Raising Project: 2002 & 2004**—Sold tickets and helped promote Co. 4-H and raise money through fund raising Projects; Results: raised funds for co. program and learned the importance of fund raising & gained self-confidence

**ELECTED LEADERSHIP:**

**Bell Co. 4-H Council: 2003-2004**— Chairman, Presided at 8 meetings, represented Co. on Dist. Council, Master of Ceremonies at Co. Awards Banquet; Served on Co. Planning Comm.; **2002-2003**—Secretary, minutes, attendance & correspondence; **2001-2002**—1<sup>st</sup> vice president, program chairman & represented Co. on Dist. Council; **2000-2001**—Co. 4-H council member, Results: help plan & conduct the Co. 4-H Program, served as a representative for Co. 4-H Council; communications between clubs, co. program & other audiences, gained self-confidence, importance of teamwork

**District 8 4-H Recreation Officer: 2002-2003**—Dist. Exec. Comm.; Dist. recreational & inspirational events, D-4, 234p.; Dist. Horse Show Co-Chairman—presented awards, handled gates, set-up jumps & made announcements, D-1, 69p.; Dist. Gold Star Banquet—planned & handled registration & set-up, D-1, 4 hrs., 135p.; Dist. Leadership Extravaganza Task Force planned & conducted tr. workshops & recognition luncheon, 145p., D-2, 10 hrs. Results: Events were well planned & tr. & recognition was made available to youth & adults; Gained: skills in public speaking, teamwork, importance of recognition, life skills

**Bartlett 4-H Club: 2003-2004** Parliamentarian, kept meetings running smoothly, L-12, 492p. **2002-2003**—President, club exec. comm., planned & conducted mt. & proj. act., L-12, 434p., **2001-2002**—Secretary, enrollments, minutes & L-12, 465p., **1999-2001**—Vice-president, planning & conducting prog., L-24, 32 hrs., 475p. Results: received information & tr., self-confidence

Record of 4-H Experience (Continued)

**4-H Citizenship and 4-H Community Service:** List 4-H citizenship and 4-H community service activities. List activity, year and your role in the activity. Use Y = performed yourself; M = member of a group; P = provided primary leadership to the group. Describe why your citizenship and community service was important in these activities and what impact your involvement provided you to have on other people. **Put emphasis on the quality of your experience rather than quantity.**

ACTIVITY	YEAR	YOUR ROLE	
<u>SCOTT &amp; WHITE CLINIC DECORATIONS</u>	2001-2003	Planned & coordinated decorating Pediatric Clinic for spring 1 & Christmas 3 times. Pleasure to ill children, families & staff. Making a difference without spending a lot of money. Some-thing for someone else is important. C-4, 1000 plus p. 31 hrs.	P
<u>SERVICE PERSONNEL IN IRAQ AND &amp; MIDDLE EAST</u>	2002-2003	Donated & gathered snacks & personal items for service personnel in Iraq. C-1, 75p., 6 hrs. 550 items; Made & ; collected valentines service personnel C-1, 25p., 75 items; Importance of doing something for someone else & that many community service projects just take time.	P
<u>BARTLETT AG. BOOSTER FUND RAISERS</u>	1997-2003	Cleaned-up & set-up Fire Station prior to fund raiser & after fund raiser. Sold tickets. Helped make quilt for booster club auction. \$300. on quilt; L-10, 1375p. 67 hrs. Raised \$8-\$10,000./yr. Need for volunteers, teamwork, importance of fund raising, involved more youth & adults each year	M
<u>COMMUNITY DOG DIP &amp; VACCINATION AND WORMING</u>	1995-2003	Assisted local vet. & volunteers in dipping, worming and vaccinating dogs, promotion, set-up and clean-up L-9, 322 dogs, 27 hrs.; Very important in a small community that does not have a vet, big service for senior citizens, lots of work but it is worth the effort. I started out just as a member of the group, but the last 2 years, I have been in charge of this act.	M P
<u>HOLIDAY DECORATIONS DONATIONS FOR AREA FUND RAISERS</u>	2001-2003	Holiday Decoration from Freon Bottle for Ambulance Fund Raiser—5 hrs., \$60.; Donated 50 Freon Bottles to Alumni Assoc. & taught others how to decorate for various holidays & sold for \$1100., 55hrs., 85p. The importance of recycling, teamwork, sharing knowledge with others,	P
<u>TRICK/TREATING FOR CANNED GOODS</u>	1995-2003	Halloween Act., donate to Christmas Roundup, L-9, 2239 cans, 24 hrs. 450p. Involves all mbs. doing something for someone else, way for community to support youth	M P
<u>KINDERGARTEN CLASS PROJECT</u>	2001-2002	Exhibit & presentation on entomology for kindergarten class. Explained & answered questions. L-1, 18p., 2 hrs. Created interest in science & 4-H projects, shared knowledge,	Y
<u>TEXAS COMMUNITY FUTURES FORUM</u>	2004	Youth rep., Needs & Issues Facing Bell Co., 3 hrs. planning	Y

**4-H Honors:** List your four (4) most important honors received through 4-H. List the honor, year received, level of involvement (e.g. L = local; C = county; etc.), and why you consider the honors listed to be the most important (i.e. how did they contribute to and provide significance toward your personal development?).

**1. Bell Co. Gold Star Award (2003)**—Honored at Co. & Dist. Banquet. Highest award given on the co. level. This had always been one of my goals, as both of my parents had received this award when they were in 4-H. Recognizes what I have learned, what I have taught others and has encouraged me to work harder.

**2. 1<sup>st</sup> Place Texas 4-H Fashion Show Stage Design Contest (2003)**—Decorated stage at Reed Arena for Texas 4-H Fashion Show. Recognized & walked the stage during the fashion show & the awards assembly. This was a lifetime goal, because I am the third generation to walk this stage. Accomplishing this goal showed what three boys on a limited budget can accomplish.

**3. Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Calf Scramble (2003) “First Catch Belt Buckle”, Mystery Calf Airplane Tickets & \$1000. Certificate**—The idea of just getting to participate in the calf scramble was an outstanding honor. Then to actually catch a calf & then to bring the first calf back in the square was even exciting. Then to have it be the mystery calf was just about more than I could handle in one night. It had always been one of my goals to participate in the calf scramble because my Dad & Grandfather had both been successful in the scramble program, as well as other family members

**4. Delegate to 2002 Texas 4-H Congress & Delegate to 2001 South Texas Bobwhite Brigade**—Being selected to represent my co. at both of these activities was a great learning experience. Coming back & sharing what I had learned with others showed me the most important thing is that I haven’t really learned anything until I have taught it to someone else.

Record of 4-H Experience (Continued)

**Outside of 4-H Leadership Activities, Honors, Work Experience, Volunteering/Community Service:** Describe how you spent time outside of your 4-H activities, why you devoted time to a particular activity and the impact the activity had on your personal development and benefited other people. List leadership roles outside of 4-H (include school, church, other youth groups, etc.)

**SCHOOL:**

**ATHLETICS:**

Cross Country 2003-2004

-- Ran 800 meter event in various track events.

Varsity Track 2002-2003

-- Received Varsity Letter Jacket—Teamwork, goal setting

**FFA:**

Academy FFA 2003-2004

-- President of Academy FFA Chapter—Duties of Officers

-- District FFA Leadership Training & Retreat, Inks Lake

-- Delegate to State FFA Convention, Houston

-- Lone Star Farmer Degree Award, Houston

-- Hamburger Supper Fundraiser, planning, set-up, coordinating, & clean-up, 9 hrs. 150 people, Raised \$900

-- Thanksgiving Pie Sale, pre-sold 300 pies & spent 12 hrs.

-- Making & cleaning-up from pie baking & then delivered pies.

-- Served as chairman of project & raised over \$1200.,

-- Fruit & Meat Sales, pre-sold items & then delivered items,

-- Served as chairman of project & raised over \$3,000.

-- Cotton Candy Booth at Football Games, 12 hrs., Raised \$900.

-- Learned: Parliamentary Procedure & Duties of Officers, Teamwork, Self-confidence, importance of fund raising

2002-2003

-- Vice President of Academy FFA Chapter

-- Sheep Production Award, Diversified Livestock Production

-- Livestock Judging Team, District Contest at Tarleton

-- Fund Raisers—fruit & meat sales raised \$2800

-- Made & sold 200 pies for Pie Sale, spent 9 hrs. raised \$900.,

-- Steer & Heifer Jackpot, 24 hrs., Raised \$1,500.

-- Hamburger Supper, 6 hrs. Raised \$775.

-- Chili Supper, 6 hrs. Raised \$400.

-- Set-up, prepare, serve, promote, & clean-up for these events

-- Learned: teamwork, self-confidence, planning, delegation

2001-2002

-- Academy FFA Member

-- Fund Raiser—sold fruit for chapter & to raise money for

-- National trip, Raised \$1500.

-- Delegate to National FFA Convention, Louisville, Kentucky

-- Sheep Production Award, Livestock Exhibition Award,

-- Star Chapter Farmer Award, Diversified Livestock Award

-- Learned: responsibility, record keeping, fund raising

Bartlett FFA 2000-2001

-- Bartlett FFA Member,

-- Departmental Award for Agriculture, Greenhand Award

-- Area Greenhand Camp at LaGrange, October

-- Livestock Judging , Burnet , SALE ,SWTSU & Tarleton

-- Horse Judging—Tarleton Area FFA Contest 9<sup>th</sup> place

-- Outstanding Student Desktop Publishing Award

**ACADEMICS:**

Academy 2001-2002

Bartlett 2000-2001

-- Departmental Award for Integrated Science

**EMPLOYMENT:**

1999-Present

-- Creedmoor-Maha Water Corporation, Assist. Meter Reader ,

-- Learned: responsibility, timely manner, importance of details

**CHURCH:**

1996-Present

-- St. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church Member, donated to picnic

**VOLUNTEER:**

2003-Present

-- Project Sr. Celebration Bar-B-Q Chickens , 10 hrs. Raised \$1800

-- Concession Stands at Basketball Games, 8 hrs., Raised \$900

-- Gift Items Sales, 6 hrs., Raised \$400.

-- Promoted, sold, prepared, clean-up and delivered

**Career Narrative**

Describe how you have prepared yourself to have an awareness of and an understanding about career(s) applicable to the degree or technical certification you wish to pursue. Types of information you may provide include:

- Visits to colleges/universities and conversations with personnel at those institutions.
- Investigations of job/career opportunities and availability.
- Persons/experiences that have influenced you to pursue this degree/certification.
- How you decided between pursuit of an associates degree/technical certification versus baccalaureate or vice-versa.

Hello, My name is "Tinker" and I am here to work on your appliance, speaker system or install the ceiling fan. No, this is not a nightmare, but part of my dream for the future. Asking some people to fix an appliance or to put something back together would be their worst nightmare, but it is just an every day happening for me. "Who put all of this junk in the back of the truck? Tinker must be at it again." This would be the words my parents would repeat numerous times over the years when ready to leave my Granny & Pa's house. While my parents would visit the family, my younger brother and I would scour the fields, barns and warehouses around my grandparents' house/business for anything that looked "interesting." We would load it up to take it home and build something with, weld on it or take it apart. That is how I picked up the nickname "Tinker." My best project idea came when I took empty Freon bottles from my grandfather's heating/air conditioning company and made Halloween Jack-O-Lanterns. I have always loved the challenge of taking things apart and seeing what makes them tick. The challenge is diagnosing the problem, correcting it if possible and then putting the appliance back together, having it work and not having any left over parts and screws. Some of these activities have been very successful and some have been disasters, like the old TV speaker system that finally landed in the trash can. I always loved working with tools and different types of equipment. Even as a little child I loved toys that you could use to build with and things you could take apart and see how it works.

This interest showed itself in my 4-H projects and activities. These activities included repairing lawn mowers, installing ceiling fans, building a coat rack, building a livestock tool equipment stand out of rebar, recycling holiday decorations from empty freon bottles to designing and building the stage design for the Texas 4-H Fashion Show with a working fountain and a variety of lighting options. If it is something to be done with my hands, then it is usually right down my alley.

So, it was natural for me to look at various options in the technical field. I am lucky that I live about 50 miles from one of the best technical schools in the nation---Texas State Technical College, Waco Campus. We visited TSTC, Waco Campus and talked with a variety of different departments including welding, aviation mechanics, turf grass management, heating and air conditioning technology and electrical construction & service. It is really hard to decide what you are going to do for the rest of your life when you are only seventeen years old. This is a scary situation for every high school senior, but luckily I found two departments that really interest me and that can be combined in a double major with just a little more time and classes. I was very impressed with the facilities and the laboratories in the electrical and heating/air conditioning departments. They have a wide variety of equipment to work and train with in these classes. The equipment includes such basic household projects are 220 plugs and switches to industrial wiring to complicated heating and air conditioning equipment. What looks like nightmare to some people, looks like a puzzle to me that I can hardly wait to take apart and explore.

When we visited the campus and departments, we asked lots of questions. One of the most interesting answers was that the TSTC Waco Campus has a 95-100% placement rate for their heating/air conditioning graduates. The job market for electricians and heating/air conditioning personnel is very high. Also, the new law that all electricians have to pass a statewide test by September 2004 is going to make the demand higher. Housing development and growth in Central Texas make an ever expanding market for people with these types of certifications. These two certifications would give me the opportunity to work for a wide variety of companies such as electrical construction companies, home builders, hotels, resorts, colleges/universities, government agencies and hospitals.

People that have influenced my career choice include my late grandfather. He started out as an electrician back in the late 1950's and built his own electrical contracting and air conditioning/heating company. My uncle still manages this business and I have had a lot of up close experience in observing this business on a day-to-day basis.

I believe that for me an Associates Degree with Technical Certifications is the right route. I have had to struggle through many classes due to my dyslexia, but hands-on technical training has always been more natural for me. As a result of my special training and one-on-one tutoring, I have learned how to cope with my learning disabilities. My grades improved in school, and I passed the TAAS test the first time around in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. When I achieved this goal, I realized that my goals for further education were not beyond my reach. This is not an easy major, and I know I will face many challenges. TSTC has very small classes and lots of one-on-one attention from the various instructors and teachers. I completed my application to TSTC and mailed it before Christmas. The biggest day of my life was when I received my letter of acceptance to TSTC. Now I have plans to make and goals to set following graduation.

**Personal Narrative**

Write or type a personal narrative about yourself, highlighting any important facts and information you believe the selection committee should know when considering your application. Do not repeat any information already contained in the application. Use only the space provided on the remainder of this page - do not add pages or use the reverse of this page.

"What do you mean I am going to walk the stage at Texas 4-H Roundup as part of the Texas 4-H Fashion Show? I didn't sew anything for the fashion show. How can I be honored at state? This must be some form of a horrible dream. Someone please wake me up." This is not a nightmare, it is the realization of a lifetime dream—to be recognized as a 1<sup>st</sup> place winner at Texas 4-H Roundup. This was such a big deal to me, because I am the third generation from my family to walk that stage. I just happen to be one of three Boys that put together the state winning Stage Design for the Texas 4-H Fashion Show in 2003, and we got to decorate the stage at Reed Arena at College Station. It all started with a computer program and an idea. It took a 20-foot cattle trailer to get all our supplies to Roundup and about three hours to get it all in place. The Stage Design even included a working fountain and park lights. Recycling was at the heart of our design and has been at the heart of my conservation in natural resources project. We learned to make park trees from limbs pruned from yards and greenery from dumpsters. Columns and street lamps were not in our budget, so we learned to improvise. After the fashion show, we took all our decorations down and carefully packed them back in the trailer. On Friday following Roundup, the decorations were used to decorate for a wedding reception. We have become experts at unloading, decorating a reception hall or other public facility and then taking it down and packing it up again. We have done this several times this summer and fall. Who knows, this may be the start of a whole new business.

Stage design does not sound like a typical 4-H activity. This is just one example of some of the many different activities and opportunities youth can have in 4-H. When I first joined 4-H, nine years ago, all I ever wanted to do was show animals at the local stock show. I soon learned that there was a lot more to being involved in 4-H. I have had an extensive 4-H career that has covered a wide variety of projects and experiences. One of my first project activities was learning about insects. I really enjoyed collecting and identifying the insects. This was the start of my Conservation of Natural Resources Project. To this day, my mother has to be careful when she opens a container in the freezer, because often it contains some of my insects. I also learned that there is no place any hotter than a Central Texas cotton field in July. One summer, I worked with a Texas A&M graduate student collecting cotton insects for a research project. I decided that this was certainly not something I want to do for the rest of my life. My conservation of natural resources project has really expanded into raising catfish and hybrid bass. I soon learned about the importance of daily feeding, cleaning the stinky tanks and making sure the chlorine and salt are at the proper levels to prevent "Ick." I also learned how important it is to make sure that all the filtration and air supply hoses are all connected properly. We found this out the hard way when we had a "very fishy" smell. Instead of harvesting fish weighing 2-4 pounds and having a great fish fry for family and friends, we harvested less than 35 pounds of fish. I learned to take lemons and make them into lemonade with this accident. It is a lesson I will never forget and you can bet I double and triple check all those connections.

Making Jack-O-Lanterns that will not rot from empty Freon Bottles as well as Christmas Luminaries was a fun project. This past year, I worked with a group of youth and taught them how to make these decorations and we made 50 of these Luminaries and sold them for a profit of \$1100. for a local organization. This was a good way to use something that was just taking up space.

4-H projects and activities have taught me a great many different lessons and I have learned from both my successes and from my failures. Raising animals for show takes a lot of time, commitment, responsibility and patience. My animals are fed every morning around 6:00 A.M., come rain or shine. They have to be fed in the afternoon, be groomed and exercised and have their stalls and pens cleaned, and their special feed ration must be up made up twice daily. I have really learned to manage my time. Consistency and accurate feeding are very important.

One of the major lessons I have learned as the result of my 4-H experiences is not be afraid to try new experiences and opportunities. One year, I was the only boy who entered the construction category of the county fashion show. I won my category and gained lots of self-confidence. Everyone needs to learn to sew so they can thread a needle and sew on a button or fix a rip in time of need. I have learned about the fun of comparison shopping in my consumer decision project.

I have had the wonderful opportunity to participate in many different activities such as Texas 4-H Congress. Learning how to write a legislative bill and then stand up and speak for or against different bills was quite a learning opportunity. I have learned how much work is involved in planning and putting on some of these many different events together. Serving as an officer is a great honor, but it is what you do with this honor. Working together as a team toward one common goal for the enrichment of everyone is one of the most important lessons that I have learned through my years in 4-H. Decorating the Scott & White Pediatric Clinic for the holidays was an outstanding experience. There are two very important lessons I have learned in 4-H---"I may not always win, but 4-H is fun" and "You never really learn something until you teach it to someone else." Thank you for considering me for the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Program