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Brockport High School Graduate receives the 2019 Ryan 4-H Scholarship

Congratulations to Samantha Sorokti, the 2019 Norman V. Ryan Monroe County 4-H Youth Development Scholarship recipient! Sam, a member of the Stirrups to Success 4-H club, will be heading to SUNY Morrisville in the fall to begin her studies in equine science.

Sam credits her 4-H experience with not only teaching her the care and reward of life with horses, but the hard work, responsibility, and ethic necessary to continue learning about her passion and her community. She has advanced her skills in communicating with others, horsemanship, prioritizing and leadership. Her leadership roles in Stirrups to Success have allowed her to organize club activities, including community service projects that benefited local food cupboards, active military, and animal rescue organizations.

Kate Logan, a volunteer leader with the Stirrups to Success 4-H club who has known Sam for five years, says, "I have witnessed Samantha grow from one of the most determined and responsible teenagers I have ever met, into an accomplished, mature, and promising young woman." Kate also says, "(Sorokti) has shown a passion and devotion to horses and horsemanship that is very impressive."

Through 4-H, Sam and Walker, Sam's show horse, qualified for the New York State Fair in Dressage and Hunt Seat last year. Despite Walker's disadvantage of a clubfoot, the duo placed first in all three of their Dressage classes leaving Sam with "the ultimate feeling of success!" Sam is very proud of all she and Walker have accomplished together.

The skills and confidence Sam has gained in 4-H, coupled with the satisfaction of continued learning and community service, have prepared her for the transition to college student. Everyone involved with the Monroe County 4-H program wishes Sam well in her new adventures!

The Norman V. Ryan scholarship is presented to a graduating senior who has demonstrated leadership and community service. Special consideration is given to teens who are planning to enter a field of study or employment as a result of their 4-H activities and experiences.

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

The Monroe County 4-H Youth Development Program is offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension to the youth of Monroe County. 4-H is a worldwide youth development program open to all youth aged 5-to-19, who want to have fun, learn new skills, and explore the world. In return, youth who participate in 4-H find a supportive environment and opportunities for hands-on or "experiential" learning about things that interest them.

Learn more at <http://monroe.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development>.

Photos provided by Samantha Sorokti.



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