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Local youth earn achievement awards

4-H members receive recognition at Arapahoe County Achievement Ceremony

Littleton, Colo. --- Hundreds of excited children and parents attended Arapahoe County's annual 4-H Achievement program that recognizes exemplary 4-H members and volunteers.

"Throughout the year, 4-H'ers and their families put time and effort into a variety of projects, compete in various contests, and participate in the Arapahoe County Fair," said Shaylen Florez, 4-H Program Coordinator. "Our achievement program allows us to bring together members and volunteers from across the county and recognize them for their outstanding achievement."

Numerous awards were given, including a favorite – *the Tools of the Project Award* sponsored by the Arapahoe County 4-H Foundation and Arapahoe County Fair Committee. These awards are given to Champion and Reserve Champions of general, home economics and livestock projects, and each winner receives a gift unique to their project. Cake decorators received a cake form and frosting bags, while those with pig projects received gift cards to the local feed store.

Ashtyn Reaugh, Sofia Dugas and Stephen Walton earned the *Learn by Doing Award* which is given to youth ages 8-11 who demonstrate leadership abilities, are active in their club, participate in community projects and complete their 4-H projects. Similarly Casey Horgan and Kinsey Morley received the *Make the Best Better Award* for the older youth, ages 12-18.

4-H junior leaders, with the help of Larry Hooker, 4-H Youth Development Agent, emceed the event and provided an entertaining program schedule.

"I'm always amazed by the confidence and creativity that these youth display as they stand up in front of hundreds of people to speak," said Hooker. "Statistics have shown that through 4-H, youth develop positive self-esteem, teamwork and leadership, which is clearly evident at this event."

Long term volunteers were recognized for their years of service to 4-H, including Jody Kelly for 20 years of service and Marilyn Wentz and Lucky Clark for 10 years of service. Most awards are sponsored by the Arapahoe County 4-H Foundation.

Enrollment in Arapahoe County's 4-H program began Oct. 1. For more information, call 303-730-1920 or visit www.arapahoeextension.org.

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