



Montgomery County 4-H

October 1, 2024



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 November 2024. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, ahamann@umd.edu by October 28, 2024.

Level 5 Diamond Clover Plans & Reports

Diamond Clover Level 5 Plan and Reports must be submitted to MoCo 4-H County Office by October 15. Please mail your materials to the Montgomery County 4-H Office, Attn: Sheila Ford, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855 or email to sheilaf@umd.edu.

Levels 1-4 reports are not due to the county4-H office until January 2025.

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

National 4-H Leadership Opportunities

At the National 4-H Conference you can connect with other teens from across the nation. You will experience opportunities that will influence your community, the nation, and the world.

Youth are eligible for leadership trips opportunity by completing a SENIOR 4-H PORTFOLIO. Portfolios are due to the State Office by November 14.

To be considered for a Leadership Trip, you must complete a portfolio package that includes an application, 4-H resume, essay, have a meeting with a Montgomery County 4-H Educator no later than October 11.

Here are some things to know about the program:

- Senior Record Book

This record book includes elements from the Senior Portfolio, and replaces the Summary Record and 4-H Story.

- Essay question

The 2025 Senior Essay Question is "Describe how one of your project areas has influenced your life outside of 4-H".

- Record Book and Portfolio submission

4-H'ers can submit a regular Record Book or a Senior Record Book.

- Interview with representatives of the 4-H State Office

Portfolio 4-H'ers who qualify for leadership trips will be interviewed.

- Record Book tips

4-H'ers should keep a binder with all their past Record Book materials, which can be helpful for creating resumes later.

- Local 4-H Educator

4-H'ers can contact their local 4-H Educator for help with the process of applying for opportunities.

For more information visit the State website under National 4-H Leadership Opportunities at

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

For more information regarding MoCo's due date, please contact Sheila Ford at (301) 590-2824 or sheilaf@umd.edu.

The 2024 Maryland 4-H Tech Engineering Day

Registration closes October 13, 2024

The 2024 Maryland 4-H Tech Engineering Day is intended for 4-H youth and UME 4-H volunteers who are interested in learning about the different types of STEM projects and contests connected with Engineering and modern technologies.

Morning sessions will have youth participate in short activities related to each of the 3 main topic areas of focus: Robotics, Aerospace/Aviation, and Computer Science. Youth will choose one of the three topic areas for a more in-depth afternoon learning experience. Hands-on activities in each track emphasize the vital elements of STEM.

This event will run from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Some snacks and drinks will be provided during the day, but participants will need to bring their own lunch. Cost is \$30.00 for 4-H youth participants, limited to 30 registrations on a first-come/first-served basis. A waitlist will be established after the event is filled. There is no cost for or limit on the number of UME 4-H Volunteer registered participants.

Annual Financial Reports

Due by email to Sheila Ford at sheilaf@umd.edu, no later than Monday, October 7, 2024. Charter Renewal Process and Documentation

- File your 990 postcard with the IRS. Once completed, save a copy for your records and email a copy to Sheila Ford at sheilaf@umd.edu. Please email a copy of the postcard that is filed as well as a copy of the confirmation page showing that the IRS accepted it.
- Annual Financial Summary Report - Please make sure your document is signed. Your beginning balance for 2024 should match your ending balance from last year, 2023; Fiscal year reporting July 1 - June 30.

- Property Inventory Report - Please make sure your document is signed. Every club needs to fill one out even if you have \$0 value.

Maryland 4-H Volunteer and Teen Forum

It is official! The Maryland 4-H Volunteer and Teen Forum will be held November 22-24, 2024 at the Carousel Hotel located at 118th St. Oceanfront, Ocean City, MD. A save-the-date promotion will be forthcoming!

There will be hotel reservations available for Friday and Saturday nights (November 22 and 23), but all programming will be focused on Saturday (November 23) and Sunday (November 24) and will include:

- Volunteer and teen workshops to strengthen leadership skills
- Youth classes for 4-H members attending the conference with their parents
- Engaging evening activities on Saturday
- Volunteer and teen connection session on Sunday
- Share fair to learn about different events and projects from Maryland

For any questions or concerns, please contact Joseph Cho at jcho8@umd.edu

2025 The Senior 4-H Portfolio Program

The Maryland 4-H Program is proud to offer senior 4-H members the opportunity to participate in Leadership Trips at the National Level. All enrolled and dues-paying club members ages 14-18 (as of January 1st, the year the trip takes place) from all counties and Baltimore City are eligible to submit an application and portfolio packet for any of the national leadership trips.

2025 National 4-H Conference

Bringing hundreds of 4-H'ers to the nation's capital each spring, National 4-H Conference is the flagship youth development opportunity of USDA, hosted by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). From April 11-16, 2025 in Arlington VA, the nationally recognized event will be developing the next generation of leaders. During the Conference, delegates will become familiar with the government and future career opportunities and share their voice with federal agencies and congressional committees.

The 2025 National 4-H Conference application is now open in 4-H Online. Applications must be submitted through 4-H Online by 11:59 pm on November 15, 2024.

Volunteers Needed - Close Encounters with Agriculture!

Close Encounters with Agriculture is an award-winning program offered each year to Montgomery County fourth-grade students from the public, and private. Since 1993, over 100,000 students have participated in this hands-on educational program designed to teach students about modern agriculture, maintaining a healthy environment, and leading a healthy lifestyle.

We are looking for volunteers to work during October from 9 AM-1:30 PM. Volunteer opportunities include shepherding students from station to station, reception desk coverage, logistical aides, and session educators.

No prior experience is needed.

For more details, dates, and sign-up information, please go to the Master Gardener's volunteer link:

<http://signup.com/Group/63178954066/>

Spotlight

Congratulations to Rohan Weik on his second place winning in the Intermediate Lawn Tractor Competition, and Josh Cheng on his six place winning in the Intermediate Lawn Tractor Competiton.

Club Corner

Potomac Community 4-H Montgomery County Fair - Barn Painting Workdays

By Sophia S.

As the County Fair approached, the Potomac Community 4-H club members were hard at work preparing the fairgrounds to ensure everything was ready for a fun and successful fair. This year, the club took on the fun task of painting the barns, spreading mulch, and removing weeds, along with planting flowers to brighten up the fairgrounds.

The barns are a centerpiece of the Agricultural fairgrounds, hosting various livestock and exhibitions throughout the event. The club's 4-H members came together to give the barn a fresh coat of paint. The fresh new color not only added to the aesthetic appeal but also protected the structure from sediment and weather, ensuring it remains a safe and welcoming space for livestock, volunteers, and visitors for years to come.

Maintaining the beauty and safety of the fairgrounds is a very important task. The Potomac Community 4-H Club took on the challenge of removing weeds from the flowerbeds, ensuring that the grounds were not only visually pleasing but also safe for all visitors.

To add a burst of color and a welcoming atmosphere, the members planted a variety of flowers around the fairgrounds. The flowers welcomed and invited all across the fair, as the vibrant blooms and leaves allowed pollinators to collect pollen, animals to live happily, and bring more people to the fair.

Overall, the Potomac Community 4H Club and various other local clubs and communities worked together to create a friendlier and welcoming atmosphere around the fair. They hope to continue spreading this volunteer opportunity to others next year, and all the other ones to come!



Damascus Community 4-H Club

By Renee H.

The months of August and September were all about the fairs. The Damascus Community 4-H Club were serious when it came to the beloved fairs. Several of the members had 30 plus entries in the fairs, and one of the members proudly served as a fair princess at the Montgomery County Fair. Besides winning several awards and ribbons, the club's walking unit, with a banner visualizing the fun and rewards of growing up as a 4-H member, won first place and a champion ribbon.

The quilting and sewing groups along with other community members, who made a 4-H themed quilt in commemoration of the 75th annual fair, were delighted when the quilt sold for \$3,300 at the cake auction. Much to the joy of all who contributed to the quilt, the buyers kindly and generously donated the beautiful quilt to the Montgomery County Fair for people to appreciate and enjoy for years to come.

Finally, the Damascus Community 4-H Club helped at the Damascus Community Fair. This is a smaller local fair that they all love. While there, they hand cranked pumpkin spice ice cream, which won first place in an ice cream contest. In addition, one of their members was crowned the prince of the Damascus Fair!



Horse 'N' Around Club

Horse 'N' Around Club at the Montgomery County Fair and Welcoming New Friends

By Lela S.

The Montgomery County Fair was FUN and exhausting, of course. Tropical storm Debbie rained out the first day of the fair and filled the horse arena with water. The show day was rescheduled to later in the week, but it all worked out. The pirate-themed mini drill was so cute and everyone who participated in it did so well! Big drill was also very good and everyone had fun at the in-hand and regular gymkhana games.

At the September club meeting, the members had pizza and watched a slideshow of pictures from the horse barn during the fair. The Club had a ton of people interested in joining the club after seeing them at the fair, and they had Clovers move up so they played an icebreaker game for those new members! Each kid got a bag of different colored beads and then they all lined up and asked each other questions. After they answered the question, the participants traded beads with each other. After everyone talked to each other, they made bracelets out of all the beads they got. It was a lot of fun, and they learned a lot about new and old members!



Kids'N' Dogs Club

State Fair Dog Show

By Lela S

Senior Grace B. and Intermediate Lela S. from the Montgomery County Kids'N' Dogs Club went to this year's Maryland State Fair 4-H Dog Show, and competed against kids from all over the state. They both did very well!

Lela and her dog Isabella, got 1st in their Open Intermediate Fitting & Showmanship class, and 1st in their Intermediate Level Rally class, and then got High Point Intermediate for Rally.

Grace got 2nd with her dog Lily in her Fitting & Showmanship class, 2nd in her Advanced Rally, and 1st in her Novice Obedience. With Scarlet, she got 3rd in her Graduate Novice Obedience class, and 1st in her Excellent Rally class.

The 4-H'ers enjoyed getting to see and compete with their Frederick County friends!



Left to right: Grace B. and Lily, Lela S. and Grace B., Lela and Isabella

Sunny STEM 4-H Club

A Sunny Adventure: MoCo Sunny STEM 4H Club's Fall Season Welcome Celebration

By Caitlyn Y.

On a beautiful September weekend, the MoCo Sunny STEM 4H Club's hardworking members and volunteers finally had a chance to unwind.

With sunny skies, a light breeze, and the vibrant hues of early autumn along the riverbanks, it was the perfect day for a relaxing outing.

The destination? A scenic stretch of the Potomac River, where the club enjoyed a fun kayaking trip followed by a potluck picnic and a barbeque cookout.

After an action-packed summer filled with local fairs, the county fair, and the bustling excitement of the Maryland State Fair, the MoCo Sunny STEM Club members enjoyed a well-deserved break as the new school year began. The group dedicated weeks to volunteering, coordinating, and participating in a variety of fair activities, demonstrating member's skills and knowledge while promoting and supporting 4-H programs and community events.

Calendar

OCTOBER

- 1-4 World Dairy Expo Judging Contest, Madison, WI
- 7 Financial Report due by email to Sheila Ford at sheilaf@umd.edu
- 15 Diamond Clover Level 5 Report due to MoCo 4-H Office
- 26 State 4-H Technology Engineering Say

NOVEMBER

- 8 -10 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup, Louisville, KY
- 2 Southeastern Regional Livestock Judging Contest, Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex
- 2 Southeastern Regional 4-H Skillathon Contest, Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex

14-16 The 51st North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, KY

20-21 The National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference, Louisville, KY

22-24 The Maryland 4-H Volunteer and Teen Forum, Ocean City, MD

DECEMBER

8 Maryland State Dog Bowl, Animal Science Building, UMD College Park, MD

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