

## My 4-H Story

My name is [REDACTED] I am a 13 year old boy from Salinas, California. I joined San Benancio 4-H for the first time two years ago and have loved it so far. My first year I joined 4-H because a lot of my friends were in it, now I rejoined 4-H because I had a blast last year learning about hiking and backpacking, and I wanted to learn about more things. For example, I wanted to do the swine project because I had helped my friend out in the past years. I also rejoined because in my first year I wasn't able to join a project that taught me things like patience, or responsibility, also I wanted to learn new leadership skills. Some activities I like to do outside of school and 4-H are waterpolo, basketball, football, and baseball and cooking. I was even asked by my water polo coach to join the 14U Junior Olympics Team which would of been a lot of time, fun, commitment and hard work, unfortunately we were two kids short but it made me feel great to be asked. One of my future goals is to graduate from high school and get accepted to one of my top 5 colleges. One college I have always thought about going to is the University of Oregon.

The three projects I joined this year were deep sea fishing, swine, and woodworking. One overall goal I set for all three projects was to complete the projects. Additionally, I set individual goals for each project. For woodworking, I said that I would make a cutting board that placed well in the fair, I reached this goal with the help of Mr. Hansen and Mr. Bell, my woodworking leaders and received a 1st place ribbon. The goal

I set for swine was to raise a successful pig, take it to the fair, and to make a profit from selling the pig. I feel I did all of these, my pig Dixie made weight which took a lot of work to keep her from being too big, I was pinned in my first ever Showmanship round and received \$10 per pound in the auction! Finally, the goal I set for deep sea fishing was to catch a fish the day we went out on the boat, which I was able to do. Some project leaders donate many of the things you need to complete the project, but some do not and that is where expenses come in. I didn't have a lot of expenses for most of my projects, but the one project I did have expenses is for swine. I paid for the pig itself with money from my savings. I borrowed money from my parents for the food and shavings and then paid these expenses back with the money I got from the fair, and the leftover money was income. Eight people who were especially helpful to me were my mom, dad, sister, Mr. Lipe, Mr. Silacci, Mr. Evers, Mr. Hanson, and Mr. Bell.

4-H is a big part in helping kids become better leaders and citizens. It has helped me become a better citizen by giving me a chance to help the community by doing small tasks such as cleaning the beach and donating socks to Children's Hospitals. I haven't been involved in many leadership activities in 4-H yet, but one leadership activity I have been involved in was the Halloween Costume Contest as the chairman and a judge. A couple citizenship activities I have been in include making lunch for the homeless, donating to food drives, and contributing angel gifts for children in need at Christmas time. One project that I worked on with other kids to contribute the the community was

when my 7th grade class painted the lunch tables at Toro Park School. One thing that I have learned about working as a leader with my fellow 4-H'ers is that you should listen to everyone's ideas.

It is important to have a good relationship with your 4-H group leader. Luckily, I know all of my 4-H group leaders from my friends, so we have good relationships. My participation has influenced my school goals because just like in 4-H, in school I strive to be the best I can be. Some people think that being in 4-H is just being a part of a club. For some people, that may be true, but for me, 4-H is a way to learn new things and discover new hobbies. You can also meet lots of new friends and exciting people. I think that 4-H is something that every kid should get to experience, and it has played a vital part in my life.