

## Why I Want To Serve

By Kara Croft, Suwannee County 4-H

Why do I want to be a state officer? I would be honored to serve on the Florida State 4-H Council for my senior year because I feel like my 12 years of 4-H experience have prepared me for this job. I know that this position would push me to do things that I would have never dreamed of doing. Suwannee County has a long list of great 4-Hers that have held state offices and I would like to be added to that list. It takes a devoted, flexible, leader to be a part of this team and I know that I could do what is needed and expand on the ideas of officers before me.

I believe that the State 4-H program in Florida is one of the best in the country, however, we can also learn from ideas or programs in place in other states. Out of all the offices I have held, treasurer is the only one I have held at club, county, and district levels repeatedly. The qualities I would bring to the state officer team would be hardworking, willingness to try new things, and positivity. As an officer in my club and county, I learned how much you can get done when you work together-no matter how small your group is! I know this skill could easily transfer to the state level, working together in groups for executive board.

As a member of executive board, I learned that there are no limits to what we can do when we put our heads together and encourage creativity. Being hands-on in planning events is a great way to learn the importance of scheduling and getting things done in timely manner. This year I was chosen to serve as the 4-H youth representative on the Suwannee County Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Committee. As the representative, I attended business meetings and spoke about different community issues for the Suwannee County 4-H program. I learned the importance of Youth-Adult partnerships and I now have experience with answering questions about the 4-H program to possible sponsors.

By showing dairy cows, goats, and hogs I have learned responsibility, keeping accurate records, and money management. After my first year of showing, I started using my award money to pay for my new animals and I have personally paid for them and all their needs since then.

My favorite part of 4-H is being able to use my skills to help others. For the past few years I've been volunteering to help with a summer quilting camp to teach kids how to sew and make their own sewing projects. From these experiences, I learned the meaning of a true leader. As a state officer, I would love to encourage others to find their inner leader. I know that my skill set would be helpful at the state level. To wrap it all up I want to be a state officer to help others, build on what this program has already done, and introduce new ideas.

# Kara Croft

## OBJECTIVE

To run for Florida 4-H State Council office in the summer of 2017.

## EDUCATION

Florida Virtual School August 2013 – Present  
Orlando, Florida GPA 3.5  
*Career Interest:* Agricultural Science *Graduation:* June 2018  
*Activities:* 4-H, the AWANA Program, Youth Representative on the Family & Consumer Sciences Council, and Volleyball with Tabernacle Baptist School (2<sup>nd</sup> place district team 2016)

## EXPERIENCE

*4-H University and Ways & Means*  
Executive Board Committee

*Representative and Lobbyist*  
4-H Legislature

Tallahassee, Florida

*Vice President, Treasurer and Executive Board Representative*  
District IV Council

*Vice President, Treasurer, District Delegate, and Alternate District Delegate*  
Suwannee County Council

Live Oak, Florida

*President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Historian*  
Just Kiddin' 4-H Club

McAlpin, Florida

## SKILLS

### Teamwork

- Coordinated with other county officers to ensure reports and/or projects are completed prior to scheduled meetings.
- As chairperson of the Holiday Bake-off, I worked with my committee to make improvements which resulted in the overall success of the event and ceremony.
- Volunteered as a facilitator at a county leadership workshop to teach other 4-H members activities to take back to their clubs which resulted in an opportunity to learn more about their peers.

### Flexibility

- As a full-time virtual school student, I am available to attend events with little or no notice.

- During 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Board, I attended a time management workshop where I learned how to plan events and how to avoid overbooking myself.

### **Leadership**

- Travelled to Union County with other officers and spoke about my duties on the county council and assisted the Union County 4-H members with establishing their own council.
- Assisted another officer in speaking with a newly established 4-H club in Branford about increasing enrollments and getting their kids involved with 4-H at a young age so they will benefit the most from 4-H.
- Lead an "ice breaker" for the Ways & Means committee at 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Board in January 2017.
- At 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Board, I volunteered to lead the "ice breaker" at 4-H University with all participants.

### **Motivation**

- As a young 4-H member, I was influenced and motivated by my 4-H agent Brian Estevez and senior 4-H member Andrew Horvath. Andrew was the first person to nominate me for a county position and since that time, I have held many offices. As of today, I strongly encourage the quietest and most reserved 4-H members to step out of their comfort zones.
- Recently, I encouraged a friend to try Ag Judging for the first time as a senior. She agreed to try and our team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the senior 4-H division.
- Attended a workshop at 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Board where we discussed winning elections. One of the five points we discussed was about encouraging others to jump right in.

### **Planning & Organization**

- My most recent community service project was for Vivid Visions Abuse Center. I planned, researched, and made all necessary contacts prior to making my presentation to the county council. I organized a team consisting of 7 different clubs which made forty care bags containing hygiene items and toys for the children at the safe house.
- I was asked to do a speech for the HCE meeting in 2012 and I prepared a seven-minute presentation for the local community members.
- Attended Sewing Camp for the past 6 years. This past summer, I was asked to plan and teach others about quilting. I spent several days at the extension office preparing to teach the class.

### **SIGNIFICANT AWARDS**

- Regional Winner 4-H Tailgating Contest 2016
- 4-H Senior Achievement Award 2015 & 2016
- Family & Consumer Sciences Award 2011