

2023 Ruth B. Sayre Scholarship Winners

Hailey Chaffin

New Hope, Alabama



Hailey is from New Hope, AL, a low-income community outside of Huntsville. She has a special love for her community and a desire to give back. As the technical advisor of New Hope High School's National Honor Society, she took part in a variety of service projects such as developing a school supply closet for the school in order to provide students with unlimited access to school supplies and personal hygiene items. While attending the American Legion Auxiliary's Alabama Girls State Conference, she had the honor of representing New Hope High School while learning about our country's legislative processes. As a volunteer at Merrimack Performing Arts Center, a non-profit organization that gives special needs children and adults the opportunity to participate in the arts, she assists with Summer Camps and Holiday Shows. The kids she has met at Merrimack hold a special place in her heart because they have inspired her to create a loving and inclusive community. She also volunteers for Special Olympics, helping children with special needs to participate and compete in their favorite sports activities. Additionally, she serves at New Salem Baptist Church as a worker during Vacation Bible School. She would like to thank the members of the Country Women's Council for providing this scholarship to assist her in achieving her degree in Nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Emma Humphreys

Columbus Junction, Iowa

Emma is from Council Junction, IA and has a passion for speaking, writing, creating and advocating for the agriculture industry. In 2022, she wrote a speech discussing the mental health crisis in agriculture, a topic near to her heart. She was not sure anyone would like the speech or even appreciate her talking about the topic. However, she was determined to raise awareness for the topic and has since given that speech to dozens of organizations throughout Iowa and competed in the Prepared Public Speaking Contest at the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention. She is seeking a degree in Agricultural Communications from Iowa State University as well as an agricultural education teaching certificate. Her long-term goals are to work in marketing for local agribusinesses or be a high school agricultural educator and FFA Advisor.



Jada Long

Evansville, Illinois



Jada is from Evansville, IL and from a young age has always wanted to be part of the medical field. During her freshman year in High School, she decided to pursue a Nursing degree and enrolled in a medical explorers club at the local hospital. While a Junior, she took a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course at the local Technical College and passed with the highest grade in the class. At age 17, she was hired at her local hospital as a licensed CNA. Working in a hospital setting enhanced her rural healthcare knowledge and gave her an insight into what was to come in her future nursing career. She plans to attend the Nursing Program at Southwestern Illinois College and would eventually like to continue her education and become a Nurse Anesthetist in a rural community hospital. Participating in numerous community events and club activities has made her realize the importance of helping others. Her community involvement helped her recognize that she can continue contributing to and assisting others through nursing. She's thankful for her community because it allowed her to put service to others above self and realize the path that she feels she was destined for.

Brinley J. Meier

Waverly, Iowa

Brinley is from Waverly, Iowa and plans to attend Hawkeye Community College to receive an Associates of Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene. She is dedicated to giving back to her community through a variety of programs and opportunities. She has also served in 4H for over 10 years. Her service projects include: clean up days, recycling pick-ups, omelet breakfasts and sports tournament fundraisers. She held multiple jobs during her high school years – detasseling, pool maintenance for the City of Waverly, working for GreenIowa Americorps and a barista at a local coffee shop. Each job provided a variety of experiences that helped her develop diverse skills. Detasseling taught her how to work hard for long hours in tough situations and weather. Her pool maintenance job taught her responsibility – if she did not do her duties, the pool would not run properly. Much of her job with Green Iowa Americorps was hard labor: she pulled weeds in the blazing sun for hours; built home for Habitat for Humanity; helped at local garden and farmers markets; and picked up trash after local festivals. Working at the coffee shop showed her how to work fast yet efficiently, have flexibility, multitask, and work on customer service skills.

