

Hello my name is Matthew Elias. I am 17 years old and am graduating from Liberty Charter High School in the Spring of 2022. Some of my hobbies are 4-H, welding, and sports. I have been a member of the Manzanita 4-H for five years raising Market Boer goats and serving for the past three years as our club's Secretary. Being involved in 4-H has taught me to be a better community leader and overall a more effective communicator. I feel very fortunate that I have learned so many core values from the years I have spent in 4H and competing in the San Diego County Fair. These experiences have brought real growth and maturity to my life which undoubtedly will help me flourish in my adult life.

My plans after high school include enrolling at Southwestern Community College to start off. I chose this school because they have an architectural program where I will be able to learn how to build up an architectural portfolio, take courses in my field, and complete my general education classes. Then after this, I plan to transfer to a university where I can present my portfolio which will be needed in the application process. After completing my degree, I would like to go on to achieve my masters and one day have my own architecture firm.

My 4-H experience was amazing! ...From being able to learn how to care for and show Boer goats, to increasing my leadership skills, and just plain have fun! If I was not in this program, I would not have had the opportunity to learn so many useful things or meet the people that I have met throughout my six years of being a 4-H'er. For instance, I really enjoyed learning the useful skill of welding and now I have a welder of my own at home which I will use all throughout my life and possibly in my profession.

Most high schools do not have welding programs anymore so the knowledge I have gained in the group has been so valuable to me. Also, raising an animal showed me how to be more responsible, hard-working, and taught me a lot about managing my time and money. Working with my goats and showing them throughout the years has taught me to never give up; even when you are at your lowest times, I learned to just keep going and keep my eye on the prize, striving to hit my goal spot on.

Being a part of the San Diego County Fair has been so much fun in every way; from getting the chance to demonstrate my knowledge in the show ring to the comradery felt camping with your group to the excitement of experiencing all of the different attractions around the fair! I'll always have special memories of the time spent with my 4-H group.