

My name is Molly Lovestrand. I am seventeen years old and homeschooled. I want to be a State Council Officer because two years ago when I went to my first state event, 4-H LEG, I fell in love with the program. While there I learned to work, first as a lobbyist and then as a page. I overcame my insecurities and practiced my public speaking skills. Each night we had super fun activities and fellowship time. I met lots of cool people and made many new friends! The final night when the graduating seniors took a moment to say something meaningful, I took to heart the most common theme---become involved. I came home and applied to be an appointed member to the State Executive Board.

For the past two years, I have had the amazing opportunity to be a part of the LEG planning committee. I have served with many dedicated 4-H'ers and although we do not get much sleep and cry a lot, I have loved every moment of it! I am running to be a State Council Officer because this will be my senior year and I want to offer my abilities to the state level programming and continue to help make the best better. In the last two years, I have attended nine state level programs and have served two consecutive terms on the Executive Board. I've had an amazing time at these programs and I want to share my experience with others as I continue to develop my leadership abilities through the county, district and state level programs.

As a five-year member of 4-H, I have learned a tremendous amount about the program. Each year as I have become more involved, the many positive aspects of the program have caused me to want to participate even more. My introductory year in 4-H, I completed only one project book on photography. I had no idea the scope of 4-H and how there is something for everyone. My second year, I raised a pig for the county fair and completed a total of three project books. I took on a county level leadership role my third year. Not only did I raise a second pig for the fair, complete three project books, and was a County Council Representative, but I also

became a 4-H Healthy Living Teen Ambassador, a Florida Forks Camp Counsellor, and earned my first Emerald Standard of Excellence Award. I continued to build my leadership skills as I served as the Citrus County Council President and a member of the State Executive Board. I chose to make a team effort and raise a pig to sell at our county fair for the State Service Project "Clothing the World". We raised more than \$650 in support of five different club service projects for "Clothing the World". I also completed two project books, attended sewing camp, was a camp counselor for my county's Filling Florida Forks II camp, and received my second Emerald Standard of Excellence Award. This year, I again served as the Citrus County Council President. I served on the District Seven Council as the State Executive Board Representative, raised a steer to sell at our county fair, headed up a baby onesie drive and a bandana project for the state service project "Clothing the World", completed two project books, was one of Florida's 4-H delegates at Citizen Washington Focus and the 58<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C., served as the chair of the GCT committee at the 44<sup>th</sup> 4-H Legislature, and will be receiving my third Emerald Standard of Excellence Award.

As President of the State Council, I hope to encourage other members from my county, district and all over the state to become more involved in 4-H because I think the opportunities offered are worth their time and consideration. There is something for everyone! I believe I am a good listener and this helps me relate well to others. It also helps me to empower others to work together and achieve our full potential as a team. I have a can-do, go-give attitude and this is my most noteworthy attribute to offer to the State Council. If I am elected, I will dedicate myself to each task I am asked to do. I will work hard using the best of my abilities to make the best better.

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# Molly Lovestrand

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## **Personal Development Statement**

I come from a family of scientists who have taught me to think both critically and creatively. I strive to be a servant leader who responds to the needs and welfare of others as I practice responsible citizenship and encourage others to become civically engaged. I aspire to become an educator and mentor to youth so that I might help shape future generations and impact my community and my world.

## **Education and Professional Development**

Hidden Creek Christian Academy

Projected Graduation June 2018 GPA: 4.36

## **Leadership Skills**

Citrus County Council 4-H Program President, May 2015 – Present

Planned, organized, and ran monthly meetings, educational activities, and service projects.

Planned, fundraised and executed Annual Awards Banquet for 400 people. Developed problem-solving, group management, organizational and communication skills.

Youth In Government, Founding member and 3 year officer of civic chapter in Citrus County, October 2014 – Present

Worked with a team of youth and adults to plan and run weekly meetings, fundraise, facilitate public awareness, and chapter growth for civic engagement. Encourage bonding between homeschool and public school students, encourage participation at the district and state levels.

Led bill writing workshops, debate, and taught effective public speaking skills. Learned in depth parliamentary procedure practices, fundraising skills, and building a relationship capital through social networking.

Chief Editor of Citrus County Christian Homeschool Yearbook, August 2015- Present.

Worked with a team of 26 students to document annual programming of 186 students in a professionally bound book using photography skills learned through 4-H project books.

Additional skills required graphic design, theme presentation and collaboration, cover design, writing headlines and body copy, editing, advertising sales, book sales, student portraits, and fundraising.

## **Citizenship Skills**

Healthy Living Teen Ambassador, Eat 4 Health, September 2014 – April 2015

Filling Florida Forks Camp Counsellor, June 2015, June 2016

State Executive Board LEG Planning Committee, September 2015 – Present

Lobbyist 2015, Chair of the Government, Commerce, & Transportation Committee 2016

Assistant Head Lobbyist 2017.

International Coastal Clean-up Leadership Service Project, September 2015.

Clothing the World County, District, and State Service Projects, September 2015 - Present

Service in the Sunshine, YMCA Y-CORPS, August 2015

Citizen Washington Focus 58<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration Florida Delegation, 2016-2017

Worked with an adult partner and fellow ambassadors to create project lesson plans for elementary aged students to nurture a better understanding of food choices, agriculture awareness using local resources, and provided hands-on learning opportunities which worked to show that everyone has the power to impact our community, our country, and our world. Developed presentation, organization, and teaching skills. Performed variety of leadership service projects throughout the state.

## **Other Skills**

### **Accomplished Cellist**

Eight years of private lessons and performances with school orchestras, community orchestras, and chamber groups.

### **Employment**

Teacher of cello, Citrus Youth Educational Symphonic Orchestra, July 2016 - Present

Director/Conductor of Advanced Ensemble Special Performances, Citrus Youth Educational Symphonic Orchestra October 2016 - Present

Apprentice Luthier of Violin, Viola, & Cello, September 2016 - Present

### **Certificates & Honors**

2014 YMCA Youth In Government State Assembly Most Improved 1<sup>st</sup> Year Participant

2014 Blue Ribbon at County Events

2014 Blue Ribbon at District Events

2014 Top of Division at District Events

2014-2015 Emerald Standard of Excellence

2015 Blue Ribbon at County Events

2015 Blue Ribbon at District Events

2015 2nd Place Swine Skill-a-thon

2015 YMCA Youth In Government State Assembly Best Bill Runner-up

2015-2016 Emerald Standard of Excellence

2016 Blue Ribbon at County Events

2016 1st Place Swine Skill-a-thon

2016-2017 Emerald Standard of Excellence

2017 4th Place Beef Skill-a-thon

2017 Share the Fun at County Events Top of Division

2017 Blue Ribbon Share the Fun at District Events

2017 Citrus County Fair Best Dressed Steer

2017 Forest Ecology Poetry Contest Sr. Division 3rd place winner

2017 American Legion Auxiliary Post #77 Girls State Representative

2017 State of Florida Senate Page Program, President of the Senate