

Sidney NRCS Field Office Honors Their Volunteer

By: Joanna Pope, State Volunteer Coordinator

The Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Sidney, Neb., took time to honor their very special volunteer during National Volunteer Month in April.

Ryan Flohr is a School-to-Work student from Leyton High School. Ryan has Down's Syndrome, and part of his development is to go to work at a job every afternoon. He volunteers for NRCS three afternoons a week.

Ryan has helped with file maintenance, mailings, shredding documents, printing soils descriptions for conservation programs and contracts, prepare for the Groundwater Festival, and other general office assistance. According to District Conservationist Kristin Miller, Ryan has been a real asset to the office.

"We love having Ryan around because he is a great help to us. He always comes to work with a great attitude and makes us all smile. We really look forward to him coming to work," said Miller.

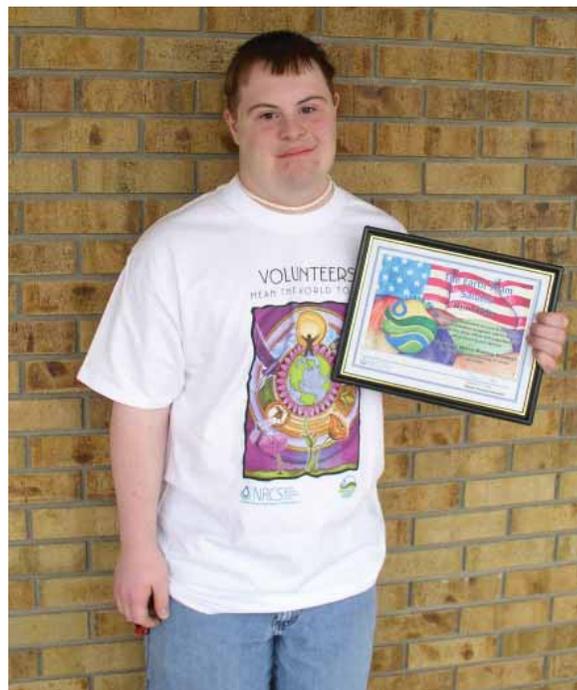
NRCS honored Ryan during an ice cream party held at the office. He was also given a T-shirt and certificate of appreciation, which his teacher presented to him at Ryan's school's honor night. Miller said that she wants to make sure Ryan will come back to work for NRCS in the fall.

"Hopefully we will be able to have him in our office for longer periods of time next semester," Miller said.

Ryan is eligible to work for NRCS through the School-to-Work program until he turns 21 in February. Miller will be meeting with his teachers to develop his work plan for next year.

When asked to write about his work at NRCS, Ryan submitted the following poem.

"I like to go to work at NRCS.
Mrs. Twarling, the job coach, takes me to Sidney.
It is fun to work there.
They are nice to me.
They smile a lot.
They have good doughnuts and Pepsi there.
NRCS is a good job!" ♦



Earth Team Volunteer Ryan Flohr was honored during National Volunteer Week by the employees at the Sidney NRCS field office.