



Oakland FFA

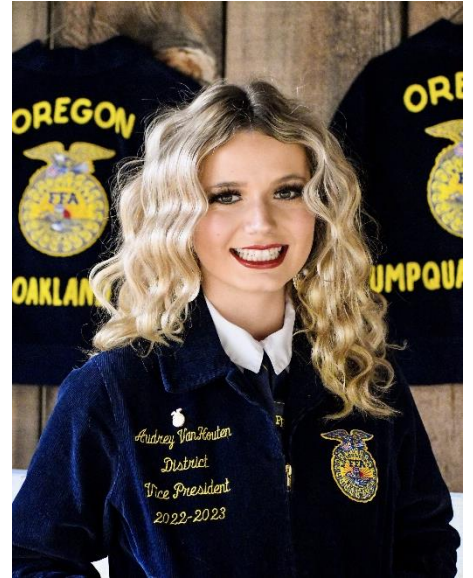
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Oakland FFA
Audrey VanHouten

Dear Oregon FFA,

When I was four, I spent my days doing one thing over and over: playing dress-up. I had a chest that included costumes of all my favorite Disney princesses. Belle, Cinderella, Snow White, Aurora, and Ariel. I'd put one on, dance around, and then move to the next. It was an endless cycle. While the outfits were virtually the same, minus some slight color variation, each one transformed me into someone different. As a young girl who couldn't imagine a better life path than being a princess, this dress-up chest held more than just some clothes. It held the freedom to be everything I wanted to be.

For the next decade of my life, I continued to change my clothes. On July 19, 2019, I put on a piece of clothing that would, throughout the next four years, change me. It was a blue corduroy jacket, with the words "Oregon" and "Oakland" on the back, and "Audrey VanHouten" on the front. It was in that jacket that I found a path to countless opportunities. My FFA jacket took me around the state and across the country. My FFA jacket introduced me to some of my best friends. The blue corduroy not only holds my pins but pockets full of memories and treasures. While wearing this jacket, I built my confidence and learned how to build up others around me. I found a competitive side of myself that I never knew I had, but I also learned about defeat and mistakes. This jacket has seen laughter, tears, and sweat, but most of all, growth. The girl who put on this jacket in 2019 had big dreams but had no idea that because of that jacket, she would be able to achieve those dreams and aim even higher.



Opening the chest of my dress-up clothes when I was younger gave me the ability to pretend to be anything I imagined. Putting on official dress has led me to learn how to become myself. Wearing a plastic tiara never actually made me a princess, but it changed how I viewed myself. We often limit ourselves to whom we think we are and what we think we can do, but what if we opened a different chest box, and discovered a version of ourselves we kept locked up? Disney Princess Audrey could've never imagined who'd she become, but without her, I wouldn't have had the mindset to continually change and grow into the person I am today.

Oregon FFA, we've all dressed up as different versions of ourselves throughout our lives. Our unique stories and backgrounds make us who we are. But when we dress up in our blue jackets, we become one. We take these pieces of ourselves and use them to inspire each other and create a family of purposeful and passionate individuals. This is the legacy. This is our legacy. As we get ready to zip up our jackets and join together in Redmond, I am more proud and grateful than ever for the time I've spent in the jacket. It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I announce my candidacy for the 2023-2024 Oregon FFA State Officer Team. There is nothing I want to do more than zip up the jacket this next year and serve my FFfamily. Oregon FFA, you've changed me, and I would be honored to continue to create change with you.

With Love,

Audrey M. VanHouten
Oakland FFA President
Umpqua District Vice President

*"Find out who you are
and do it on purpose."*

-Dolly Parton

LEARNING TO DO, DOING TO LEARN, EARNING TO LIVE, AND LIVING TO SERVE

Freshman Year
2019-2020

Degree Held: Greenhand
Office Held: Junior Reporter
Awards/Activities:
Chapter:
Star Greenhand
Goat Proficiency
Open House
Concessions
Food Drive
Agriculture Advocacy Day
Thanksgiving Feast
Adopt-a-Family
Christmas Party
Winter Officer's Retreat
Survivor Night
National FFA Week
Hunger Awareness Dinner
Creed (2nd Ind.)
Beg. Job Interview (2nd Ind.)
Plant Sale
Banquet
District:
Douglas County Fair
Grand Champ. Dairy Goat Showman
Grand Champ. Rabbit Showman
Umpqua District Leadership Camp
Leadership Conference
Tractor Driving
Rituals
Beg. Ag Sales (1st Ind.)
Christmas Caroling Nursing Homes
Sub-District Creed
Knowledge Quiz (2nd Ind., 2nd Team)
Parli-Pro (1st Team)
Beg. Job Interview (2nd Ind.)
Beg. Floriculture (1st Ind., 2nd Team)
Beg. Meats (1st Ind., 2nd Team)
Beg. Forestry (1st Ind., 2nd Team)
Douglas County Lamb Show
State:
Oregon State Fair
Sectional Parli-Pro (2nd Team)
State FFA Convention (virtual)
Nursery (6th Ind.)
Floriculture (4th Ind., 1st Team)
Forestry (3rd Ind., 1st Team)
Milk Quality (2nd Ind., 1st Team)
Livestock Evaluation (3rd Team)
Other:
OHS Varsity Cross Country
Most Improved Athlete
OHS Varsity Track
Chitwood Studio of Dance
Tap
Ballet
Pointe
Jazz
Technique
Nutcracker Community Performance
Oregon 4-H Ambassador
Douglas County 4-H Teen Leader VP
Heavenly Ranchers 4-H Secretary
Riversdale Grange Lady Asst. Steward
Pomona Grange Chaplain

Sophomore Year
2020-2021

Degree Held: Chapter
Office Held: Chapter Reporter
Awards/Activities:
Chapter:
Star Farmer
Goat Proficiency
Poultry Proficiency
Small Animal Proficiency
Diversified Livestock Proficiency
Summer Officer's Retreat
Concessions
Food Drive
Thanksgiving Feast
Adopt-a-Family
Christmas Party
Winter Officer's Retreat
Survivor Night
National FFA Week
Adv. Job Interview (2nd Ind.)
Sophomore Public Speaking (1st Ind.)
Extemp. Speaking (1st Ind.)
Greenhand/Chapter Degree Ceremony
Plant Sale
Banquet
District:
Douglas County Fair
Grand Champ. Dairy Goat Showman
Grand Champ. Rabbit Showman
Umpqua District Leadership Camp
Leadership Conference
Tractor Driving
Rituals
Beg. Soils (9th Ind.)
Ag Sales (2nd Ind., 2nd Team)
Poultry Proficiency
Adv. Job Interview
Sophomore Public Speaking (1st Ind.)
Extemp. Speaking (3rd Ind.)
Adv. Parli Pro (2nd Team)
Floriculture (10th Ind., 2nd Team)
Forestry (3rd Ind., 1st Team)
Douglas County Lamb Show
State:
Ag Sales (4th Team)
Sectional Adv. Parli Pro (1st Team)
Sectional Soph. Public Speak. (1st Ind.)
State FFA Convention (Virtual)
Parli Pro (4th Team)
Soph. Public Speaking (4th Ind.)
Goat Proficiency
Floriculture (2nd Team)
Forestry (10th Ind., 2nd Team)
Oregon District Officer Training
National:
National FFA Convention (Virtual)
Other:
OHS Varsity Cross Country
OHS Varsity Track
Most Inspirational
Miss Douglas Co. Outstanding Teen
Miss Oregon 2nd Runner-up Teen
Oregon 4-H Ambassador
Douglas County 4-H Teen Leader Pres
Heavenly Ranchers 4-H President
Riversdale Grange Lady Asst. Steward
Pomona Grange Chaplain

Junior Year
2021-2022

Degree Held: State
Office Held:
Chapter Vice President
District Reporter
Awards/Activities:
Chapter:
Star Farmer
Poultry Proficiency
Small Animal Proficiency
Diversified Livestock Proficiency
Summer Officer's Retreat
Open House
Concessions
Food Drive
Thanksgiving Movie Night
Adopt-a-Family
Christmas Party
Winter Officer's Retreat
Survivor Night
National FFA Week
School Beautification Day
Adv. Job Interview (4th Ind.)
Advanced Public Speaking (1st Ind.)
Extemp. Speaking (1st Ind.)
Greenhand/Chapter Degree Ceremony
Plant Sale
Alumni Auction
Banquet
District:
Douglas County Fair
Grand Champ. Dairy Goat Showman
Grand Champ. Rabbit Showman
Grand Champ. Poultry Showman
Res. Grand Champ Master Showman
Umpqua District Leadership Camp
Leadership Conference
Tractor Driving
Ag Sales (1st Ind., 1st Team)
Rituals (2nd Ind., 3rd Team)
Soils (3rd Team)
Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Day
Co-op Quiz (3rd Ind.)
Extemp. Speaking (2nd Ind.)
Adv. Parli Pro (2nd Team)
Meats (3rd Team)
Floriculture (3rd Ind., 1st Team)
Forestry (2nd Ind., 3rd Team)
Douglas County Lamb Show
State:
Oregon State Fair
RG Champion Dairy Goat Showman
WLC Scholarship Recipient
Ag Sales (6th Team)
Sectional Adv. Parli Pro (3rd Team)
Sectional Extemp. Speaking (2nd Ind.)
State FFA Convention
Extemp. Speaking (Top 8)
Poultry Proficiency (2nd Ind.)
Floriculture (4th Ind., 1st Team)
Livestock Eval. (10th Team)
Meats (7th Ind., 2nd Team)
Forestry (1st Ind., 1st Team)
Oregon District Officer Training
LBCC Judging Clinic
National:
National FFA Convention
Goat Proficiency (Silver Ind.)
Washington Leadership Conference
Other:
OHS Varsity Cross Country
Most Inspirational
OHS Varsity Track
Miss Oregon 2nd Runner-up Teen
Miss Sunstone Outstanding Teen
Miss Oregon SII Scholarship Winner
Douglas County 4-H Teen Leader Pres
Heavenly Ranchers 4-H President
Riversdale Grange Lady Asst. Steward
Pomona Grange Chaplain

Senior Year
2022-2023

Degree Held: State
Office Held:
Chapter President
District Vice President
Awards/Activities:
Chapter:
Star Farmer
Poultry Proficiency
Small Animal Proficiency
Diversified Livestock Proficiency
Summer Officer's Retreat
Open House
Concessions
Roseburg Forest Industry Tour
Nordic Veneer Industry Tour
Douglas Timber Operators Tour
Rattle Creek Burn Scar Visit
Country 103 Radio Interview
Creekside Fundraiser
Food Drive
Pie Fundraiser
Thanksgiving Feast
Adopt-a-Family
Christmas Party
Survivor Night
Adv. Job Interview
Extemp. Speaking
District:
Douglas County Fair
RG Champ Dairy Goat Showman
RG Champ. Meat Goat Showman
Premier Dairy Goat Exhibitor
Umpqua District Leadership Camp
Leadership Conference
Tractor Driving
Rituals (1st Ind., 3rd Team)
Soils (10th Ind., 3rd Team)
State:
Oregon State Fair
Grand Champ Dairy Goat Showman
Premier Dairy Goat Exhibitor
Livestock Eval. (10th Ind., 4th Team)
Ag Sales
National:
National FFA Convention
Forestry (Silver Ind., Bronze Team)
Other:
OHS Varsity Cross Country
Most Inspirational
Douglas County 4-H Teen Leader Pres
Heavenly Ranchers 4-H President
Riversdale Grange Lady Asst. Steward
Pomona Grange Chaplain

*"You must
do the thing
you think
you cannot
do."*

Eleanor Roosevelt

