

News Article
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Coosa 4-H'ers Win Awards at Regional Congress

Each year the 4-H Clubs in Coosa County conduct a variety of contests, everything from wood working to public speaking. Once our county winners are selected the 4-H members with first and second place ribbons move to the next level of competition at the Regional 4-H Congress. This year, the Regional Congress was held at Southern Union College in Opelika.

At this one day event, all the first and second place winners from six counties converged to compete for regional awards. Coosa County was represented by twelve of our top project winners. Our group included, Treavor Abrams, Maya Everett, Helen Farnsworth, Hollie Ingram, Jessica Ingram, Alison Kelley, Brandon Merced, Payton Raines, Hunter Stroud, Antriunna Thomas, Anna Vines, and Samantha Wood. This group went up against some of the best projects winners from across the region and came home with several top awards.

Payton Raines placed second in bicycle - an event in which the 4-H'ers must ride their bicycle through a series of obstacles and traffic cones. Samantha Wood and Hunter Stroud placed first and third respectively in the junior division of the Extreme Birdhouse competition, which involves building a creatively designed bird house. Samantha's birdhouse looked like the Yellowstone Inn and Hunter created his birdhouse from a soccer ball. Treavor Abrams earned first place in the senior division with his Extreme Birdhouse that looked like a cane hut from some tropical island.

Jessica Ingram earned first place in her division of the lawn tractor contest. In this event the 4-H'ers must identify parts of a riding lawn mower and then drive the mower through a very narrow obstacle course. Jessica did a great job by only hitting one cone in the whole course. Alison Kelley and Hollie Ingram submitted entries in the photography event and came home as the second and third place winners respectively. Alison turned in a photo she took in the Smoky Mountains and Hollie entered a cute photo of her kitten.

Public speaking is always a very competitive event and it is always amazing to see how well some of these young people can speak. Maya Everett won first place in the junior informative public speaking event with a speech on dinosaurs and Helen Farnsworth took first place with her senior informative speech on diabetes. Anna Vines also did very well with a close second in the persuasive public speaking contest with a speech on leadership.

The final two winners in our list are Brandon Merced and Antriunna Thomas. Brandon earned second place in the wood science exhibit contest. In this event, the 4-H'ers had to build a foot stool according to plans, including staining and varnishing. Then the competitors had to complete a skills test and an oral interview. In a brand new event

Antriunna earned first place in the “Blocks Rock” contest in which the competitors build a project using Legos. This project takes a lot of skill and patience and Antriunna had a great project that was a replica of a small town or village.

All in all, the Coosa County 4-H Clubs were well represented and everyone had a fun trip. We hope more students will get involved in 4-H this coming year and we can have even more winners. Enrollment will begin as soon as school starts back, so be on the look out for announcements.