



The Cloverleaf

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December 2017



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Looking back, there were so many wonderful and successful events, like the Volunteer Dinner, Fashion Revue, Livestock Skillathon, Communication Contest, and of course the Howard County Fair. Each event could not have turned out as successfully if it was not for the unbelievable dedication of each and every one of you. Our staff knows one thing is certain-the volunteers, members, and the families of the Howard County 4-H are second to none!! Everyone from University of Maryland Extension Howard County 4-H sends our best wishes for a happy holiday season and a wonderful 2018!

4-H CENTRAL CLUSTER WORKSHOPS COMMUNICATIONS AND VISUAL PRESENTATIONS

The Central Cluster will be hosting two workshops in January. The first workshop is a communications workshop that will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds on Saturday, January 20th. The Second workshop is on how to put together a visual presentation that will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds on Saturday, January 27th.

The Central Cluster Communication Contest will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at Bushy Park Elementary School in Glenwood. The categories for the Communications Contest are: Extemporaneous, Prepared, Radio Spot, and Interpretations. This is an excellent opportunity, whether a 4-H'er carries a public speaking project or not, to receive valuable tips, and advice to enhance public speaking abilities and presentations. Champions will have the opportunity to move on to the State competition in April.

To register for workshops:
Communication Workshop :

HOWARD COUNTY UME OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Howard County Extension Office will be closed on the following dates:



December:



Monday, December 25th -
Friday, December 29th



January:

Monday, January 1st in
observation of
New Year's Day!

The office will reopen on
Tuesday, January 2nd.

Monday, January 15th -
Observance of Martin
Luther King, Jr.
Holiday.



CLUB BOOKS AND PROGRAM PLANS

Tentative Program Planning
Sheets for 2018 are due
to December 1st



All other 2017 club books
should be entered in the
2018 County Fair for judging.

MARYLAND 4-H STATE COUNCIL

The Maryland 4-H State Council is the premier 4-H leadership opportunity in Maryland. Are you 13-18 years old and passionate about growing the Maryland 4-H Program?? Join the State Council! Applications for 2018 are due to the State Office by December 1st.

For more information, visit:

<https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/maryland-4-h-state-council>

COUNT DOWN TO RECORD BOOK DEADLINE



As of December 1, 2017 there are only **62 DAYS** until record books are due to the Howard County Extension Office. Please remember that they must first be reviewed by your leaders. All 2017 record books are due to the office by Thursday, February 1, 2018.

Our website- www.howard4-h.org has forms, examples, and additional information for completing your books.

MARYLAND 4-H TRIP TO TANZANIA

In July of 2018, Maryland 4-H members, volunteers, and staff will be continuing their efforts to promote global education and intercultural experience by taking a humanitarian focused trip to Tanzania. While there, the delegation will be lending a helping hand in the community, as well as teaching 4-H project information to develop the 4-H program in Tanzania.

4-Her's must be between the ages of 15-19 as of January 1, 2018 in order to apply for this trip. If you have any additional questions regarding this, or other 4-H International Programs, please contact Brenda Rodriguez: bmason@umd.edu.

BEEF ID DAY

On Saturday, January 6, 2018, we will tag and weigh all beef and dairy steer projects. In December, a letter with detailed information will be mailed to all members enrolled in the beef or dairy steer project. If you know of a 4-H'er who will be carrying this project for the 1st time in 2018, please advise them to call the office for a packet.

4-H CAMP TEEN LEADERS



Interviews are scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd. Interview notifications have been mailed.. If you are age 14, and are not assigned a Teen Leader position, you will still be eligible to attend camp. Camp registration will begin in early spring. For more information, please contact Chris Rein at 410-313-1915 or by email at crein@umd.edu. We look forward to another great year!

RECORD BOOK INFORMATION!

CLOVER BOOKS - Clovers have a special Clover Report Form for their record book. All forms are on the web.

JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE BOOKS -Information on how to do a book, complete the Summary Form and Project Records are on the web.

SENIOR BOOKS - All seniors will have to complete a resume and essay as part of their record book. All information is on the web.

Skill Level Books for all projects will be due to your club leader for all age levels, along with your record book and will be reviewed and returned immediately, so you may continue working from them.

Summary Report Form CHANGE FOR 2017- We are transitioning to the State Summary Report Form in 2017. You will complete the State Form for 2017 and include your previous form behind it in the book. All of your past summary records not on the present form are to be placed in the book so we can see your progress.

Record books are due to the County Office no later than **February 1st**. Remember your book will need to be turned in to your club leader first so check with your club to verify the due date.

Attention Howard County 4-H Members! Sample record sheets may be found online. It is recommended that you refer to them.

In 2017 be sure to use the current forms posted on the website.



SENIOR PORTFOLIOS

ATTENTION all senior 4-H'ers. It is time to begin thinking about applying for Out of State Trips. These are wonderful and rewarding opportunities for senior 4-H members. They are "once in a lifetime" experiences! Please consider submitting your senior portfolio by **Monday, January 15th** to the State 4-H Office through the online portal.

For more information: <https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/youth-families/awards-recognition>

2017 Essay Theme: What would you suggest 4-H do to increase involvement from youth your age?

Criteria for the essay:1.) Length - no more than two pages. 2.) Double spaced 3.)Margins no less than 1 inch 4.)Font Size no less than 12 pt. 5.) Font type - Times New Roman.

2018 CALENDAR

The 4-H staff has posted the confirmed 2018 dates on the 4-H Google calendar. The calendar is placed on the Google site which can be easily accessed from our Howard County website at www.howard4-h.org.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

SCHOOLS CLOSED

When schools are closed. **ALL** 4-H programs are canceled. This includes closing early due to inclement weather.

SNOW EMERGENCY PLAN

If a Snow Emergency Plan for Howard County is in effect at 7:00 a.m. on either Saturday or Sunday, **ALL** programs and activities, 4-H, school and community will be canceled. Should the Plan go into effect after 7:00 a.m., programs in progress may be completed at the discretion of the activity leader.

SUNSHINE CLOVER CLUB JUNIOR LEADERS



SEWING FOR A CAUSE

Leadership is a life skill that will be needed through-out one's entire life.

4-H exposes a member to multiple opportunities to participate in a leadership role.

Sunshine Clovers is looking for Livestock and General Junior Leaders for 2018.

General Junior Leaders- assist with club programming.

Livestock Junior Leaders- teach Clovers about livestock and participate in the Clover Livestock Showmanship.

Areas of Interest:

- ◆ Assist with leading a business meeting
- ◆ Lead a program
- ◆ Give a demonstration
- ◆ Helping with crafts
- ◆ Reporter for the club
- ◆ Historian for the club
- ◆ Assist with club workshops

Like working with kids?
Have knowledge to share?

Please contact
Amy Brueckmann at
susnhineclovers@howard4-
h.org if interested.

The Central Cluster will be hosting a community service opportunity for all 4-H members carrying and anyone thinking about carrying the sewing project. **Please come and join us on Monday, January 15, 2017 at the Howard County Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to Noon.** We will be sewing pillowcases for youth cancer patients and all donations will be given to Cases for Smiles Foundation. Last year the 4-H Central Cluster of sewing youth were able to complete 56 pillowcases, and this year we are hoping to double that amount. For pillowcases directions and fabric size please go to: <http://caseforsmiles.org/sewingpreparing-pillowcases/> (Select Pillowcase Directions). If you have your own sewing machine please bring with you that day, however we will have machines available to use as well. All are welcome to come out and help! Any additional questions please contact Chris Rein at 410-313-1915 or email Crein@umd.edu.

LIVESTOCK SALE COMMITTEE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

The Howard County 4-H Livestock Sale Committee's role is to provide management of all aspects of the 4-H Livestock Sale held in conjunction with the Howard County Fair. The committee meets annually on the third Thursday of January, April, June, September and November. During these meetings policies, procedures and decisions regarding the livestock sale are determined and implemented. In addition, committee members undertake tasks throughout the year to ensure a successful sale.

The Howard County 4-H Livestock Sale Committee is currently seeking senior age 4-H members to serve as youth representatives on the committee for 2018. This is an exciting opportunity that offers 4-H members an opportunity to gain and extend leadership skills. While a youth member appointed to a position will not have voting writes, the youth member will represent and provide a voice for the 4-H youth selling animals in the 4-H Livestock Sale.

If you are interested in this leadership role, please contact Sheryl at sherylb@umd.edu by January 5, 2018.

LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON PRACTICES

Whether you carry a livestock project or not, Livestock Skillathon is a great way to work with other 4-H'ers and learn information about livestock. The first practice will be on Wednesday, January 3rd at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fairgrounds. The practice schedule is below:

Wednesday, January 3rd	Wednesday, February 7th
Wednesday, January 10th	Wednesday, February 14th
Saturday, January 13th (10:00—noon)	Saturday, February 17th (10:00—noon)
Wednesday, January 17th	Wednesday, February 21st
Wednesday, January 24th	Wednesday, February 28th
Wednesday, January 31st	

Please register through Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/4-h-livestock-skillathon-tickets-39331989038>

For more information, please contact Sheryl Bennett at sherylb@umd.edu or 410-313-1912.