



Montgomery County 4-H

July 2, 2025



If you need a special accommodation for a 4-H program, event, or activity at the 4-H Extension Office in Derwood, MD, please call 301-590-3210 or e-mail jshriver@umd.edu.

If you need to reserve a room or need a special accommodation at the MoCo Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg, MD for a 4-H program, please contact the Event and Sponsorship Coordinator, Ms. Monica Monroe at Monica@mcagfair.com.

The next issue of The Montgomery County 4-H News & Notes will be published the first week of August 2025. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, ahamann@umd.edu by July 20, 2025.

A PDF copy of this newsletter can be found, one week after publication, on the Montgomery County 4-H page.

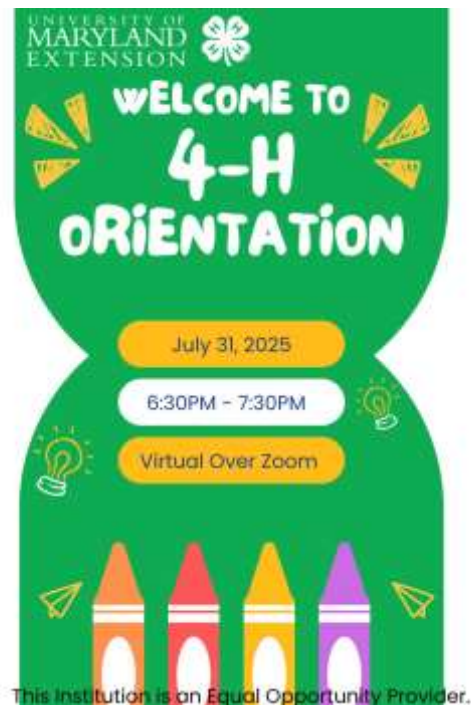
<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/montgomery-county/4-h-youth-development/news-notes/>

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

4-H Virtual Orientation

We are hosting a **virtual 4-H Orientation over Zoom on Thursday July 31, from 6:30- to 7:30 p.m.** We will talk about 4-H in general, how 4-H is structured, and what opportunities exist within 4-H at the local, state, and national levels. We encourage parents/guardians and new 4-H'ers to attend!

Please register by July 25 on 4-H Online for this event. If you need an accommodation to participate in this event, please let us know at least 2 weeks before the event. The following link will take you right to the event: <https://4HOrientation.4honline.com>



Diamond Clover Level 6 Application Workshops

UPDATED REGISTRATION LINK!

The Central Cluster is proud to present a series of Diamond Clover Level 6 Proposal Workshops! These workshops will prepare you to write a strong proposal and walk you through each component of the Diamond Clover Level 6 proposal. All workshops will be conducted virtually. If you registered, you are welcome to attend either one of the last two sessions. These sessions are meant to help you know what a strong project proposal is for a Diamond Clover Level 6 Project or any other large-scale project!

A brief description of each workshop and their date/time are as follows:

Workshop 3: July 9, 2025, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Description: During this workshop, we are now ready to complete the proposal by going over how to write overview and background summaries, creating sustainability in your project, and how to promote your project/educate others

about your project. Lastly, we will talk about photo documentation and its' importance.

Workshop 4: July 30, 2025, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Description: During this workshop, we will complete the series by having each participant present about their proposal and receive feedback from educators and their peers on their project proposal.

Montgomery County 4-H Fair Challenges

New to the 4-H Indoor Building this year! Are you up to the Challenge?

The Montgomery County 4-H Team invites our 4-H members to develop new skills and knowledge through participation in any, all, or a combination of Indoor Challenges. Each Challenge category is unique. Youth who complete any of these challenges will receive an extra premium, and tailor made Challenge Rosette.

You do not need to do anything extra to participate. Make sure you enter your entries into ShoWorks with the Montgomery County Ag Fair by July 20. Our chairpersons, superintendents, and educators will work to determine who has completed the challenges. Same as last year, you are not required to pre-enter your flower specimens and veggies. More information to come in this year's Fair Book.

Challenge Requirements

ARTS & CRAFTS CHALLENGE

- 1 entry in Oil/Acrylic (Div. 1)
- 1 entry in miscellaneous (Div. 3)
- 1 entry in design (Div. 4)
- 1 entry in creative (Div. 5)
- 1 entry in handicrafts (Div. 6)

STEM CHALLENGE

- 1 entry in education/collections (Div. 7)
- 1 entry in aerospace/robotics (Div. 8)
- 1 entry in electricity/small engine (Div. 9)
- 1 entry in computer tech (Div. 11)

HORTICULTURE CHALLENGE

- 3 entries in Veggies (Div. 13)
- 3 entries in flower specimens (Div. 14)

MINI BAKER'S DOZEN CHALLENGE

- 1 entry in Cake (Div.16)
- 1 entry in Decorated Delights (Div. 16A)
- 1 entry in Cookies (Div.17)
- 1 entry in Pie (Div. 18)
- 1 entry in Quick Breads (Div. 19)
- 1 entry in Yeast Bread (Div. 20)

MEAL CHALLENGE

- 2 entries in Main Dish (Div. 21)
- 2 entries in Salad (Div. 22)

CANDY CHALLENGE

- 4 entries in Candies (Div. 23)

FOOD PRESERVATION CHALLENGE

- 5 entries in Food Preservation (Div. 26)

HOME LIFE CHALLENGE

- 1 entry in Clothing (Div. 27)
- 1 entry in Family Life (Div. 28)
- 1 entry in Table Settings (Div. 31)
- 1 entry in Room Accessory (Div. 32)

FLOWER CHALLENGE

- 3 entries in Arrangements (Div. 29)
 - 1 from classes 1-8
 - 1 from classes 9-14
 - 1 from classes 15-20
- 1 entry in houseplants (Div. 30)

PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

- 6 entries in Black and White Photography (Div. 33)
- OR
- 6 entries in Color Photography (Division 34)

CLOVER BY 4-H

Whether you are new to 4-H or you are a 3rd generation 4-H'er, you may not have heard of CLOVER by 4-H. This is different from a cloverbud or a clover program. Instead, CLOVER by 4-H is the National 4-H Council's catalog of interactive online classes! There are classes for ages 5-18 and on any topic you can imagine, from financial literacy, to agriculture, to cooking.

If your child is under 13 years old, a “parent account” is required to assist with monitoring your child’s online activities.

Club Leaders can also sign up for CLOVER by 4-H and can view all of the content to find potential club activities and even manage multiple learner accounts for their clubs.

In addition, the very best part is that CLOVER by 4-H is free!

Enhance your 4-H experience by trying CLOVER by 4-H. You may just find your new passion!

To learn more about CLOVER by 4-H, and to create your free account, visit:

<https://4-h.org/clover/about/>

Are you interested in Teaching a Workshop?

The Montgomery County (MoCo) 4-H is looking for volunteers and people to spread their knowledge and passion in anything from sewing, to baking, to cake decorating, to computer technology. Contact any of the MoCo 4-H Team if you are interested in teaching in a workshop and passing on your passions to our 4-H Youth!

2025 Maryland 4-H Visual Equine Art Contest

The 2025 Visual Equine Art Contest will be held by virtual submission beginning on July 1, 2025. Register through 4-H Online. The 4-H Online registration accepts JPEG, PNG, and PDF file types. Be mindful of image file size; larger files may need to be compressed before they are uploaded. For more information, please contact Kevin Huang at khuang14@umd.edu

Maryland 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Practice Sessions

Maryland 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Practice Sessions are available to interested youth to hone their dairy cattle judging skills, held at various volunteer farms throughout the state. Five practices have been scheduled. Unless otherwise stated, all practice sessions will begin at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions or suggestion for practices that could be listed, please contact Brian Schnebly at 443-766-3176 or bschnebl@umd.edu or Jeff Semler at jsemler@umd.edu.

Date	Location	Breed
Wednesday, Jul 2, 2025	Andrew & Jenna Lenhart Thurmont, MD	Brown Swiss/Holstein
Wednesday, Jul 9, 2025	Wayne and Allen Stiles Spring Valley Farm Westminster, MD	Jersey
Wednesday, Jul 23, 2025	David Patrick and Families Maple Dell Farm Woodbine, MD	Ayrshire/Holstein
Saturday, Jul 26, 2025 9:30 am	Carroll County Fair 9:30 am Westminster, MD Contact Kelly Zepp 443-340-0809	Most Breeds
Tuesday, Aug 5, 2025	John Schnebly and Family Crown Stone Farm Clear Spring, MD	Guernsey
Saturday, Aug 30, 2025 State Fair Contest- register by July 31, 2025	Maryland State Contest 8:30 am – 3:00 pm Maryland State Fair Evening awards ceremony	All Breeds

Locations:

Andrew and Jenna Lenhart – 11223 Old Frederick Road, Thurmont, MD
Spring Valley Farm –1600 Humbert School house Road, Westminster, MD
Maple Dell Farm – 1960 Daisy Road, Woodbine, MD
Crown Stone Farm – 14748 Fairview Road, Clear Spring, MD

Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance (AHQA)

Animal Husbandry and Quality Assurance (AHQA) is now open! Registration is due on July 15. You can access the AHQA through <https://ahqa.umd.edu/>

You will need to complete the program if:

- You are new to 4-H (any age) OR
- You are 11 as of January 1 (moving from junior to intermediate) OR
- You are 14 as of January 1 (moving from intermediate to senior) OR
- Are an intermediate or senior with a new project animal

The 2025 program must be completed using Firefox, Chrome, Edge, or Safari web browsers. Internet Explorer does not support the program. The narrated program contains two levels, a Junior-aged Level and an Intermediate/Senior-aged Level. The program automatically directs members to the correct level based on their birthdate. 4-H'ers are required to complete the on-line training program when they reach each 4-H age division, juniors (8-10), intermediates (11-13), seniors (14-18) – all as of January 1 of the current year). OR when an Intermediate or Senior 4-H member chooses to show a new species since last completing the program within their age division - they must return to the program and complete it for the new species area. The Junior program does not have species-specific sections as the Intermediate/Senior program does. Passcodes issued to members between 2015 and 2024, should still be viable for returning members.

All 4-H members enrolled in alpacas, beef, dairy, goats, horse and pony, llamas, poultry, sheep, swine, and rabbits are required to have completed the on-line training prior to August 10 to be eligible to exhibit their project animals in 2025 Maryland County 4-H and State 4-H Shows. Counties may set earlier deadlines to accommodate their local program.

If you do not see the red "forgot your password" or "register new user" at the top of the page, then you may have to zoom out from your browser.

Your Club Leaders have been provided a list of who has completed, and who needs to complete the training.

If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Savage at csavage9@umd.edu.

Maryland 4-H Drone Workshops

July 19 Queen Anne's Co. Fairgrounds, and/or July 26 Frederick Co. Fairgrounds. The Maryland 4-H Drone workshops are intended for 4-H youth, volunteers, and educators who want to learn about how to safely and successfully operate drones, more formally referred to as unmanned Aerial Systems (uAS's), and how drones are used professionally in research and industry.

Participants will have the chance to learn about how drones are made and used, safety and flight recommendations, relevant laws and regulations on drone flight, and specific drone applications. They will also get the chance to experience using key features of modern drones, how to fly in both Line-of-Sight and First-Person views, identifying permitted areas to fly drones using maps and airspace

classifications, and completing pre-flight and post-flight tests as are executed by actual drone pilots.

Information will also be shared about Maryland 4-H Drone Challenge at the Maryland State Fair (September 7th, 2025).

Sign up via 4-H Online: <https://4HDRONE.4honline.com>

Montgomery County Fair Livestock Exhibitors

Be sure to attend one of the three orientations to exhibit at Fairs. The orientations are held before the fair workdays on July 19, 26, and August 2. The orientations begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. A parent/guardian MUST accompany you.

Camp Tawasentha

Camp Tawasentha will be July 20-25, 2025. The camp is ACA certified, and all adult volunteers are certified through the University of Maryland's Extension program.

2026 Tentative date: July 12-17

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair Entry Deadline

We encourage all our 4-H members to participate and enter many exhibits at the 76th Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, August 8–16, 2025.

All 4-H Indoor Bldg. and animal registrations must be entered online by July 20.

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair Information

Fair Ticket Pricing

As a 4-H'er 12 and older, if you enter exhibits at the fair, you will get a free weekly pass!

As in the past, free and reduced-price entry tickets will be made available to 4-H members and their families. Purchasing can occur when you enter exhibits on line or weekdays at the Fair Office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. after July

15, or between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on one of the Volunteer Workdays on Saturday, July 19, 26, or August 2. After these dates, tickets are only available at the advertised price.

The following free tickets for Fair admission will be provided to 4-H'ers 12 and older who enter exhibits:

- 4-H indoor exhibitors and those with poultry, rabbits, pet show, and dog show will be provided with 1 season pass that includes free parking at Perry Pkwy.
- 4-H exhibitors with horses, beef, dairy, swine, goats, and sheep will be provided with 1 season pass including free parking at all entrances.
- 4-H exhibitors with horses, beef, dairy, swine, goats, and sheep, whose parents are not Associate or Life Members, will be provided with an additional season pass including free parking at all entrances.

The following tickets are available for purchase by 4-H member families until 12:30 p.m. on the final Volunteer Saturday Workday.

- Season Pass that includes Free Parking at Perry Pkwy. only - \$50.00
- Season Pass – special pass for non-exhibitor sibling of a 4-H member (age 12-18) Perry Pkwy only - \$18.00
- 1-Day ticket – 4-H Family, Free Parking at Perry Pkwy. only - \$10.00
- 1-Day ticket – 4-H Family, entrance only, no parking - \$5.00

FREE shuttle service to the Fairgrounds, check mcagfair.com for more information. Free Shuttle Buses will be available from August 8-16, starting at 10:00 a.m. everyday.

The last bus leaves for the Fairgrounds at **9:00 p.m. during the week.**
The last bus leaves for the Fairgrounds at **10:00 p.m. on weekends.**

Fair Volunteers Needed!

Please remember to sign-up to volunteer at the Fair. Every single 4-H volunteer is very important and very much appreciated!

Youth volunteers: This is a great opportunity to earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours towards graduation.

You also have the opportunity to become a Life Member of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fairgrounds and get a free Life Member pass to the fair (visit the fairgrounds website for information on this program:

<https://www.mcagfair.com/general-information/volunteer-information/>
and click on the Volunteer Information tab.

Each Fair workday you will need to find the unique QR code for clocking in and out that day only. These codes will be at the Gazebo, the Heritage building and each Department. You **MUST** clock in and out to get credit for your SSL hours. You are eligible to earn SSL hours the summer before you enter 6th grade.

- Only people who are 12 and up can receive hours towards a Life Membership.
- You must choose one. You cannot receive SSL hours and hours towards a Life Membership at the same time.

For General Questions or Volunteer Opportunities, please contact:
301-926-3100 ext. 205 or info@mcagfair.com

Do Not Forget to Sign in and out When You Get to the Fair!

If you intend to work towards a Fair Life Membership, you must sign in and sign out on the workdays at the Fair Office Gazebo, at the Heritage Building, or the book that is in your Department.

If you are volunteering during the fair, you need to sign in at that location.

If you leave the fairgrounds, do not forget to get your hand stamped for re-entry. Otherwise, you will have to pay to get back on the grounds.

Fair Workdays

Saturdays July 19, 26, and August 2.

You do not need to register for Fair Workdays in advance—just show up. Sign in on the computer at the Fair Office Gazebo off Chestnut Street, or at the Heritage Building.

Workdays begin at 8:00 a.m., department superintendents will determine when the workday ends, usually between Noon and 2:00 p.m. If you arrive and sign in by 9:00 a.m., you will receive one free lunch ticket. Do not forget to ask for your lunch ticket. Tickets will not be handed out after 9:00 a.m.

We need to clean and set up the 4-H Building and animal pavilions, set up tables and chairs, paint fences, and more. Remember, you must be 12 years or older to earn hours for your fair Life Membership or entering 6th grade or older to earn SSL hours.

Tram Spotters Needed

If you will be 18 years old or older at the time of the Fair (calendar age, not 4-H age), we need you as a spotter on the tram that ferries visitors around the Fair. You will assist those who need on and off the tram and hand out fair brochures to riders. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Leslie Swartzwelder at Leslie@mcaqfair.com, 301-926-3100 ext. 205.

Indoor Building Volunteer Sign-up for MoCo Agricultural Fair

The volunteer sign-up for the 4-H Indoor building at the MoCo County fair is online. There are many opportunities to practice "helping hands".

To volunteer for 4-H positions you will sign up using the SignUpGenius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44A8A622A4FFC70-56931298-2025#/>

4-H Youth and Adult Volunteer Opportunities

Everyone enjoys all the events at the Fair and it takes a community to make it successful. If you are new to 4-H or have never volunteered at the fair, here is your opportunity to meet other 4-H members and make the Best Better!

Remember, the 4-H Building belongs to all 4-H members and we must all take care of it. Even volunteering a few hours makes a big difference.

For volunteer positions other than 4-H, please contact the appropriate person/office appearing in this Newsletter.

Available 4-H volunteer positions are:

Agricultural Fair 4-H Adult & Youth Volunteer

Agricultural Fair 4-H Adult Information Desk Volunteer

Agricultural Fair 4-H Youth Information Desk Volunteer (14 - 18 yrs.)

If you have any questions, write "Fair Volunteer" on the subject line, and contact Catherine Savage at csavage9@umd.edu.

4-H Building Set-up (must be 12–18 years old. Adults are welcomed).

You can also help in the following ways:

Agricultural Fair 4-H Adult & Youth Volunteer, Thursday August 7, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Finish arranging non-perishable items, and help arrange and set up for the perishable entries on Saturday. 2-hour time slots.

Saturday, August 9, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Help arrange baked good items on the shelves. Parents must be present.

Senior 4-H Building Chairman of the Day-Available to 4-H'ers 14 and up. The Senior Chairman of the Day assists the 4-H Building Superintendent by:

Straightening out exhibits and exhibits' covers.

Disposing of dead flowers, and rotten vegetables.

Straightening 4-H information area.

Watering plants as needed.

Answer Fairgoers questions.

Needed one 4-H'er for each time slot:

Monday, August 11 through Saturday August 16, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You may sign up for full days or half days.

Project Show and Tell—This is a great opportunity for a club to show their projects! Individuals or groups working together can show and tell the projects they have worked on throughout the year—demonstrations are encouraged! Bring whatever supplies you need for your exhibit with you. Available times are:

- o Monday, August 11, and Tuesday August 12 between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- o Friday, August 15, between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Contact Sheila Ford at sheilaf@umd.edu if you need any special help or accommodations for your exhibit.

Adult Volunteer Opportunities

4-H Building Information Desk Volunteer-We need at least two 4-H parents or UME Certified Volunteers to work at the Information Desk in the 4-H Building. We need adult volunteers during every hour that the building is open to the public 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Responsibilities include interacting with visitors, directing them to informational literature, showing them where the different exhibit areas are, and answering general questions about 4-H and the fair. We ask that you please work two consecutive hours at a time.

Information Desk dates and times (available in 2-hour shifts):

Sunday August 10, Noon to 9:00 p.m.

Monday August 11 through Saturday August 16, 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Bake Sale Volunteers-We need 4-H parents, UME Certified Volunteers, and youth volunteers aged 12 and older for the bake sale. You can sign up to help at the bake table outside the 4-H Building for 4-hour intervals on Sunday August 10, from noon to 9:00 p.m. You can sign up for as many 4-hour time slots as you like.

Building Take Down-Sunday August 17, starting at 10:00 a.m. We encourage 4-H members and their families to volunteer and increase their participation especially during take down day. We need your help placing exhibits in alphabetical order, folding down tables and tablecloths, taking down signs and buntings, and storing all the 4-H Fair equipment in the trailer.

Do you want to be a member of the 4-H Honor Guard?

Be the leader of the 4-H Parade! We are looking for an adult leader/guide for the 4-H Honor Guard. The 4-H Honor Guard is also seeking eight youth to carry flags to lead the parade route. You need to be at least 13 years old and strong enough to carry a flag in a harness for the entire length of the parade route. Remember, it could be hot!

The parade is Sunday, August 10 at 5:00 p.m. We will have a short mandatory 30-minute training session on Monday, August 4 at 6:00 p.m. at the fair office at 16 Chestnut Street. You will receive a free 4-H T-shirt and fair hours for your service on the honor guard.

If you are interested, please register by July 3 by contacting Catherine Savage at csavage9@umd.edu.

VIP Day at the Fair

All 4-H'ers ages 12 and up can perform a very worthwhile community service and earn fair hours or SSL hours. The VIP Day Volunteer hosts escort children with disabilities or who are chronically ill around the fairgrounds on Monday, August 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Remember the 4-H Pledge '...My heart to greater loyalty, My hands to larger service...' Give some of your time to helping these children enjoy their day at the fair.

There will be a training session for all interested volunteers on Monday, August 4 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Heritage Building at the fairgrounds. PIZZA dinner will be provided.

If you have any questions, call Dennis and Besilica Castaneda at 301-379-1169 or e-mail at dennisandbesilica@gmail.com.

Volunteer at the Big Cheese Booth

The Montgomery County Agricultural Fair is just around the corner! This year the Fair will be August 8 through 16, 2025. Volunteers are needed during the Fair workdays and the Fair days for the Cheese Booth. This is a fun and easy way to earn Student Service Learning hours or Agricultural Center Membership hours.

Training sessions are scheduled so everyone becomes familiar with the responsibilities. The Cheese Booth also needs help before and after each training session to help prepare the booth for the Fair. To register for preferred work shifts, you MUST attend ONE of the below sessions. This requirement is for everyone, new volunteers and prior year volunteers.

July 19, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

July 26, 11:00 a.m. to noon

Aug 2, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Sessions will meet at the Cheese Booth. The above Saturdays are Fair workdays and the Cheese Booth will need help preparing the building for the Fair. Fair workday sign-in begins at 8:00 a.m. each Saturday. Volunteers who sign in before 9:00 a.m. will get a free lunch ticket. Your help is always welcome. Volunteering is more enjoyable with friends and family, so bring them along too!

Direct questions regarding the Cheese Booth to, Sue Sullivan, 301-325-4384 email at Suesonline@aol.com

Volunteer at the Information Booths

The Information booth is a great way for 4-H'ers, 12 years old and up, to volunteer and start working toward their fair memberships or SSL hours. IN ADDITION, we need parents and other adults to help supervise.

We have four booths throughout the fair grounds. Teams of two to three people work each booth for a minimum of four-hour shifts. Shifts are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., and 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Friends and families can work together and entire clubs can sign up together if they want. We would like 4-H'ers to be in the booths while adults help by monitoring each booth and by visiting the booths at intervals and dropping off any needed information materials. Good public speaking is great, but an enthusiasm for the fair is all that is needed. In order to volunteer, you must attend one of the orientation meetings. Clubs that want to sign up together may request to receive a training at one of their meetings.

The info booth orientations take place on the fair workdays (Saturdays) at the following times:

July 19, 11:00 a.m. to Noon

July 26, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

August 2, 11:00 a.m. to Noon

To register, and for more information contact Sue Sullivan at suesownline@aol.com

Animal Exhibitor Orientation Required To Show!

All 4-H animal exhibitors (this includes ALL animals, even the pet show) at this year's Montgomery County Agricultural Fair will be required to attend an exhibitor orientation meeting.

Topics will update you on new rule and procedural changes for animals, public health, 4-H rules, fair policies, and other helpful tips to make sure you have a positive fair experience. The session will be held at 8:30 a.m. sharp on all three workdays, July 19, 26, and August 2, in the Heritage Building at the fairgrounds. Doors will be closed promptly at 8:30 a.m. and no late entry will be allowed once the program begins.

A parent must be present to sign the attendance form. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Savage at csavage9@umd.edu or (301) 590-2813.

Pet Show Requirement

The Pet Show is a super fun casual dress contest. Pets entered should be friendly and have no history of aggression.

ALL PET SHOW EXHIBITORS: The 4-H'er and a parent or guardian must attend one of the quality assurance meetings held in the Heritage building at 8:30 a.m. sharp on one of the workdays, July 19, 26, or August 2.

Please check the fair catalog for all requirements of pets entered in the pet show. All required identification and testing requirements/certificates for all

species will be enforced the same as any other livestock event at the fair. This could be tattoos, RFD tags, etc.

Dogs and Cats **MUST** have a current rabies certificate at check in. Rabies tags will **NOT** be accepted as proof of current vaccine.

Please read the rules carefully for everything, including promotion. Pets shown in the pet show cannot be shown in any other fair event.

We want 4-H'ers to have the most positive, fun experience possible. Feel free to contact Lisa Righter, LocustSprings@aol.com, 301-538-0004 with any questions. Email is best.

Rabbit Exhibitors

As per Maryland Department of Agriculture, all rabbits must be tattooed in the left ear for positive identification. This is a rule that must be enforced as animals in the pet show are subject to inspection and held to the same standards as all other livestock.

The Montgomery County Rabbit Club has generously offered free tattoo(s) for any rabbit(s) entered in the pet show on the last workday, August 2 in the morning. Please look for the Fair Veterinarian if your rabbit needs a tattoo.

The Pet Show is about having lots of FUN! Please join us!

Share at the Fair

Exhibiting your projects is one requirement for completing 4-H projects, and the fair is a great place to do just that! If you are enrolled in Montgomery County 4-H, or a 4-H afterschool program you are eligible to enter your exhibits in the 4-H Building or in any of the 4-H outdoor activities. The 2025 Fair Catalogue is available online at the fair website.

Parade Floats

The 2025 4-H Parade Theme for the Montgomery County Agricultural fair is "Bee-lieve in yourself with 4-H".

The 4-H Parade theme complements this year's Agricultural Fair theme of "Make a Bee-line to the Fair".

For comprehensive parade rules, please check the printed and online catalog when available.

For more information, please contact Chuck Schuster, cfs@umd.edu, 410-596-2159.

Entering Your Work at The Fair

4-H Indoor and demonstration entry registrations must be entered online by July 20. Each exhibit must have a pre-printed tag firmly attached to it on entry night.

An exhibitor may enter only one exhibit per class.

Exhibitors are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their entries. If you have a problem or correction, you **MUST** contact the Fair Office in person or by phone at 301-926-3100. It is highly recommended that all exhibitors bring their On-Line Entry Receipt with them to entry night.

Monitor the Montgomery County Agricultural fair website for information on when you can start entering exhibits online.

When entering online, please make sure you are entering in the desired 4-H Division, **and write a description of the item entered**. Please print a receipt for your records.

If you are not able to enter your exhibits using the online system, paper entry forms are available in the back of the fair catalog. Please mail all paper entry forms, by July 20, 2025, to the Fair Office (NOT THE 4-H OFFICE): Montgomery Co. Agricultural Fair, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Once the fairground receives all 4-H entry registrations, they generate the display tags for each entry. Leaders will be notified when tags are ready to pick up.

Display tags must accompany each indoor entry at the fair. You must make an appointment to pick up your tags at the 4-H office. Alternatively, you can pick up your tags at the Fairground on entry day. If you wish to volunteer to help sort tags, contact Jeannine Shriver at jshriver@umd.edu.

Exception to the July 20 pre-entries deadline. ONLY for Divisions 13-Vegetables and Fruits, 14-Flowers, and 15 – Agricultural Products. Pre-entry will not be a requirement for Divisions 13, 14, and 15 but are encouraged, before 20 July. This includes all vegetables, fruits, flower specimens, and agricultural products. We understand that the weather and other environmental factors play a vital role in these entries and their success. Because these factors make it difficult to know what your entries might be a month ahead of time, we encourage you to enter as many classes in these Divisions online. However, we will accept on-site entries in Divisions 13, 14, and 15 only.

Blank entry tags will be provided at check-in for divisions 13, 14, and 15. These items will be received on Saturday, August 10, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. as usual. Remember to arrive early to give our youth enough time to fill out their tags.

Poster boards will be placed with a “how-to” fill out your tag information. In addition, volunteers will be stationed at the check-in table to help our youth fill their tags.

How to bring your indoor entries to the 4-H Building at the Fair

Monday, August 4 – only day to enter club booths and banners, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Club books are optional on Monday.

Wednesday, August 6, 4-H non-perishable entry drop-off, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. DOORS WILL BE CLOSED AT 7:30 PM. NO LATE DROP-OFFS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Saturday, August 9, 4-H Perishable entry drop-off, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. NO LATE DROP-OFFS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 6:00 P.M.

Pick up day—Sunday, August 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All exhibits unclaimed by Sunday, August 17 at 2:00 p.m. will become the property of the fair. EXHIBITS WILL NOT BE TAKEN BACK TO THE 4-H OFFICE.

In addition, the Fair or the 4-H Office will NOT be responsible for any damage to an exhibit while at the fair.

Booths and Banners State Guidelines

Please remember, the State Fair guidelines for entering booths and banners are different from the Montgomery County Fair.

Banners: ALL clubs may enter their banners in the State Fair. However, Clubs must enter them themselves using the online State Fair entry system.

Booths: ONLY County Fair champion “State Fair Themed Booths” can be entered at the State Fair.

If you wish to enter your banner or booth, make sure it complies with the State Fair Catalog rules.

You are responsible for getting your booth or banner to and from the State Fair.

The 2025 State Fair Booth/Banner Theme can be found under “Department T - 4-H/FAA Promotion”.

Banner dimensions: 50” wide X 38” tall. The opening for the pole should to be a minimum of 3”, and is included in the overall size of 38” long. Do not bring your own pole. You MUST use these dimensions or you will be disqualified.

4-H Cake Auction Sunday, August 10

You are cordially invited, along with all of your friends and family, to join in the annual 4-H Cake Auction. The Cake Auction will take place in the Cattle Pavilion on Sunday, August 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Cakes that won blue ribbons at the fair will be auctioned off to the highest bidder—this is the main fundraiser for the Montgomery County 4-H Program. All money raised from the auction goes to Montgomery County 4-H to provide programs and opportunities for our 4-H youth and volunteers. Some of the things the funds are used for include resource materials, ribbons and awards, registration fees, and scholarships.

We need your support for the cake auction. Even if your child's cake is not in the auction, please join with friends and family to form a group to bid on a cake. If you know a business that would be interested in participating in this charity event, please encourage them to attend the auction on Sunday.

If you know someone, or a group of people, who want to bid on a cake and need fair passes, please contact Jeannine Shriver at jshriver@umd.edu. We have a limited number of passes to use for this purpose.

Get In Line for the Parade

Help to get the 2025 Fair off to a great start by participating in the 4-H Parade on Sunday, August 10 at 5:00 p.m. Clubs may enter walking units or floats. If a club wishes to enter a float, the club must arrange for the wagon/trailer itself. The fair will provide a tractor and driver to pull the float.

The theme of this year's 4-H Parade is "Bee-lieve in yourself with 4-H".

Promote Your Club at the 4-H Club Showcase

Are you looking to promote your club? Do you want to share all the exciting activities your club members do at the fair, and all year long? Do you just think your club is the very best and want to show it off? Then come out and join us for the 4-H Club Showcase! Clubs will be setting up their tables along Maple Avenue on Saturday, August 16 from Noon to 4:00 p.m. If your club is interested, club leaders should register no later than July 28. To register, please contact the Extension Office at 301-590-2823

Table space is limited and given on a first come, first served basis.

Ag Education Display Contest

The Ag Education Display Contest (Department 86) is designed to educate or promote agriculture. Each club can create a display. Displays will be shown either in your barn, or in the area designated by the Ag Education Committee.

Displays from previous years may be brought up to the Fair but will not be judged for premiums.

Please contact the Fair Office at 301-926-3100 ext. 205 if you need space.

Inventors Club Science Demonstration

The Inventors Club is looking forward to showing several of the projects they have designed and built at the Montgomery County Fair. Stop by and see them Wednesday August 13 from Noon to 4:00 p.m. There will be hands on projects. The club will be demonstrating its most complicated Rube Goldberg machine yet. This year they have a catapult and zip line! They build a new one each year. Come, try your hand at the Giant Robot Operation Game and pick your color for the HarmonoGraph, you can take the paper graph design with you. The Inventors have also built a 9-foot Giant LED display built on a Raspberry Pi and Tinsy 4.0, and will be on display showing messages in the Rabbit Barn.

Project G Street

August 9, 2025

1-Day Fashion Design Competition
Sponsored by G Street Fabrics

Calling all fashionistas... come one, come all, to embrace your inner designer at this year's Project G Street at the MoCo fair! No fashion school needed. All skill levels, all ages are invited to show what you can do!

Chairpersons Kit Noonan at kmndakota@gmail.com, Maureen Levy at mlafl@comcast.net

Project G Street Details & Information

1. All teams win gift cards to G Street Fabrics!

1st place = \$300

3rd place = \$100

5th place = \$50

2nd place = \$200

4th place = \$75

6th-8th places = \$25

Win or lose, you will take away amazing memories and fantastic social media content!

2. Teams must register by email to kmndakota@gmail.com by Tuesday, July 29. The first 8 teams to register will participate.

3. Teams are comprised of 2 or 3 team members, your choice.
4. The chairpersons will host a video meeting using Google Meet to announce this year's theme and answer questions at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, August 1. Contestants will be sent a link to join. At least one member of each team **must** attend the meeting.
5. Teams will select their materials at G Street Fabrics during store hours August 2 to the 8th. You will receive 10 yards of fabric plus a \$25 G Street Fabrics gift card to purchase notions. **NO OTHER FABRIC CAN BE USED.** The \$25 gift card can be used for any items you need for your outfit (thread, closures, etc.) You may make or use your own patterns. You do not need to purchase patterns with the gift card.
6. Your model must be an adult woman. A team member may model, or you may choose someone else to be your model. Models bring their own shoes. Any other elements such as purses, hats or scarves must be created using your team's materials.
7. Contestants provide the tools and machines to create their outfits. You may choose to bring sewing machines, serger, dress form, irons, mirror, steamer, etc. Items can be dropped off at Heritage Hall starting at 8:00 a.m. Directions and parking will be discussed at the video meeting.
8. Teams create their ensembles in the Heritage Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Outfits will be judged on the following: interpretation of the theme; design (selection of style, color & material combinations); creativity (use of fabric, trim, closures); fit; construction; styling(accessories, hairstyle, the way you put together the whole look). The judges' decision is final.
9. The runway and judging will be at 6:00 p.m. Invite all your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to come cheer you on!
10. All outfits will be on display in the Home Arts building during fair week. See entry form at the end of the Newsletter.

Maryland State Fair Entry Deadlines

The Maryland State Fair entry deadline for 4-H Indoor Exhibits and 4-H Livestock registrations is July 15 using the Blue Ribbon Fair Online system.

CLUB & MEMBER CORNER

Jason L's Diamond Level 6 Project: Heart Pillows

Jason L. received a Thank You letter from the President of the Chinese American Parents Association-Northern Virginia (CAPA-NoVA), Mr. Yuyan Zhou, for his Diamond Clover Heart Pillow Project. CAPA-NoVA is very grateful for Jason's donation of 99 handmade heart pillows. The letter states that Jason's heart pillows "are symbols of kindness and compassion, and his generosity touched the hearts of many in their community."

In his letter, Mr. Zhou, wrote that the "lovely pillows brought smiles and comfort to their volunteers at the Green Bamboo School, the seniors who visited the Loving Heart Hair Salon, and those elderly residents of the Carrington community." Mr. Shu went to say that it is very touching to see someone so young as Jason, taking such meaningful initiative, and his leadership, creativity, and dedication to serving others is truly inspiring. The letter concluded acknowledging "Jason has shown what it means to lead with heart."



Hannah W's Diamond Clover Level 6 Project Jumping Toward Awareness: Building Knowledge on Rescue Horses

Hannah W's Diamond Clover level 6 project, "Jumping Towards Awareness: Building Knowledge on Rescue Horses", is ending. By blending service, leadership, and her passion for horses, Hannah created a project that not only helped a horse rescue but also got her club more involved in the community.

The project consisted of building a set of four colorful miniature horse jumps for Days End Farm Horse Rescue to use in public outreach and their summer camps, each jump featuring artwork submitted through an art contest Hannah organized. You can see the winners on the June Newsletter.

In addition to constructing and painting the jumps, Hannah hosted a volunteer service day at the rescue, where members of her 4-H club volunteered and helped with barn chores and learned more about equine rehabilitation.

Hannah gained many life skills from this project ranging from fundraising and learning how to manage money, to leadership, time management, and organization. Hannah hopes her project will continue to inspire awareness and action for rescue horses long after the final jump is placed. In addition, just to keep things interesting, Hannah is entering one of the jumps into the fair—because who would not want to see a horse jump compete for a blue ribbon?



Damascus Community Club

By Chace B.

The Damascus Community 4-H Club's June meeting was held at Butler's Orchard. The club met there and picked strawberries. The weather was perfect for the occasion and the strawberries were extremely sweet.



After strawberry picking, the club members went to the park and played until it was time to leave. Everyone went home with tasty strawberries.

MCAF “In the Paint” - Part 1

by K.L. P-F

Did you know about a huge new mural going up at our favorite MCAC Fairgrounds? When you come to Fair Workdays and the 9 Best Days of Summer, you too will cheer In The Paint Murals owner-artists James Favata and Eric Goulette for their vibrant work spanning the entire length of the Home Arts Building. ***Make a Beeline to the Fair (grounds)*** to check out this work in progress!

We found James and Eric painting after the Horsin' Around Club meeting in June. As you can see in the picture, they sometimes use projected photos to capture details that bring the images to life. It was fun to tell these artists in person how impressed people have been through winter and spring to see such a complicated mural taking shape.

From their website: ***“At In The Paint Murals, we're passionate about transforming your strategic priorities into stunning works of art. Or we can just make something super cool that will help you blow up on social media. As a Maryland-based mural company, our commitment to excellence and client-focused approach sets us apart. We thrive on collaborating with you to bring your space to life, one wall at a time.”***

Eric and James have been working, a few hours at a time, over many months to complete our new Fair mural. Their portfolio of work around the region ranges

from district neighborhood multi-story exterior portraiture-styled work in Hagerstown, to expansive Virginia indoor retail spaces, to motivational interior gym murals incorporating famous DaVinci elements, to club-sized room anchor pieces. Visit inthepaintmurals.com to see their work.

Thanks, Eric and James, for ***Bee-Lieving in Yourselves*** and Making the Best Better at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fairgrounds!



Sunny STEM 4-H Club

By Caitlyn Y.

On March 11, 2025, the Sunny STEM 4-H Club had an exciting and fun March meeting at Sportrock Climbing Centers in Gaithersburg.

The Club invited members from the Potomac 4-H Club and a local high school to join them for an event full of climbing, cheering each other on, and building confidence.

Everyone started by putting on their gear and listening to safety instructions before heading to the climbing walls. Whether it was someone's first time, or they had climbed before, all members got the chance to try their best, support their friends, and celebrate each other's efforts.

After the climbing, the participants took group photos and enjoyed snacks and pizza together. It was not only a great way to be active, but also a fun time to make new friends, work as a team, and create awesome memories in the community.

Club Explores Nuclear Engineering Aboard the N.S. Savannah for National Maritime Day

By Caitlyn Y.

On May 18, 2025, members and families of the Sunny STEM 4-H Club gathered in Baltimore to celebrate National Maritime Day with an unforgettable educational field trip. As part of the club's May meeting and family activity, participants had the rare opportunity to tour the N.S. Savannah, the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship.

This hands-on experience sparked excitement and curiosity among the youth members, many of whom were exploring nuclear engineering concepts for the first time. During the tour, club members learned how nuclear power is used to operate a ship, including how energy is produced when the temperature of water changes through controlled nuclear reactions. Guides explained how engineers carefully regulate nuclear power to remain at safe operating levels, emphasizing the importance of safety protocols and design in nuclear-powered systems. The visit gave club members a unique chance to connect STEM learning with real-world maritime innovation. They asked insightful questions, explored the

ship's control and reactor rooms, and discovered the impact of nuclear technology on clean energy and transportation.

Beyond the educational aspects, the trip also offered time for family bonding and fun. Members left the event with newfound knowledge of nuclear energy, maritime history, and engineering design — along with great memories from a day filled with learning and discovery.

Sunny STEM 4H Club Supports Future Engineers at DC High School Capstone Symposium

By Caitlyn Y.

On May 22, 2025, one member and one volunteer of the Sunny STEM 4H Club proudly supported the talented seniors of a Washington, D.C. STEM high school during their Senior Capstone Symposium. This culminating event marked the final presentation of the students' yearlong Honors Engineering Design and Development Projects.

During the symposium, student teams presented their full engineering journeys, including their design processes, testing results, and final solutions. Volunteers from the Sunny STEM 4-H Club served as external evaluators for the event—listening to presentations, scoring each team, asking insightful questions, and offering positive and constructive feedback.

It was a meaningful experience for Sunny STEM participants, who were honored to help celebrate and encourage these aspiring future engineers as they reached this major milestone in their academic and professional development.

4-H Calendar

Due dates and Events

July

- 15 Maryland State Fair Entry deadline
- 18 Volunteer Survey due date
- 19 4-H Building Workday
- 20 MoCo Agricultural Fair - Entry deadline
- 24 MoCo 4-H fair Chairpersons meeting
- 26 4-H Building Workday

- 31 4-H Orientation - Zoom
- 31 Maryland State Fair - General Entry deadline

August

- 2 4-H Building Workdays
- 4 Mandatory Entries - Club Booths and Banners. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Optional: Club Books
- 6 4-H Indoor Non-Perishable entries, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Doors close promptly at 7:30 p.m.
- 9 4-H Perishable Entries, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- 8-16 MoCo Ag. Fair
- 10 MoCo 4-H Cake Auction
- 17 4-H Indoor entries released, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

September

- 5 Maryland 4-H?FAA Dairy Goat Judging Contest, State Fair
- 18 National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest - All American Dairy Show, Harrisburg, PA

Project G Street Entry Form

Project G Street Entry Form

Email entry forms to kmndakota@gmail.com
(please put **Project G Street** in subject line)

See complete rules for details.

Team name: _____

1st contestant's name: _____

Cell phone number:

Email:

2nd contestant's
name: _____

Cell phone number:

Email:

3rd contestant's

name: _____

Cell phone number:

Email:

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Question: Do you know what it is, and where was the picture taken?

Answer: This is the roof of the Elevator Silo at the 4-H Bldg. in Derwood, MD.

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