

Jackson S Hall

### Tennessee 4-H: Encourage, Empower, Embrace

'Be Kind, Work Hard, Have Purpose.' These are the words my coach continually instills into the minds of my teammates and me. As I begin to ponder as to how I can apply that in my personal life, I am drawn to the strong correlation of what being a member of 4-H expects as well as offers to those involved. As a Tennessee 4-H participant, I have a larger obligation of service to encourage, empower, and embrace all the people around me.

Being kind to others is an encouraging act. Building others confidence around us should be one of those efforts that is freely offered. As a 4-H member we lead by example. We should strongly encourage people in our daily lives. Whether giving encouragement in school, sports, or in our spiritual lives, we must embolden others to perform and to be better. Leading those around us to believe they should or can be better is a kind thing to do. As an athlete, encouragement is a key factor for any team's success. What is a team without motivating one another to desire to do better as individuals? Regardless as to what kind of "team" you find yourself on, encouraging others with a cheerful spirit will always have a trickle down effect for the entire group.

Working hard empowers others around us to want to do or be better. Whether in personal or group goals, power can only be achieved through service and hard work. Simply offering a friend encouragement on a skill or confidence in a task is powerful. The power of believing in oneself is crucial in our complicated world. Showing loyalty towards others is a pledge my coach, my family, my church, and my 4-H club encourage and stand firmly on. 4-H empowers us all to perform better within our club, community, and world, for the greater service of those around us.

Having purpose by embracing circumstances help all involved grow. We are all created for good works. Becoming a better version of myself, I can make a difference in the lives of others. Throughout countless occasions, on or off the court or field, in the classroom, and in my community, 4-H impacts my mind in creating that very purpose of serving and embracing the many opportunities which I find ahead of me. I must embrace my community, especially to those in need, to even have a purpose in my life. Intentionally striving to work hard and to be kind I am embracing the obligation I have as a fellow 4-H member and Christian.

In conclusion, as I grow in my experiences, the words I have described above prove to be a necessity. We can help make the world a brighter place. Regardless if I am on a team, in a classroom, hanging out with friends, or even in my family, success will only follow us if we meditate daily on how we can encourage others, empower those struggling, and embrace each of the opportunities surrounding us.