



Manzanita 4-H  
11264 El Nopal  
Lakeside, CA 92040

March 26th, 2022

Don Diego Scholarship Committee:

The 4-H slogan is “Learn by doing”. Matthew Elias embodies this slogan like no other youth I have had the pleasure of working with in my 25+ years involved with the program. Matthew joined our club in 2017 as a “city slicker”. Once he joined our goat group I knew he had his work cut out for him. He attended our project meetings and used that knowledge to become a successful goat showman. Matthew has volunteered at several of our animal outreach events; again learning by doing because he had to explain to the public about all kinds of animals, not just the one he showed. Matthew has learned to step up and be a leader by holding the position of secretary for three years. He keeps copious notes and holds himself to a high standard of behavior at our club meetings, providing an excellent role model for the younger members of our club.

Over the past five years I have seen Matthew grow from a gangly middle schooler into a fine young man with a drive to complete his goals seldom found in his peers. Matthew has been able to balance school, sports, church and 4-H all while excelling in each. On occasion Matthew has come to a meeting sweaty from a sporting event and then left to go to his church’s youth group. Many of his peers make the same commitments, but Matthew is able to fulfill them all, unlike so many others. I have known Matthew to not volunteer for something because he is too busy with other activities. I appreciate the fact that he does not over extend himself.

Learning to manage his time and how to say no are valuable traits needed in someone who is seeking a level of higher education. I am fully confident that Matthew will “Learn by doing” throughout his post high school education as well as his life.

Thank you for your time,  
Lara Woliung  
Co-Community Leader  
Manzanita 4-H Club