

LOCAL 4-H MEMBER REPRESENTS GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY AS 4-H STATE AWARD WINNER

Hunter Delahanty, a 4-H member from the Northern Explorers 4-H Club in Grand Traverse County, was selected as the winner of the 2019 Michigan 4-H State Award in Bird and Poultry Science, Senior Division. The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program took place during 4-H Exploration Days June 19-21, 2019 on the campus of Michigan State University.

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is an opportunity for 4-H members to receive recognition while developing their leadership skills and personal portfolio. The program features a Junior and Senior division in 19 project areas as well as a group award category. Delegates are invited to participate in the program based on receiving a qualifying score on their application. The 4-H State Awards Application includes a cover letter, resume, 4-H story, and questions that highlight the life skills, project content knowledge, leadership development, and civic engagement experiences 4-H members have gained through their 4-H projects. Up to twelve delegates in the Junior, Senior, and Group divisions for each project area were invited to represent their county.

During the Michigan 4-H State Awards Program at MSU, Junior delegates participated in a Junior Leadership Program to help them build their interviewing and communication skills while Senior and Group delegates competed in interviews. All delegates attended the recognition event where they had an opportunity to engage in career conversations with the program donors and MSU Extension Staff. This year, 80 youth representing 31 counties attended the 4-H State Awards Program as delegates.

Hunter has been a 4-H member for 7 years, and is very involved in Community Service and volunteerism, and is currently shadowing a vet at Kalkaska Animal Hospital. He is very honored to have received the 2019 Clover Award as well as the State Award for Birds and Poultry Science and to have served as Poultry Judge for the Differently Abled show, Cloverbud show and the Round Robin competition at the 2019 Northwestern Michigan Fair. He is currently the president of his 4-H club, Northern Explorers, and a member of the Ready Aim Shooting sports club. Hunter's favorite 4-H memory was hard to limit to just one,

“since I have experienced so many amazing things in 4-H and have loads of great memories.” However, winning the 2019 State Award was the culmination of his hard work and “winning this award, to me, was a huge honor and milestone because I would have never been able to do this type of thing before 4-H.” He believes 4-H has impacted his confidence the most. “Since being engaged in 4-H, I have decided that I am capable enough to follow my dreams of becoming a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.”

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is open to all 4-H members ages 13-19. For more information, visit

https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition.