Dear Final Year Senior,

You’re finishing your final year of 4-H and honestly, we are going to miss you!!!!! As you embark on the next chapter of your life with all the mixed emotion that brings, it's nice to take a moment to pause and reflect on special memories you've had in 4-H. Senior Recognition Ceremonies at Fair are a great way to do that. If you are finishing your final senior year, please join us to celebrate and reflect.

I think I can speak on behalf of many 4-H leaders when I say that the Senior Recognition ceremony and the memory boards our seniors display at Fair are precious reminders of the time we've been able to share with you, to watch you grow and learn and develop into the capable individual you are today - ready to take on the next chapter of your life - and we are so proud of you and blessed to have been a part. I think I can also speak on behalf of many 4-H members when I say Senior Recognition serves as an inspiration to the generation of 4-Hers coming behind you. Looking at your memory boards and hearing about what you have accomplished and how 4-H has impacted your life literally changes lives. And finally, Senior Recognition relays a strong message to the public of how important and necessary 4-H is in our community.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with Senior Recognition, I'll try to answer a few frequently asked questions:

# What is Senior Recognition?

Senior Recognition is a chance for us to celebrate all our 4-H horse members who are graduating out of 4-H (Western Games, Over Fences, Performance, Driving, Dressage, and all those who have participated in the horse project without showing a horse). This is done in two parts: One - We display memory boards in an area near the show office during Fair. Two - We gather in the main covered arena for a ceremony. There are two ceremonies each year so we can be sure to honor all our seniors while they have their families, friends and horses present. One during the Senior Performance section and one during the Western Games section. Members who participate in both may attend both ceremonies if they choose.

At the ceremony, members can choose to ride their horse, drive their horse, lead their horse, or just come on foot. If you are not showing your horse at Fair, you CAN make arrangements with our Superintendent to haul them in just for this. For the ceremony, each member writes a short biography on what 4-H has meant to them and what their future plans are. Then each member has their moment in the spotlight as what they have written is read from the announcer's stand. After the reading, many members choose to take a 'victory lap'. All in all, Senior Recognition is a very special time of remembering the years you've shared in 4-H, celebrating your accomplishments, and supporting you as you take on the next phase of your life.

# When is Senior Recognition?

Friday night, August 23rd at 7 or 8 pm in the Main Covered Arena for Senior Performance (time TBD once the fair schedule is finalized).

Sunday afternoon, August 25th in the Main Covered Arena for Western Games.

**Can Seniors who are already away at college or unable to attend for other reasons participate?** YES!!! You can display a memory board and have your biography read on your behalf. Including you in the evening even though you are away will be very meaningful for your friends and leaders who have journeyed alongside you.

**If I’m not exhibiting but want to attend with my horse, can I do that?** YES!! Please contact our Fair Superintendent, Melinda Nelson fairsuperintendent@snohco4-hhorses.com to make arrangements.

# Who comes to Senior Recognition?

Families, friends, grandparents, fellow 4-H members, 4-H leaders, the general public - in short, everyone is invited to attend Senior Recognition!!

# MEMORY BOARDS:

* Any size tri-fold board is preferred as it’s the easiest to display.
* Your board should contain at least one picture of you and your project horse (horses).
* Feel free to be creative as you'd like.
* Please use common sense with personal information as these posters are on display for the public.

\*\*Submit completed memory boards on Monday, August 21st between 4 and 7 pm in the Clubroom at the far end of the main covered arena (where Horse Shop items are being checked in). Dropping boards off during horse shop check-in is the easiest way for us to collect your board, but if you absolutely cannot make this date, please contact Kim Lobb to make other arrangements.

***Memory Boards must be picked up on Thursday, August 29th between 3-pm-5pm***

# BIOGRAPHY:

* Biographies should be 500 words or less.
* Biographies may be edited as necessary for content and / or length.
* Can be written by members, parents, or leaders, but only one bio per member can be read.
* Biographies are read from the announcer's stand during the ceremony by a 4-H alumni's dad.
* Biographies provide a great opportunity to introduce our members to the public and show how 4-H positively impacts today's youth. They also provide an opportunity to highlight your achievements, special memories, and appreciation to parents, volunteers and leaders.

\*\*Submit completed biographies via email tokim.baker@wsu.edu any time between now and your haul- in date - OR - a printed copy can be turned in with your memory board at Horse Shop on Aug 19th.

If you have any questions about Senior Recognition, please don't hesitate to contact me!

I am really looking forward to helping make this a special event for all of you!!! You can reach me by email at kim.baker@wsu.edu or by text message at 425-737-7535.

Congratulations!!

Sincerely,

Kim Baker