

LOCALNEWS

Local 4-H’ers shine at 2013 Minnesota State Fair

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Northern Minnesota youth were well represented at the 2013 Minnesota State Fair.

Eleven area 4-H youth made their way down to the fair with either livestock or general education projects to compete against their peers from around the state. Youth who win blue ribbons at the Koochiching County Fair level and have completed at least the sixth grade may earn a trip to the Minnesota State Fair.

Ribbons at both fair levels were awarded based half on the project and half on the interview with the judge. Red ribbons are for those that the judges felt were at grade and experience level. Blue ribbons are awarded to those youth that the judge felt exceeded their expectations based on experience in the project and grade level of the youth. Purple ribbons are an award of excellence, going only to the top youths within each project area.

LIVESTOCK ENCAMPMENT
Minnesota 4-H’ers from more than 83 counties arrived with more than 2,885 animals at the 2013 4-H livestock encampment held Aug. 22-25. For the first time in several years, Koochiching County was represented at the 4-H livestock encampment.

Brandy Hensch of Mizpah exhibited one of the 314 rabbits shown during this year’s livestock encampment. Hensch earned a blue ribbon showing her mini-lop doe. She also was an interview finalist in the animal science interviews. Animal science interviews at the State Fair are designed to further enhance educational opportunities for young people exhibiting livestock. The interview process offers a visual philosophy of recognizing 4-H’ers who have utilized their livestock



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Jayde Hall shows the purple and blue ribbon awards she earned in the performing arts project area at the 2013 Minnesota State Fair. Hall recited a poem she had written her self.

project to grow and develop as a young person. Livestock Interviews emphasize many life skills such as communication, responsibility, decision making, and problem solving. The interview process is seen as a step to help insure the stability of youth livestock shows as a positive form of youth development. Interview Finalists received a polo shirt donated by Ag-Star. Interview winners received a chair sponsored by Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association.

GENERAL ENCAMPMENT
Minnesota 4-H’ers from 87 counties brought more than 2,800 projects that were judged in the 4-H Building at the 2013 Minnesota State Fair. These 4-H’ers all placed high at the county fair level, with their projects, earning them the top honor of showing at the State Fair this year. Education is integral in the learn-by-doing philosophy of 4-H, stated Stacy Hall, Koochiching County 4-H program coordinator. “Though



Koochiching County 4-H’ers participate in the Chef for a Day Cook-Off during the State Fair 4-H encampment.



Koochiching County 4-H’ers arrive home after attending the 2013 Minnesota State Fair 4-H encampment.

the projects and animals shown at fairs during the summer get a lot of attention, 4-H is really about developing purple ribbon kids throughout the year,” she said. “Participation in 4-H provides all 4-H youth with critical experiences and skills, such as communicating, problem solving, and decision making – which will serve them throughout their lives.”

Hall said the “spectacular array” of 4-H projects exhibited this year spanned a wide range of topic areas, including robotics, alternative energy, aerospace, photography, performing arts, clothing, small engines, geology, flower gardening, landscaping, wildlife biology, fine arts and much more. This year, 4-H’ers exhibited and were judged on

general projects in the 4-H Building Aug. 26-Sept. 2. Koochiching County had 10 participant’s exhibiting Aug 27-29 including:
■ Alex Fahey, Northome, who earned a Blue ribbon in the self-determined project area for his historical battleship display. Fahey also received a participation ribbon for entering the “Chef for a Day” Cook-Off Challenge.

■ Rachel Fahey, Northome, who earned a blue ribbon in the performing arts project area for her performance of Macina’s August Rush on the piano. She also received a participation ribbon for entering the “Chef for a Day” Cook-Off Challenge.
■ Casey Gross, Northome, who earned a red ribbon in the exploring animals project area for her alpaca breeds poster;
■ Heather Hall, International Falls, who earned a participation ribbon for modeling her blue-ribbon winning ensemble in the public 4-H Fashion Review.
■ Jayde Hall, International Falls, who earned a blue and a purple ribbon in the performing arts project area for her recitation of her self-written poem. She also received a blue ribbon in demonstrations for her presentation on public speaking.
■ Megan Herrly, International Falls, who earned a participation ribbon for modeling her blue-ribbon winning semi-formal dress in the public 4-H Fashion Review.
■ Lane Lindner, Mizpah, who earned a blue ribbon in the fishing sports project area for his hand-made fishing rod.
■ Levi Lindner, Mizpah, who earned a blue ribbon in the shop project area for his full-sized cedar picnic table. He also received a participation ribbon for entering the “Chef for a Day” Cook-Off Challenge.
■ Caleb Schneider, Northome, who earned a red ribbon in the self-determined project area for his custom-made trailer.
■ Peter Schneider, Northome, who earned a red ribbon in the entomology project area for his insect collection.
The 4-H program is funded through a partnership of federal, state, county and private resources and is part of the University of Minnesota Extension. More Minnesota State Fair results and photos can be found at www.4-H.umn.edu/fair-results

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