

Sophie Roberts

04/ 30/ 2021 Scholarship Application Biography

The group of people I presented my project on Scrapie to was my 4-H club, The Wild Bunch, on June 14, 2021. I presented to 20 kids plus their parents. I thought either my 4-H club or my Agriculture class would be best to present. Due to school being out, I was unable to present to my Ag class. The reason I choose my 4-H club is, because there are a lot of new people showing goats or who have goats and I thought they could learn and benefit from this, and I was right! I got some great questions and great feedback! I think this truly benefited my 4-H club and me as well, I learned more about scrapies tags and what their purpose is. Before I started this presentation, I thought Scrapies were just a fancier version of ear tags. Now I know that scrapies tags are to help track an animal who may or may not have the disease.

The best showmen aren't only in the show ring for the money or competition. They are in it for the bonds they can make with both animals and people along the way. I have learned a lot from showing goats and just owning goats as a pet. Goats are a lot like me, they are hardy, good attitude, and a kid still learning. This biography is about the group of goats that I show, every single one of them meaning a lot more to me than just showing animals. Every single one of my goats is family to me, and my goal is that the words in this biography reflect that.

Goats are such heart-warming creatures, that I easily fell in love with one next door. My next-door neighbor got a boer goat named Bella for their five year old son. Through the weeks of my neighbor owning Bella, I bonded and communicated with her the best I could. I started falling in love with her as the summer went by. I wish I could tell you that this was a happy ending and that my neighbor let me show her, but that didn't happen. Late one night three dogs in my area killed Bella. I was heartbroken! A year and a half later my mom asked me if I wanted to show livestock again.

When I was 10 years old I showed pigs and completely disliked it, but I was still open to the idea of showing some type of animal. While I was still contemplating on what to show, this breeder in my area was selling a show goat, for a cheaper price then normal; so we decided to jump on the opportunity to show a goat just to see if I liked it or not. I was actually very opened to the idea of showing goats, because Bella was such a delight to have next door. In 2018, I got my first goat named Madison Square from Diane Martin of Martin Farms. I went to one show with Madison and then was done, because I was so busy I didn't have the time to take care of a goat let alone a show goat. After Madison had sat in our pasture for a year. In December of 2019, we bred her to Kim Merriman's buck, Final Call. When we went back up to Kims to get Madison an ultrasound; we saw one heartbeat and I was overjoyed! On April 30, 2020, when I got home from my grandmas, I looked outside of the window and... Boom! There was a baby goat in my backyard! I went outside to see if I needed to help and shortly while I was out there, another kid was born, and that was it. There were two does and the birth went as smoothly as possible. I went on to show both of them the summer of 2020 and spring of 2021. I will breed both does in November of 2021 with the hope of more kids to come. In December of 2020, I bred Madison again to Kim Merriman's buck, Loaded Vision. She recently had two does which we had to pull. It was a completely different experience opposed to the last birth. One of them ended up passing

on April 20, 2021. I have learned so much from showing goats and one little death wont stop me working my butt off for next show season.

“Great showmen bring it each and every time they walk in the ring. Every goat, every class, every show is building your reputation of excellence in showmanship.” I started off with a showmanship quote, because I enjoy showmanship more than I enjoy showing. The reason I enjoy showmanship more than showing is, because in showmanship I think that it doesn’t matter how much money you spend on your goat to be this perfect goat. It all comes down to you and how you make that animal look. I also like showmanship better, because you can tell what you did wrong and how you can fix it. I have probably been to 25 goats shows this year and participated in all the showmanship and I only placed two out of those twenty-five shows. The first show I placed showmanship at was the Skiatook Goat Show, I got Reserve Champion Int. Showman that winning boosted my confidence so much, but it also made me want to work even harder to place better at other shows. My second to last show, I placed at my county show and got Reserve Champion Int. Showman. This year I have a goal of getting better and placing grand in showmanship. I try to meet that goal by going to a goat showmanship camp.

If I was awarded this scholarship, I would use the money towards two goat showmanship camps. Another option would be using the money for one showmanship camp and the other portion of the money going towards a college fund or learning how to better clip from a professional. No matter what, I want to be able to play an important role in a young ambitious showmans career, like I once was, and help them just like the lady who sold me my first goat. If it wasn’t for this sweet lady I wouldn’t be where I am today. It is yet another dream of mine to make a mark on a showman’s career like she made on mine.

There are many stories to be told about the group of goats I call my family. From a summer childhood dream to my reality, I couldn’t be happier. The future holds many things for me and my goats, and only one of them I can guarantee: that I will continue breeding, showing, and most importantly, loving goats through high school, college, and even adult life. Goats have become such a massive part of my life I couldn’t imagine a world without them. “It’s not the destination, it’s the journey.” This is a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson and I couldn’t agree with it more. While competition and winning is a big part of me, nothing will ever become more important to me than the joy of creating bonds with the goats I raise and train for showing.