

4-H Partyline



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In November, Garrett County 4-H presented the Turkey Zipline Challenge to libraries and after school programs reaching over 80 youth. Each participant constructed a turkey carrier using up to 15 Lego pieces, including a top and bottom base and a pulley system. The goal was to ensure a toy turkey could successfully travel down a 15 foot zipline and into the barn without falling out. The challenge allowed youth to use the Engineering Design Process to explore different carriers for the turkey's journey.

Weather Policy for 4-H Activities



If there is no school or early dismissal from school in Garrett County due to inclement weather, all county sponsored 4-H events that day/evening will be canceled. Contact your club leader to determine if club activities are canceled.

Calendar of Events

December, 2025

- 16 Animal Science Updates for Volunteers via Zoom @ 7:00 pm
- 25 Extension Office Closed/Christmas Holiday

January, 2026

- 1 Extension Office Closed/New Year's Holiday
- 14 4-H Online Enrollment Opens
- 15 Due: President's Service Learning, National Leadership Trip Application
- 19 Extension Office Closed/Martin Luther King Day
- 23 Public Speaking Contest-Garrett College @ 6:00 pm
- 31 Due: Record Books, Livestock Contracts & 4-H Online Enrollment for market animal projects

February, 2026

- 15 Maryland 4-H State Achievement Program/Maryland State Fairgrounds-Details coming soon
- 16 Extension Office Closed/Presidents' Day

TSC Paper Clover Campaign to Begin November 29th



To embrace the holiday spirit, the Paper Clover campaign will move from October to November and December this year, officially launching on Black Friday! **Running from November 28th to December 14th**, we are thrilled that TSC is hosting this event during the season of giving. We can't wait to see how much **we raise for 4-H Camp and Leadership Scholarships!**

Beef Tagging



Thank you to everyone for making another beef weigh-in and tagging run smoothly. On November 1st, volunteers tagged and vaccinated a total of 114 steers for Garrett County 4-H members for the 2026 Garrett County Fair and Maryland State Fair. This important event not only marks a crucial step in the preparation for the 2026 Garrett County Fair and Maryland State Fair but also plays a vital role in ensuring the health and readiness of the animals. We appreciate everyone's effort and look forward to seeing the positive outcomes at the fairs.

Animal Science Project Updates Webinar for Volunteers

Tuesday, December 16th, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm online via Zoom

This session will provide an overview of Animal Science Program policy and event changes/updates for 2026. This session is for Maryland 4-H Volunteers and Fair Volunteers working with 4-H members in the Animal Science program areas. Registration link for the event: <https://forms.gle/gbnpfy8Coour2eUPA>.

International Programs

Outbound Opportunities: This year Maryland 4-Hers have the opportunity to explore the world and become culturally aware in 6 different outbound locations, Japan (4 & 8-week programs), Norway (4-week), Taiwan (4-week), Costa Rica (4-week), South Korea (4-week) and Argentina (4-week). Each outbound opportunity provides a unique cultural immersion experience. Delegates will experience aspects of daily life that allow them to more deeply understand both their host culture and their own! Applications are due no later than Nov. 30th. Program fees include lodging, meals, transportation, camps and cultural excursions throughout the program. Scholarships are available through States' 4-H upon application approval.

Inbound Opportunities: Do you know any families wanting to experience the world all in the comfort of their own home? We are seeking families to open their homes and hearts to a Japanese delegate between 12-17 years old and show them the American Culture. We need 14 families to host a Japanese Delegate this summer from mid-July through mid-August. The program is open to any family with a child 9-18 years old. No special trips or accommodations are required; simply let a delegate change you and your children's cultural awareness for the better! For more information on both Inbound and Outbound Opportunities, please contact Joseph Cho, Ph.D. at jcho8@umd.edu.

National Leadership Trips

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026 National Leadership Trips

The Senior Portfolio Process is open for youth ages 14-18 (as of January 1st the year the trip takes place) interested in attending any of the four National Leadership Trips in 2026. Portfolio information and instructions are available on the state website at:

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/youth-and-adult-leadership>

To be considered for a Leadership Trip, a 4-H member must complete a portfolio package which includes an application, 4-H resume, essay and interview. Registration deadline is January 15th. For more information, please contact the extension office.



New Updates For 2026

The GCLA Livestock Sale will begin at 10:00 AM in 2026; on Saturday August 1st, 2026. All animals must remain on the fair grounds until 11:00pm Saturday night, following fair and carnival closure.

Exhibitors planning to bring meat rabbits (pen of three) or broiler chickens (pen of two) to the fair will be required to complete a livestock card by June 1 to the UME 4-H Office to be eligible for the livestock sale at the fair.

Livestock Exhibition/Sale Eligibility: To be eligible to exhibit and/or sell a species of animal (the "Animal") at the Garrett County Agricultural Fair, the person seeking to exhibit and/or sell (the "Exhibitor") must meet the following criteria:

- The Exhibitor and the Animal must reside in Garrett County or within ten air miles of the Garrett County border.
- If the Exhibitor and/or the Animal do not reside in Garrett County or within ten air miles of the Garrett County border, the Exhibitor may apply to the Garrett County Fair Board Livestock Advisory Committee for a special exemption to the rule above.

2026 4-H ENROLLMENT

Dates for 4-H Enrollment

Families may enroll with Maryland 4-H Online beginning **January 14, 2026**. Watch for an email announcement for the opening of enrollment along with details. Enrollment will be due by **January 31, 2026** for any 4-H member signing up for a market animal project. As a reminder, projects and volunteer type & roles will not roll over into next year. You will need to select your projects and volunteer information again.



Internet Connection

To enroll in Maryland 4-H Online, you need internet access and a valid email address. The enrollment must be completed using Firefox, Chrome, or Safari web browsers. 4-H Online enrollment is not supported by Internet Explorer.

Go to <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

The **Maryland 4-H Behavioral Expectations, MD 4-H Disciplinary Policy & Procedures** and **Photo/Media Release** are part of the online enrollment process and will be signed electronically.

Enrollment Fee

Maryland 4-H has an annual \$10.00 enrollment fee per 4-H member (No fee is collected for volunteers and any children in a family beyond three). Families will pay the enrollment fee online by credit card at the time they enroll. After payment has been received, each family will receive two emails; first notification that enrollment has been received and second notification that the enrollment has been approved at the county 4-H office.

Upcoming Deadlines



Completing 2025 Enrollment Year



Record Books – Youth who **tagged** a project animal at the Garrett County Fair in 2025 must turn in their record book by **January 31, 2026** to be eligible to sell again at the 2026 fair. Please check with your club leader about turning in record books. Leaders may collect the record books or ask that you drop them off at the 4-H office. Our staff will be available to meet leaders or families to assist everyone in meeting the due date. Forms and directions are available at: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/garrett-county/4-h-youth-development/garrett-county-4-h-forms>

President's 4-H Volunteer Service Award ➡ Commissioner's 4-H Volunteer Service Award



For many years, 4-H members have submitted a record of their volunteer hours annually for recognition under the President's 4-H Volunteer Service Award. On a national scale, the program is currently on hold, with no certificates being issued. However, we understand it is still tremendously important for our 4-H members' volunteer work to be recognized! Therefore, the award will be transitioned to a *Commissioner's 4-H Volunteer Service Award*. The Garrett County Commissioners are very excited to help continue this opportunity and recognize the significant contributions our 4-H members make to the community. We will keep the same application, standards, and requirements for age groups for Bronze, Silver, and Gold. We are grateful to the Garrett County Commissioners for assisting with this program and look forward to seeing all your volunteer work! Hours must be completed during the 2025 calendar year.

The form for recording hours is available at:

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/garrett-county/4-h-youth-development/garrett-county-4-h-forms> and should be submitted to our office by **January 15, 2026**.

Livestock Contracts



Livestock Contracts need to be filled out by any 4-Hers who may consider taking a market animal project. This is a paper form (**orange**) and is not part of the online enrollment. Be sure to complete this form if there is any chance you may bring a market animal to the fair. The contracts are available from the club leaders or contacting the 4-H office. They are due to the Garrett 4-H Office by **January 31, 2026**.



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