



4-H Alberta Ambassadors & Premier's Award Recipient Announced!

CALGARY, AB – During the 2022 Fall Senior Symposium Banquet on October 22, the incoming Ambassadors were announced along with the return of the Premier's Award and its next recipient.

The Premier's Award is the highest honour bestowed to a 4-H Alberta member. The award was donated personally by the Honourable E.C. Manning, Premier of Alberta, and was first presented to an outstanding 4-H member in 1964. The Premier's Award recipient is chosen from the pool of current 4-H Ambassadors and represents 4-H at a variety of events over the following year. The recipient will also meet with Alberta's Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development.

Sophia Hoogland, a seventeen-year-old high school student from Lacombe County, was chosen to be the Premier's Award Recipient due to her outstanding achievement as an Ambassador and her passion for growing 4-H.

"4-H has taught me so much over the years, but the one thing it has taught me most is that hard work does pay off, it might take a year or maybe 8, but one day if you keep working at it it will. So stay dedicated, be persistent, remain positive and dream big." - Sophia Hoogland

For the last eight years, Sophia has been an active member of the Crestomere 4-H Multi Club in the sheep project, holding various executive positions. She has also been an avid participant in various club, district, regional and provincial 4-H activities. Sophia has embraced being a Youth Leader at 4-H summer programs and has completed one year as a 4-H Alberta Ambassador.

Sophia was also awarded the **Ted Youck Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in 4-H Alberta Award**. This new award was generously donated by long-time 4-H supporter, Ted Youck, and will be available to the Premier's Award Winner for the next 10 years.

Sophia succeeds Amanda Hardman, 2019 Premier's Award Recipient, and will officially accept her award from the Premier at a later date. The Premier's Award is selected on leadership, communication, passion for 4-H, participation as an Ambassador, application and personal interview.

"4-H Alberta has a strong relationship with the Government of Alberta and is pleased to continue the Premier's Award after a pause during the pandemic. 4-H Alberta is excited to work with Sophia and the 4-H Ambassadors to promote 4-H across Alberta." - Susann Stone, 4-H Alberta Chief Program Delivery Officer.

In addition to the Premier's Award recipient, nine new 4-H Alberta Ambassadors were announced and will be joining the current Ambassador Team:

Corbin N. - Wheatland County, Calgary Region
Hailey M. - Rockyview County, Calgary Region
Chance S. - Hanna, East Central Region

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Vanessa H. - Consort, East Central Region
Courtney W. - St.Paul, Northeast Region
Cooper M. - Edgerton, Northeast Region
Zachary J. - Sexsmith, Peace Region
Charlotte C. - Lacombe, West Central Region
Grace T. - Hay Lakes, West Central Region

4-H Alberta Ambassadors are enthusiastic Senior Members that are driven to grow 4-H in Alberta through sharing their 4-H experiences, developing opportunities for the 4-H community, and representing youth. 4-H Ambassadors will support 4-H in their region and across the province.

Senior Members from across Alberta can apply to be an Ambassador for their region through the online application and virtual interview process, available starting the beginning of September. There is the opportunity for two Ambassadors per region to be selected for a two-year term, as long as there are applicants from each region.

To learn more about the Ambassador role and to contact the Ambassadors in your region, you can visit the Ambassador page on the website: <https://www.4hab.com/ambassadors/>

Congratulations to Sophia and the new additions to the Ambassador team for 2022!

The Fall Senior Symposium and Ambassador Program lead Madeleine Luft, 4-H Alberta Program Coordinator, says: *“The interview panel was blown away by the quality of applicants during the personal interviews for both the Ambassadors and Premier’s Award. It was fantastic to see such a great group of youth receive these opportunities. We are also very happy with the outcome of the Fall Senior Symposium program and want to thank all of the sponsors and supporters who made this program possible!”*

The Fall Senior Symposium held October 21-23, 2022 in St. Albert was attended by 90 Senior Members from across the province. At the program, Members participated in hands-on workshops as they learned about career development, money management and personal growth.

For more information about the Fall Senior Symposium or any upcoming opportunities for members, please contact the 4-H Alberta Programs Team: programs@4hab.com.

Media Release

About 4-H Alberta

4-H Alberta is the new streamlined youth development body that combines the former three-party organizations that operated 4-H in Alberta; the 4-H Council of Alberta, the 4-H Foundation of Alberta, and the 4-H Section of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

4-H Alberta was developed after extensive consultation with Alberta's 4-H community. It involves a new governance, structure and operating model that is efficient and effective, and supported by a modernized constitution/by-law alignment to coordinate 4-H staff and volunteer roles, and build operational harmony for the growth of the 4-H youth leadership program in Alberta.

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