Western Region Winner

Alex Carpenter
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Tennessee 4-H: The Great Comeback

The year 2021 is a comeback year, a year of coming back to a normalcy we all need. Looking back on 2020, all our lives were thrown into disarray. 4-H was no exception. Club meetings were disrupted, projects were hampered or undoable, camps and conferences were cancelled. However, the people of our country and 4-H have persevered and shown that we can come back from any challenge, even a pandemic.

For young people, your school 4-H meetings were something looked forward to each month. As more schools moved to closures or to virtual learning, these meetings could not take place. As things improved, meetings began again. This comeback brought great excitement. Students participated more, realizing what they had been missing. Perhaps the numbers did not rise, but the interest did, overhearing a very young 4-Her commenting, “I sure have missed doing 4-H things.”

Another important comeback for Tennessee 4-H could be seen in the projects. It is true that a 4-Her does not have to attend meetings to do project work, but sometimes, being self-driven is just not enough. Even during the pandemic, 4-Hers still found a way to help their communities by continuing to do projects, just not face-to-face. Thanks to our agents diligently encouraging and being available in spite of the situation, projects have made a comeback - individually and in groups.

Perhaps one of the most notable comebacks for Tennessee 4-H is the opportunity to come together across our state and once again, share our projects, be recognized for them, and have fun together. With the cancellations of 4-H camps, 4-H Congress, and Roundup last year, 4-Hers missed out on the unique opportunity of fellowship with other
4-Hers. Fortunately, this year 4-Hers will once again be able to utilize the four H’s in our motto.

Throughout the history of 4-H, no year like 2020 has ever been experienced. Normal life was not normal, but 4-Hers have met the challenge to make 2021 a true “comeback” year.