



## Montgomery County 4-H

December 3, 2025



If you need special accommodation for a 4-H program, event, or activity at the 4-H Extension Office in Derwood, MD, please call 301-226-7956 or e-mail [cbmontgo@umd.edu](mailto:cbmontgo@umd.edu).

If you need to reserve a room or need a special accommodation for a 4-H program at the MoCo Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg, MD, please contact Kayla Sickles, the Event and Sponsorship Coordinator, at [Ksickles@mcagfair.com](mailto:Ksickles@mcagfair.com), or 301-926-3100, ext. 201.

The next issue of The Montgomery County 4-H News & Notes will be published the first week of January 2026. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, [ahamann@umd.edu](mailto:ahamann@umd.edu) by December 22, 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.

## Paper Clover Time

It is paper clover time! Donate at your local Tractor Supply Co. between November 28 to December 14 to support 4-H youth in your county receive scholarship for 4-H camp and leadership activities!



## 4-H Orientation

MoCo 4-H is hosting a virtual 4-H Orientation over Zoom on Saturday, December 6, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Discussion will include 4-H in general, how 4-H is structured, and what opportunities exist within 4-H at the local, state, and national levels.

This orientation is geared towards current 4-H members and volunteers. New 4-H families are encouraged to attend. However, this orientation can be for an enrolled volunteer, 4-H'er or clover family that would like to learn more!

This orientation will be repeated three times a year for any new members/volunteers or for members/volunteers who were not able to attend previous sessions.

This orientation has information repeated from July 31, 2025.

Please register here: <https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/K7TfJVuKTQq3WH5zz91jLg>

You will be automatically emailed with a registration link.

## **Maryland 4-H Dog Quiz Bowl Reminder**

The Maryland 4-H Dog Quiz Bowl provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate their dog knowledge in a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. Youth do not need to be enrolled in a Dog/Small Pets project to compete!

- Date: Sunday, December 7, 2025
- Check-in: 12:00pm (noon)
- Location: Animal Science Building, University of Maryland College Park Campus

## **Electronic Record Book Training on Zoom**

On Wednesday December 17 from 7:00-8:00 p.m., we will be hosting an Electronic Record Book Training on Zoom. During this virtual session, we will be walking through the basics of the virtual record book on ZSuite Soft and answering questions that you may have.

Please sign up on <https://4h.zsuite.org/> and create your household account before the virtual session. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please email [cbmontgo@umd.edu](mailto:cbmontgo@umd.edu) by December 5, 2025.

Please register here to receive the Zoom link:

<https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/0ymiw6xlQaKaq9l6Jo3PXA>

## **Montgomery Country Agricultural Center Board of Directors**

The Montgomery County Agricultural Center 2026 Board of Directors nominations are due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday December 12, 2025. You can find the nomination form at <https://mcagfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/BoardOfDirectorsNominationForm-PolicyApproved092524.pdf>

## **4-H Virtual Global Food Champion Club: Tackling Today's Largest Issues in Food Security**

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the needs of this world and wondered what you can do to learn more and help be a part of the solution?

Then you are invited to join the “4-H Global Food Champions Club” to explore issues related to global food security (gender, nutrition, agriculture, etc.), learn practical steps you can take to help, and get involved with a community of others who care.

This virtual club is for 4-H youths in Maryland grades 9-12 and will meet via Zoom on Dec 15 from 6:30–7:30 p.m. with an optional in-person retreat on Dec 22.

This club is not only a chance to connect with other teens passionate about solving real-world problems, but it is also a chance to strengthen your resume, earn cash prizes, gain access to exclusive internships around the world. As this club wraps up, 4-H Educators will even help you write a "global challenge paper" - a paper that focuses on one of the issues that matters most to you and outlines some of your ideas/solutions to solving that issue around the world. Once complete, the paper will serve as your FREE entry ticket to the Maryland Youth Institute on May 1, 2026. More information at [https://www.worldfoodprize.org/en/youth\\_programs/world\\_food\\_prize\\_youth\\_institutes/maryland/](https://www.worldfoodprize.org/en/youth_programs/world_food_prize_youth_institutes/maryland/)

The “Maryland Youth Institute”, held every spring at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's main campus, is an all-day FREE event where teens present their global challenge research papers, meet with food security experts, and participate in a hunger-related service project together. Outstanding participants may earn cash prizes, recognition as Borlaug Scholars, and opportunities to attend the Global Youth Institute.

During both the virtual club meetings and the in-person institute event, you'll gain skills in research, presentation, and critical thinking, while learning how to make a real impact on food security. We hope you will join the club!

If you have any questions, please contact Frederick County 4-H Educator Ms. Anna Glenn ([amglenn@umd.edu](mailto:amglenn@umd.edu)).

## **Maryland 4-H Animal Science Project Updates Webinar**

We will be offering an Animal Science Project Updates Webinar for Volunteers on Tuesday, December 16, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. via Zoom. This session will provide an overview of Animal Science Program policy and event changes/updates for 2026.

This session will be of interest to 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>.

## **Farm Credit Foundation for Agricultural Advancement 2025-2026 Scholarship Program**

The Farm Credit Foundation for Agricultural Advancement will be awarding at least \$350,000 to mid-Atlantic area students planning to pursue a career in agriculture. Scholarships will be valued up to \$10,000 each.

The Farm Credit Foundation For Agricultural Advancement 2026 Scholarship Program is offered by the Farm Credit Foundation for Agricultural Advancement. The scholarship is open to applicants who are high school seniors or students currently enrolled in a two- or four-year educational program at an accredited college, university, or technical school. The applicant must be planning to pursue a career in agriculture.

Applications close on Friday, January 2, 2026. For more information visit [https://fcfoundationforag.smapply.io/prog/student\\_scholarship/](https://fcfoundationforag.smapply.io/prog/student_scholarship/)

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## Steer Weigh-In and Tagging

January 3, 2026, at 7:00 a.m. at the Montgomery County fairgrounds. Those who wish to show a steer MUST attend and complete the livestock registration form beforehand. Registration form due to Catherine Savage, 301-226-7957, csavage9@umd.edu, by December 26, 2025.

[chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcaipcgicfindmkaj/https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-04/MD 4-H Livestock Registration Form 2021.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcaipcgicfindmkaj/https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-04/MD_4-H_Livestock_Registration_Form_2021.pdf)

## Livestock Skillathon

It is that time of the year to start Livestock Skillathon practices and workshops. Attached you will find a tentative schedule for those who may be interested in either participating in the livestock skillathon or just learning more about beef, sheep, swine, and goats.

Please join us on Thursdays from January 8 through February 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County 4-H Office. Livestock Skillathon is a great opportunity to learn about breeds, nutrition, equipment, and more! While contest participation is not required, those who will be participating in the contest will need to mark their calendars for Saturday, March 7 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds!

If any volunteers and parents are interested in assisting in coaching skillathon, please reach out to Catherine Savage. If you have any questions, contact Catherine Savage at [Csave9@umd.edu](mailto:Csave9@umd.edu) and Meredith Null at [meredith.myers22@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.myers22@gmail.com).

## **MC Agricultural Center 2026 Scholarship Applications**

The Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc. (MCAC) offers post-secondary scholarships to individuals who are planning to further their education in agriculture, family and consumer sciences or related fields of study. Applicants must provide documentation on volunteer service on the Fairgrounds to be eligible for these scholarships.

The scholarship winner will be notified in March and presented at the annual meeting in May.

Applications must be submitted online by January 10, 2026, by 11:59 p.m.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GkaYJzs\\_RbNC1WEwpxEWggogGpQLq5m/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GkaYJzs_RbNC1WEwpxEWggogGpQLq5m/view)

If you have any questions, please contact the Fair Office at 301-926-3100 x205

## **2026 Senior 4-H National Leadership Trip**

National Leadership Trip Applications are now open on 4-H Online for senior 4-Hers (4-H age 14-18). Applications are due on January 21. Applications cannot be submitted while 4-H Online is down from December 6 to January 13.

Leadership Trips available for 2026 include:

- National 4-H Congress, <https://national4-hcongress.com/>

- Camp Miniwanca, <https://ayf.com/programs/national-leadership-conference/>
- Virginia 4-H Congress, <https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/state-congress.html>
- West Virginia 4-H Older Members' Conference, <https://extension.wvu.edu/youth-family/4h/camps/older-members-conference>

Remember that you cannot receive more than one National Leadership Trip every year, and you cannot receive more than three National Leadership Trips over the course of your 4-H career. Senior 4-H'ers applying are required to submit a senior portfolio which contains a 4-H resume and 4-H essay.

The essay question for 2026 is:

‘When faced with the potential of limited funding, how would you advocate to your community the value of funding the 4-H youth development program?’

Please submit senior portfolios to Chandini Montgomery for review and feedback no later than Monday, January 12, 2026.

## 4-H Online Opening

4-H Online is scheduled to reopen on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

All members and volunteers will need to re-enroll in the new year by logging into 4-H Online. When 4-H Online reopens, members must log into 4-H Online to re-enroll in 4-H for the new calendar year. Members must pay \$10/child annual enrollment fee (up to \$30 per household) to continue to participate in 4-H. Scholarships are available.

## 2026 Alpaca A-Z Health Seminar

4-H members are invited to attend the 2026 Alpaca A-Z Health Seminar on January 16 & 17, 2026 in Annapolis, MD.

The Alpaca A-Z Health Seminar is hosted by Maryland Alpaca Breeder's Association. The seminar will feature Patrick Long, DVM, a world-renowned and well-respected practicing veterinarian in Corvallis, Oregon.



## Due to the MOCO 4-H Office by January 20, 2026

Due to the MoCo 4-H Office by January 20, 2026:

- Record Books
- Completed Diamond Clover Reports for levels 1 – 4
- Youth Achievement Awards Nomination Form
- Volunteer Achievement Awards Nomination Form

Please mail your materials or deliver documents to the Montgomery County 4-H Office, Attn: Sheila Ford, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855 or email to [sheilaf@umd.edu](mailto:sheilaf@umd.edu).

Resume Format

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/anne-arundel-county/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms>

Sample of the Diamond Clover Reports

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

## Electronic 4-H Record Books

If you plan to do a Record Book for this year, you will have the opportunity to submit an electronic record.

What is a 4-H Record Book? A 4-H Record Book is a standard record of your activities in 4-H - your projects, activities, events, skills development and learning experiences. The 4-H Record Book helps improve your skills in record keeping and goal management.

The electronic record uses the ZSoft Suite. You will be able to make, edit, and share electronic record books.

To start using the electronic records tool, you will need to create a household, and add yourself as a member of that household, like 4-H Online.

The website is <https://4h.zsuite.org/>

When you go to the website, please click on "Sign Up" on the right-hand side of the screen. From there, please follow the steps outlined in this help document section that goes over how to create a household and add members to that household:

<https://zsuite.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/static/Help/ZSuiteHelp/ZSuiteAccountSetup.html>

Please note that club members are the only profiles that can make and edit record books. The Primary Account and any subsequent parent/volunteer/leader can view the books but cannot work/edit them.

Electronic Record Books are an option for this year to complete your Record Book. You are still welcome to complete a paper copy instead.

4-H hopes to fully roll out access to the electronic record books on November 1, 2025, for club members and their families.

Record books are due to the MoCo 4-H Office by January 20, 2026

## **Camp In-Service**

The camp in-service will be held at 9:00 a.m. on January 31, 2026, at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

This training is open to any adult involved in or interested in working with the Maryland 4-H Camping program. The registration information is coming soon.

## **Maryland 4-H Achievement Event**

The Annual Maryland 4-H Achievement Event, formerly known as the 4-H Gala, will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at the Maryland State Fairgrounds at the Horse Sales Pavilion. Honorees:

- 2025 MD 4-H Volunteer Award Recipients
- 2025 National 4-H Hall of Fame
- Diamond Clover Level 6
- Project Based State & National Trips
- Maryland 4-H Foundation Scholarship Recipients
- Animal Science Project
- Record Awards
- AGNR/Maryland 4-H Foundation Project Scholarships

Registration will be coming soon!

## **Fundraising Opportunity for Clubs**

The Maryland State Fairgrounds is offering Discounted Tickets/Kick-Back Commission for their second annual Maryland Holiday Light Spectacular.

Groups who email Kelly Zorbach at [intern@drinkeatrelax.com](mailto:intern@drinkeatrelax.com), and register, receives a SPECIAL CODE to save 10% off when your supporters/ families/personnel /community purchase tickets, and your group receives a 10% Kick Back Commission. See flier full details.

## **Help Needed for the Volunteer and Teen Forum in 2026**

The 2025 Volunteer and Teen Forum was a success! If you would like to help plan the 2026 Volunteer and Teen Forum, please apply here:

<https://forms.gle/GZKvipDu9BRz2GHG8>

This opportunity is open to both volunteers and Senior 4-H'ers.

## **Applications for 2026 Montgomery County Teen Council**

Applications for the 2026 cohort of Montgomery County Teen Council will be released soon!

## **CLUB & COUNTY CORNER**

### **Damascus Community 4-H Club**

The Damascus Community 4-H Club had their usual monthly meeting in November. They had a special guest, Ms. Chandini Montgomery, MoCo 4-H Extension Educator. Ms. Montgomery gave the club's seniors a 10-minute survey. She also shared information about the new electronic record book system. The club then held its annual election. The Club members voted and elected the new 2026 officers. After the election, the members discussed old and new business and ended the meeting.

On November 16, the Club hosted a thank you breakfast for members of Bethesda United Methodist Church. Each member brought various breakfast items to show their appreciation to the church congregation for allowing the Club to use the space to have their monthly meetings. The breakfast was a success. They all appreciated the food.

Photos by Addy B.



## 4-H Calendar

### Due dates and Events

#### December

- 1-24 Countdown to Christmas with Tudor Hall 4-H Clubs' building block challenges
- 3 Small Engine Workshop
- 5 Volunteers Survey due
- 6 4-H Orientation online class
- 7 State Dog Bowl Contest UMD, College Park
- 15 Due Date: Outbound Program Application. 4-H Online
- 17 Electronic Record Book Training on Zoom
- 26 Due Date: Steer Weigh-In and Tagging Application

#### January

3 Beef Club Weigh-in

10 MC Agricultural Center 2026 Scholarship Applications

14 4-H Online Opening

16-17 Alpaca A-Z Health Seminar

20 Record Books, Completed Diamond Clover Reports for levels 1 – 4, Youth Achievement Awards Nomination Form. Volunteer Achievement Awards Nomination Form

## **February**

15 Maryland 4-H State Awards Event

## 2025 Maryland 4-H Building Block Countdown to Christmas Challenge

Hosted by: Tudor Hall 4-H Club



Countdown to Christmas with Tudor Hall 4-H Clubs' building block challenges! Challenges for December 1st-24th are listed on the next page. Building blocks are a great way to learn about construction, engineering, architecture and to use your imagination. Use your Legos, blocks, K'nex or any other materials to create a build that matches the challenge. All entries will be added to a random drawing for a prize! The more daily entries you complete, the better your chance of winning! One entry per daily challenge, per member. Contest dates: December 1, 2025 to December 24, 2025.

Open to all Maryland 4-H members. The winner will be chosen by a random drawing on January 2, 2025 and contacted directly for your address to mail your prize.

How to submit: Send a picture of your daily creation, your name, age, club and county to [smc4hbuildingblockchallenge@gmail.com](mailto:smc4hbuildingblockchallenge@gmail.com)

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact Susan Russell at 301-226-7779, at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

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.

December 1: 4-H  
December 2: Reindeer  
December 3: Candy cane  
December 4: Gift  
December 5: Ice skating  
December 6: Any creation  
December 7: Snowman  
December 8: Stocking  
December 9: Candle  
December 10: Ornament  
December 11: Snowflake  
December 12: Snowball fight  
December 13: Any creation  
December 14: Christmas Tree  
December 15: Favorite 4-H project  
December 16: Barn  
December 17: Wreath  
December 18: Gingerbread house  
December 19: Elf  
December 20: Sledding  
December 21: Christmas village  
December 22: Santa  
December 23: Gingerbread man  
December 24: Any Creation



# 2026 Alpaca A-Z Health Seminar

sponsored by



Featuring  
**Dr. Pat Long**  
January 16 & 17,  
2026



Dr. Patrick Long

Patrick Long, DVM, is a world renowned and well respected practicing veterinarian in Corvallis, Oregon. Llamas and alpacas comprise more than half of his practice. He graduated from Kansas State University with his DVM degree in 1976. After 5 years in the US Army, he has since practiced in Oregon, working with llamas and alpacas since 1982. He has spoken at many national and international meetings on llama and alpaca care. Dr. Long is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Oregon Veterinary Association, the Willamette Valley Llama Foundation, and he is a board member of the Alpaca Research Foundation and the Morris Animal Foundation. He is co-author of the Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care book. Dr. Long has written many articles for Alpacas Magazine and has participated in several importation screenings for ARI. Dr. Long's areas of interest are herd health management, nutrition, and reproduction.

**MABA Members  
Tickets FREE**

Register Early - Space is Limited

## TICKETS

Non-members

1st ticket...\$150

2nd ticket...\$75  
same farm or family

Juniors, FFA, 4H...\$25

## GOLD AWARD WINNING

accommodations at the

**Country Inn & Suites  
by Radisson**

Annapolis, MD

410-571-6700

2600 Housley Rd, Annapolis, MD  
discounted rooms for attendees

Please book by December 14, 2025

## January 16th, Friday Evening

5:00-6:30 pm Meet and Greet *Hors d'oeuvres and finger food provided*

6:00-7:30 pm Lecture What's New In Basic Herd Health

## January 17th, Saturday

8:00-8:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:30 am Breeding Protocol - Best Practices

9:30-10:30 am Neonatal Care

10:30-10:45 am Break

10:45-12:00 pm Elder Care & Geriatrics -  
keeping older alpacas healthy and productive

12:00-1:00 pm Full Luncheon provided

1:00-2:15 pm Nutrition

2:15-2:30 pm Break

2:30-4:00 pm Diseases, Prevention, Intervention & Biosecurity

4:00-5:00 pm Questions & Answers Session

Attendees are welcome to gather at the Boatyard Bar & Grill, 400 4th Street.  
Dining options will be at everyone's own expense. Free parking.



Scan QR code or copy & paste the  
URL to register for seminar

[https://www.eventeny.com/events/  
patlongseminar-24282](https://www.eventeny.com/events/patlongseminar-24282)



### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Maryland Holiday Light Spectacular is Back!**

The Maryland Holiday Light Spectacular will light up the season with an **Outdoor Holiday Light Display** at the Maryland State Fairgrounds for **24 nights – December 5<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>**. This event is sure to become a beloved annual tradition for your supporters, families, and community! We would love for your group to raise money through the **'Light Up Program'**, simply by enjoying the show!

#### **HOW IT WORKS:**

We will provide your group a **SPECIAL CODE** so your supporters can save **10% on tickets**, and your group will also receive a **10% Kick Back Commission** to use as you see fit. In addition, the group that raises the most money will get an additional **\$200 bonus**. This event is for everyone — young and young at heart! Tickets are as low as \$9, with **no blackout dates or restrictions**, and there's **no minimum number of tickets** required. It's a win/win!

#### **WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- Over a million illuminated lights and larger-than-life holiday scenes, including Maryland-themed displays like Mistletoe Marina, Jingle Bell Junction Farm, and Symphony of Illumination.
- A Holiday Village with boutiques, shops, rotating food trucks, and seasonal treats.
- Fun activities for kids, including a Moon Bounce, Holiday Carnival rides, and visits from Santa through December 23.
- Select evenings feature live performances from ballerinas and entertainers (check website for schedule).

Event hours: **5:30 PM – 10 PM** (varies on select dates; see website for details). The walk-thru experience is **safe and accessible** for strollers, scooters, and wheelchairs.

For more information, visit: <https://mdholidaylights.com>

To secure your special code or learn more about this program, please contact Kelly Zorbach at [intern@drinkeatreax.com](mailto:intern@drinkeatreax.com).

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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.

Chandini Montgomery, 4-H Educator, 301-226-7956, [cbmontgo@umd.edu](mailto:cbmontgo@umd.edu)

Catherine Savage, Agent Associate, 301-226-7957, [csavage9@umd.edu](mailto:csavage9@umd.edu)

Sheila Ford, Extension Program Assistance, [sheilaf@umd.edu](mailto:sheilaf@umd.edu)

Anna Hamann, Admin Asst. (part-time), Newsletter Editor, [ahamann@umd.edu](mailto:ahamann@umd.edu)

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