



Zachary Hill, son of Bob and Julie Hill and brother of Andrea Hill is a 10th grader at Briarwood Academy. Zachary is also a Wilkes County 4-H Council Vice President, and a Senior Vice President of the 2015-2016 Georgia 4-H Northeast District Board. Zachary shares his story of 4-H with others in this article:

I have been a member of the Wilkes County 4-H club since I was 9 years old and have enjoyed every opportunity that I have to participate in a variety of 4-H activities offered every year. What is 4-H? Georgia 4-H is a club brought to different counties of Georgia by the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. The club's mission is to "assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing citizens".

Summer is over and another school year has begun. I had the opportunity to participate in various activities this past summer through 4-H. These activities have taught me numerous life skills that I will be able to incorporate into my career later in life. Wilkes county 4-H went to camps for leadership at Fortson and Rock Eagle, did community service at 4 different personal care homes, had project clubs (Around-the-World and Music in Action) in which I had the opportunity to join. There were also fun trips to a Braves game, Russell Dam, Helen Georgia, Six Flags, Splash 'n Boro, etc. The summer with 4-H was full of fun and enjoyable activities, and very busy for most children in our community. Wilkes county 4-H has been hosting numerous activities this coming school year 2015-2016 and I am sure McDuffie and Warren county also have 4-H activities that is ongoing.

I would like to encourage parents, grandparents, and guardians to encourage the children they care for to join and be involved with their local county UGA 4-H club. In my opinion, 4-H is more than just a club, it's a family. It has helped to shape the way that I live today. There is so

much that 4-H can do to assist children and involve them in more educational experiences in areas like Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environment, Citizenship, Leadership, Communication, Performing Arts, Family, Consumer Sciences, and even Technology. Each county's 4-H office offers programs and different activities for children to enjoy while learning at the same time. 4-H has during and after-school programs that children can participate in. You can obtain more information about Georgia's UGA 4-H program and contact information for a 4-H office near your residence at <http://www.georgia4h.org>. If there's no 4-H club in the county you live in, you can join another county's 4-H club. Children age nine as of January 1st of the current year and those who have not reached their nineteenth birthday on or before January 1st of that same year can join. Membership is free. Some 4-H extension offices also have 4-H Cloverbud groups which are made available to children from ages five to eight. Most 4-H offices are also in need of adult volunteers to help with club meetings, camps, or learning activities, so please check with your local UGA 4-H extension office as soon as possible to apply for a volunteer job or career in 4-H. There's always something for each child or adult volunteer to do in 4-H. It is not too late to check with your local 4-H office about activities that your children can participate for the school year 2015-2016. Being a 4-H'er in Wilkes County is a great life learning experience I'll never forget.

Submitted by: Zach Hill, on behalf of the Wilkes County 4-H Club.