



VOLUNTEER VOICE

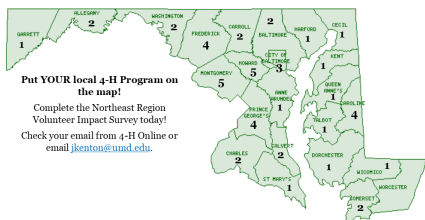
Maryland 4-H Volunteer Updates

April 2020

Northeast Region Volunteer Impact Survey



Maryland along with 10 other states in the Northeast Region are participating in a Volunteer Impact Survey designed to gather information about volunteer contribution and impact on youth, themselves, their community and the organization. A notification email was sent out to all Certified UME 4-H Volunteers on March 16th and an email with the survey link was sent on March 23rd. If you ARE a Certified UME 4-H Volunteers and you have NOT received a survey link, please email Jamie Morris at jkenton@umd.edu.



Maryland submissions to the NERV Impact Survey

As of Monday, April 13th, 331 volunteers in four states have completed the Northeast Region Volunteer Impact Survey. The survey opened in MD, NY & VT the week of March 23, ME the week of March 30 and will be opening in CT this week!

49 Maryland 4-H Volunteers have contributed so far and almost all counties are represented.

The survey will be open until May 18th in Maryland. Don't delay, submit today!

Conducting Virtual 4-H Connections

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION **Virtual Connect**
Engagement Opportunities and Expectations

Virtual 4-H connections can help us all stay engaged in 4-H during this time of social distancing and may be used to strengthen relationships and sharing in the months and years to come. Below are colors and guidance for you to connect with your 4-H clubs and groups, continue your virtual club plans, work and share 4-H project progress, conduct demonstrations and continue learning.

VIRTUAL CONNECTION BEST PRACTICES

When conducting any virtual connection (club meeting, project workshop, etc.), be sure to follow these best practices guidelines:

- Only Certified UME 4-H Volunteers and/or UME faculty/staff should host a virtual connection.
- Ensure a minimum of two Certified UME 4-H volunteers are scheduled to attend the virtual connection or conference or meeting.
- They must be present the entire time and it is recommended they join prior to the start of the meeting and work with all those signed off before they exit.

PREPARING TO CONNECT

- Consider connection options
 - UME options include:
 - Zoom (ADA compliant)
 - WebEx
 - Google Hangouts
 - All offer video and/or phone conferencing options.
- Personal options
 - If you choose to use a personal virtual connection, be sure to have it approved by your local 4-H Team prior to sending it to youth and families.
 - Using a personal virtual connection, it is recommended you invite your local 4-H Team to attend if available.
- Setting up your virtual connection
 - Contact your local 4-H faculty/staff to assist in setting up a virtual connection.
 - Consider how it is presented or other control measures to monitor/manage attendance.
 - Use only "ignus chat" and turn off "private chat" in any virtual connection.
 - Turn off "screen sharing" for participants unless the content has been approved.
- Consider audience and attendance options
 - Allow for the greatest flexibility to fit the greatest needs. It is recommended that you offer phone and video conferencing when possible.
 - Determine the target audience and how to control participation.
 - Limit connection to one hour or less. Anything longer would require taking a break during the session.

During this time of social distancing, it is imperative that all 4-H Volunteers follow the guidance of the University of Maryland Extension when conducting 4-H programs. All face to face meetings have been suspended until May 31st. The Maryland 4-H Program will re-evaluate these restrictions by that date and will communicate any updates on our web site and through other communication avenues.

<https://extension.umd.edu/4-h>

Many volunteers have considered and offered online connections using a variety of technology options. To assure that all Maryland 4-H Programs offered online are conducted in a safe and consistent manner, the Virtual Connect: Engagement Opportunities and Expectations was sent to all 4-H Volunteers on April 2nd. It is also available, along with a number of other resources on the web at: extension.umd.edu/4-h/learning-home.

Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association



Connect with the Maryland 4-H Volunteers' Association. They will be holding virtual connections in April, May and June.

- Tuesday, April 14th at 7:00 pm – General membership meeting
- Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00 pm – General membership meeting
- Thursday, June 4 at 7:00 pm – Annual meeting

Zoom link: <https://umd.zoom.us/j/5903694014>

Final Reminders and Information to Watch

Volunteer Re-Enrollment – Volunteers must re-enroll annually in 4-H Online to remain active and retain their volunteer role. Contact your local 4-H Educator for assistance

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

Volunteer Refresher Training – Volunteers who have served for five years or longer will be asked to complete the Maryland 4-H Volunteer Refresher training. Information and access will be forthcoming. Be on the look out for it!

Fall Volunteer Development Days – Maryland 4-H Volunteers will have the opportunity to participate in a selection of volunteer development trainings to be offered this fall around the state. These one day trainings will be offered in Baltimore, Frederick, Anne Arundel and Caroline Counties. Stay tuned for more information. Registration to open August 1.

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