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4-H brings excitement, recognition to Arapahoe County's youth

Local kids win awards at Colorado State Fair, Quarter Horse World Championship

Littleton, Colo. – There's no better time to get involved with the 4-H program in Arapahoe County, where local youth are raking in state and national awards! 4-H offers a wide spectrum of projects to interest kids ages 5 to 18 in the metro area, and it brings an array of events where youth can compete and receive recognition for their unique talents.

Most recently, 19 Arapahoe County 4-H'ers took home prizes from the 2009 Colorado State Fair for award-winning projects and top-notch performances. More than 100 local youth were invited to the State Fair to show projects after earning nods at the Arapahoe County Fair in July, where 4-H competitions have become the heart of the festivities. The following County youth won champion or reserve champion placements at the State Fair in contests that required an active demonstration of skills:

- **Cake Decorating:** Reserve Grand Champion, Unit 3 Intermediate- Brianna Osborn
- **Creative Cooks:** Reserve Champion, Colorado Specialty Senior-Julia Gaffney
- **Fashion Revue:** Most Creative Modeling Award, Nicole Justice
- **Instrumental/Performing Arts:** Grand Champion, Senior Keyboard/Piano Solo- Byron Gray
- **Team Demonstration:** Grand Champion, Intermediate- Abby Hanouw & Allison Judy
- **Theatrical/Performing Arts:** Grand Champion, Senior Master of Ceremonies- Edwin "E" Gaffney

Below is a complete list of local youth who won champion and reserve champion awards for General and Home Economic exhibits.

"Arapahoe County congratulates the accomplished young men and women who exhibited superb talents and projects at the Colorado State Fair," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. "These kids set an example of what Arapahoe County youth are capable of achieving through 4-H: confidence, responsibility and skills that will last a lifetime."

In addition, local 4-H'ers also took home prize buckles at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championships in Oklahoma City in August. Edwin "E" Gaffney, 17 and sister Julia Gaffney, 15, of Aurora, won the Horse Team Demonstration contest. E. also took first for Horse Prepared Speech.

Local clubs are now accepting new members for the 2009-2010 4-H year, which kicks off October 1. Any interested youth are invited to attend the free **4-H Fall Fest from 1-3 p.m. on November 7** at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, where they can meet with local club leaders and members and learn about the available projects in the County. New members can explore their own interests in 270 general, home economics and animal-related project areas, such as gardening, rocketry, fine arts, leather-craft,

speech, photography, cooking, cake decorating, sewing, dog obedience, livestock, small animal and horse showing.

In addition, Arapahoe County 4-H is always welcoming adult leaders.

“We’re always excited to see new volunteer leaders who are willing to dedicate their time to teach children life skills and help grow their spirit for leadership, citizenship and teamwork,” said Shaylen Florez, 4-H Program Coordinator. “If you are looking for a new way to get involved in the community and impact the lives of young people, 4-H could be a great fit!”

If you would like more information, please contact the Arapahoe County CSU Extension 4-H Office at 303-730-1920 or visit www.arapahoextension.org.

2009 Colorado State Fair Arapahoe County Placements, 4-H General & Home Economics Exhibits

Bicycle

Grand Champion
Unit 1 Junior- Victor Lahti

Breads

Reserve Champion
Unit 13 Intermediate- Jonathon Hagen

Cake Decorating

Reserve Champion
Unit 1 Senior- Anna Groeling

Cake Decorating

Reserve Champion
Unit 5 Intermediate- Ann Moorman

Clothing Construction

Reserve Grand Champion
Unit 7 Junior- Ayla Hagen

Creative Sewing

Reserve Grand Champion
Unit 5 Senior- Nicole Justice

Electricity

Grand Champion
Unit 1 Junior- Joey Yousling

Foods

Reserve Champion
Unit 23 Junior- Julianna Brockelman

Food Preservation

Reserve Grand Champion
Unit 4 Senior- Nicole Justice

Global Citizenship

Reserve Grand Champion
Unit 1 Junior- Madison Gurnsey

Global Citizenship

Reserve Champion
Unit 2 Intermediate- Sarah Janae Shepherd

Heritage Arts

Champion
Macramé Senior- Nicole Justice

Horseless Horse

Reserve Champion
Unit 4 Intermediate- Abby Hanouw

Leathercraft

Reserve Champion
Unit 1 Intermediate- Abby Hanouw

Model Rocketry

Champion
Unit 4 Senior-Zach Vaughan

Photography

Champion
Unit 2 Intermediate- Ann Moorman

Vet Science

Reserve Champion
Unit 2 Intermediate- Garrett Brockelman

Wildlife

Reserve Champion
Unit 2 Junior- Emily Gray

To download photos, click on the following link:

<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/4-H/2009StateFair>

Photo captions:

Gaffney Siblings.jpg

Local 4-H members E. Gaffney, 17 and sister Julia Gaffney, 15, won the Horse Team Demonstration at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championships. Both siblings also won individual champion ribbons at the Colorado State Fair in 4-H events.

Abby and Allison- Team Demonstration.jpg

Local 4-H members Abby Hanouw & Allison Judy took the grand champion prize for their team demonstration at the Colorado State Fair.

Brianna-Cake Decorating.jpg

Brianna Osborn of Arapahoe County won the reserve grand champion ribbon in the 4-H cake decorating contest at the Colorado State Fair.