



Growing up as a military youth undergoing multiple deployments and separations, Anna's parents saw the need for her and her siblings to have a fun, positive, and supportive community to join. Her mom contacted their local extension office and was directed to Liberty County 4-H.

From 4th to 12th grade, Anna competed in 4-H project achievement, judging teams, and attended summer camps. The most impactful experiences were

at the 4-H military youth events. Through the 4-H Military Youth Advisory Council and the Georgia Army National Guard State Youth Council, she attended and organized camps and leadership conferences for other military youth at 4-H centers across Georgia. These organizations provided experiences where she could succeed and fail, connect with her peers, and discover her passion for food safety through project achievement.

Anna continued her involvement in 4-H through college, working as a summer camp counselor at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Georgia and Rocky Mountain Adventure Camp in Colorado, an outdoor adventure camp designed for military teens. The opportunity to create a fun and welcoming week of camp for the teens was so rewarding that her brother worked at the same camp the following year. Because of the 4-H military partnership, Anna found lasting friendships, developed lifelong skills, and discovered her future career.

After earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in food science, she now works as a biologist contractor for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease.