



VOLUNTEER AND TEEN FORUM

4-H Beyond Ready to Lead the Future

November 14-16, 2025

The Holiday Inn on 65th Street in Ocean City

Who: 4-H members age 13-18, a separate classrooms for Clover, Juniors and intermediates (parents must be in the hotel), 4-H volunteers and professionals



Fun engaging learning, with time to dance,
beach walks, teen led sessions, camp workshops, club enhancement,
STEM, Ag Sciences and so much more!



Join us for the 2025 Maryland 4-H Volunteer and Teen Forum in Ocean City, MD!

This event is open to all 4-H volunteers, parents, teens and educators, and provides time to meet others from around the state and learn more about all the wonders of the 4-H program. This is an excellent opportunity for teen and adult volunteers to learn the knowledge and skills necessary to be leaders in their local 4-H programs. This event can also be used as a family "get-away" due to the location and opportunities provided for youth to learn and have fun simultaneously, while their parents are attending workshops.

The Forum provides professional development workshop sessions and hands-on, educational evening activities on Saturday and connection opportunities for youth and adult leaders on Sunday. This year's workshop topics include a focus on Thriving, Connections, STEM and Service. Sessions are designed for teens (actual age 13-18) and adult volunteers and 4-H professionals. The youth classes will also be offered on Saturday during the workshop sessions (for parents attending the Forum) and are guaranteed to engage and educate youth Clovers (4-H age 5-7), Juniors (4-H age 8-10,) and Intermediates (4-H age 11-13).

But wait! That's not all! To add to the fun, there will be engaging activities on Friday and Saturday nights, opportunities to connect, and energizers at all large

group gatherings. We will round out the weekend with a youth and adult partnership on Sunday followed by a Maryland.

Come join us for the perfect mix of fun, connections and learning.

The **Holiday Inn on 6600 Coastal Hwy**, Ocean City is our destination for the weekend, which is truly a home away from home. Basic accommodations feature a fully-equipped kitchenette and plush furnishings for the ultimate comfort in Ocean City. Each accommodation also offers a full array of modern amenities, including complimentary Wi-Fi, HDTV with cable, and convenient pull out sofa beds for additional guests.

What better way to spend a weekend than relaxing with friends on the ocean front.

*** Registration fees must be paid in full by credit or debit card linked to your 4-H Online event registration. If your local 4-H program agrees to pay part or all of your registration, you will need to make arrangements for reimbursement.**

Only complete registrations will be approved and only approved participants will be able to attend.

You will receive an email from 4-H Online confirming your approved registration. **Thank you and we hope to see you at the Volunteer and Teen Forum.**

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event or activity, please contact your local University of Maryland Extension Office at least two weeks prior to the event.

This year's program includes:

Friday, November 14, 2025

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm Fun activities



Saturday, November 15, 2025

7:30 am – 10:00 am Check-in

8:30 am – 9:30 am Breakfast (full-time registration)

9:30 am – 10:00 am Welcome and Getting Started

10:00 am – 12:30 pm Volunteer and Teen Workshops 1 & 2; Youth Classes

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch and Networking

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm Volunteer and Teen Workshops 3 & 4; Youth Classes

3:00 pm – 6:30 pm Explore Ocean City and Dinner on Your Own

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Activities and Share Fair

8:00 pm – 9:30 pm Dancing with 4-Hers

Sunday, November 16, 2025

8:30 am – 9:30 am Breakfast (full-time registration)

10:00 am – 11:00 am Panel Session with Youth

10:30 am – 11:30 am Evaluation and Connections

11:30 am Farewell



Harrison North	Harrison South	Marlin	Sand Castle
<p>From Icebreakers to Lifelong Bonds: Building Staff Connections</p> <p><i>By Amanda Wahle & Maryland 4-H Camp Action Team</i></p> <p>Ignite your team's spirit from day one! This session focuses on creating a positive, supportive staff culture that sets the tone for the entire summer. Learn team-building strategies, communication techniques, and leadership tips that turn camp staff into a connected camp family.</p> 	<p>Animal Science E-I-E-I-O</p> <p><i>By April Barczewski</i></p> <p>How do you incorporate fun and motivating animal science activities into agriculture literacy experiences without using live animals? In this fun and interactive session, participants will learn how to engage youth in a variety of hands-on animal science learning activities. This class will reach across a large span of farm animals from horses to chickens to livestock. Participants will receive a brief overview of the 4-H lessons and supplemental materials. Attendees will participate in a variety of hands-on lessons that can be easily replicated. Activity topics include Anatomy, Physiology, Nutrition, Health and Diseases, Genetics and Reproduction, Feeds and Nutrition, and Animal Products and By-Products. Participants will be provided with access to 4-H lessons and supplemental materials they can use and easily replicate in their next class, workshop or program.</p>	<p>Youth/Adult Partnerships – Unlocking the Power of Collaboration</p> <p><i>By Michelle Harman</i></p> <p>Establishing effective partnerships between youth and adults is critical for fostering growth and development. It's essential to approach this collaboration from both viewpoints: how can adults successfully engage teens within club or program settings, and how can teens step into meaningful leadership roles and embrace responsibilities in their communities? The 4-H Thriving Model emphasizes key components of development, including social competence, connection with others, personal responsibility, and contribution. Many volunteers find it challenging to cultivate these outcomes in youth, particularly adolescents who are navigating their own journeys of self-discovery. At the same time, teens often face obstacles in recognizing their potential and demonstrating the strengths they've built throughout their 4-H experiences. This workshop is designed to empower participants with effective strategies for fostering dynamic youth/adult partnerships, regardless of their status. By attending, you'll gain valuable insights and actionable tactics to collaborate effectively, promoting mutual growth and strengthening these vital relationships. Join us in creating a thriving environment where both youth and adults can succeed together!</p>	<p>What's the Buzz with 4-H Competitions? – An Intro to Bowl-type Contests for Knowledge Mastery and Life Skills</p> <p><i>By Kevin Huang and Susan Sprout-Knight</i></p> <p>An interactive presentation introducing techniques and technologies that can be harnessed to introduce 4-H volunteer and youth to the variety of contests Maryland 4-H offers- from Judging, Skillathon, and Bowl contests- and opportunities to represent Maryland at National competitions. The presentation covers most contest types, but will mainly focus on Bowl-type contests, as there are a lot of different ways to engage Clovers through Seniors and general audiences, at different pricepoints/ mediums. At the end of the presentation, youth and volunteers should walk away with low-budget activities they can run with youth, and knowledge on more standardized products/materials to run local competitive practices.</p>







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<p>The Magic Makers: Creating Memorable Moments for Every Camper</p> <p><i>By Amanda Wahle & Maryland 4-H Camp Action Team</i></p> <p>Summer magic doesn't just happen — it's created intentionally! Discover ways to turn ordinary moments into extraordinary memories for campers. This session shares ideas for small touches, creative celebrations, and how every staff member can leave a lasting impact.</p>	<p>Branding Yourself for Success: A Personal Branding Workshop</p> <p><i>By Trish Moore</i></p> <p>In this fun and interactive workshop, you'll discover how to build a personal brand that reflects who you are and helps you stand out! "Branding Yourself for Success" will show you how to highlight your unique strengths, passions, and skills, while teaching you how to present yourself confidently online and in person. Whether you're a teen looking to build your future, a volunteer aiming to make a bigger impact, or anyone eager to improve how you're seen, this workshop will give you the tools and tips to create a brand that opens up new opportunities and helps you succeed in your goals!</p>	<p>Tricks of the Trade: Comfortable Public Speaking from Beginner to Journey Level</p> <p><i>By K. L. Plano-Faber</i></p> <p>Nerve-wracking but necessary, getting better at public speaking is always on our calendar and task list. We cannot escape it, so embrace it! Come practice novel strategies and strong tactics to transform your procrastination into polish, your butterflies into benefits, and your tongue-tied brain freeze into bonding with the audience over some of your favorite things. Come play games and take away easy tools you can use for winsome delivery, cementing your memory, rolling with the challenges, and making meaningful connections with an audience.</p>	<p>Healthy Animals Healthy YOUTH: Zoonosis Education Resources</p> <p><i>By Chris Anderson and the Animal Science Committee</i></p> <p>Zoonotic disease, or zoonoses, is of growing importance in our society, especially among youth engaged in animal agriculture. Zoonotic diseases can spread between animals and people, and show how human health is related to the health of animals and their environment. During 2018-2024, supported by multi-year funding from the Maryland Department of Health and CSTE/CDC/USDA Project Development grants, a collaborative partnership in Maryland and West Virginia created and implemented zoonoses education approaches and resources under the program title, Healthy Animals Healthy YOUTH. Join us for a hands-on exploration of the many teaching resources from this project that are ideal for leading important hands-on activities at club meetings, county workshops and shows and expos.</p>



Sessions provide Camp Training Hour

3rd Session 1:45-2:45

Harrison North	Harrison South	Marlin	Sand Castle
Plot Twist! Mastering the Art of Flexible Planning <i>By Amanda Wahle & Maryland 4-H Camp Action Team</i>  <p>At camp, even the best-laid plans can change in a flash. This session helps create flexible, dynamic schedules that adapt to weather, group energy, and surprises — without losing momentum or camper engagement. Learn how to pivot like a pro!</p>	Tools to Support Youth Thriving in Your Program <i>By Amy Lang & Anna Glenn</i>  <p>The session will begin move participants through a series of activities that have been developed and piloted in Maryland to help youth facilitators move beyond the theory of the 4-H Thriving Model to practical ways to ensure that it is embedded within their programs. As the Thriving Champions for the State of Maryland, the facilitators have created and piloted a number of resources to help volunteers ensure that their program is helping youth Thrive. We have a planning tool called “Signs of a Great Club Meeting” that breaks down the key developmental context elements and prompts facilitators to consider if they've incorporated the elements of the 4-H Thriving Model in their program. We also have a resource called “Fun Ways to Foster Belonging in your Club” with quick, easy tips to ensure that all youth enjoy the vital sense of belonging critical to youth thriving. Finally, we have a resource that helps facilitators consider how competitive teams and events align with the 4-H Thriving Model. Join us for a discussion of how to move from theory to practical application as we tour the resources, and how they can be used.</p>	Always Learning: How to Continue Growing Through Failure and Success <i>By Sarah Nerswick</i>  <p>Discover actionable systems and mindsets to achieve balance in life through holistic strategies, growth-focused mechanisms, and resource-sharing for continuous personal and professional development. This is our signature training based on our mission at Green & Growing Education. We modify this session based on what the specific audience needs at the time.</p>	Channeling Your Inner Crafting Master: DIY Duels <i>By Chandini Montgomery</i>  <p>“DIY Duels” is a workshop that encourages creativity, ingenuity, and presentation skills. Inspired by the cooking show “Chopped”, 4-H members attending the workshop are provided with surprise craft materials that they must utilize to create an original craft. Optional, supplemental craft materials are also provided to create a cohesive piece. Along with encouraging soft skill development, one of the main goals of the workshop is to showcase the exciting endeavor of making entries for the county fair, highlighting 4-H's and the fair's partnership. For my workshop during the Volunteer and Teen Forum, I will outline the benefits of implementing a “DIY Duels” challenge within any county and then ask participants to partner up as they compete in their own mini-DIY Duels challenge. They must work cooperatively with their partner and present on the skills that they practiced during the challenge.</p>



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<p>Living Together Peacefully at Camp: A Curriculum for Camping Success</p> <p><i>By Lauren Dye, Sonya Jones, and Bill Hammond</i></p> <p>During this session, participants will explore the Living Together Peacefully at Camp curriculum, including the pre-camp orientations and during camp activities that reinforce principles of positive youth development. Session participants will engage in hands-on learning simulation of the curriculum lessons and will be provided with access to these curriculum resources for future use. Expected outcomes of this program include an increase in camper awareness of what to expect in residential camping situations and how to properly interact and respond to their fellow campers. Through the parent orientation process, parents will gain awareness of expectations, policies, and procedures. After implementation in Georgia in 2023, 74% of the counties who piloted this curriculum reported they saw an increase in positive behavior at camp. Eighty percent of those who saw improvement in behavior contributed this increase in positive behavior to teaching all or portions of Living Together Peacefully at Camp. This session is intended for any faculty/ staff or volunteers that plan, implement, or supervise youth at residential 4-H camps.</p>	<p>Put the FUN back into Your 4-H Meetings!</p> <p><i>By Barbara Barga</i></p> <p>Are you getting in a slump planning your 4-H Club meetings? Do you need easy, fun ideas that you can quickly take to your meetings and have a fun, quality learning experience? This session will focus on quick and easy activities that will include team building, STEM, Creative Arts and more. Come, play and have FUN!</p>	<p>From Clover to Career: Resume Building & Interview Skills</p> <p><i>By Karli Abbott & Erica Willing</i></p> <p>This workshop is to help teens strengthen their resume writing and interview skills in a fun, approachable way. We'll walk through how to build a resume that highlights both 4-H and life experiences, while also showing volunteers how they can support younger members in doing the same. The session will include interactive activities like evaluating sample resumes from the perspective of a hiring panel and practicing how to answer unexpected interview questions by connecting them back to your strengths and values. The goal is for teens to leave feeling more confident in telling their story, and for volunteers to be better equipped to help other members do the same.</p>	<p>Hands-On Parliamentary Procedure</p> <p><i>By Marylisa Schaedel</i></p> <p>This was offered last year, but many requested a repeat offering as they did not get to attend due to class schedules. I will be happy to offer this again which includes 4 interactive activities to learn all about Parliamentary Procedure! I can provide more information if interested.</p>



Sessions provide Camp Training Hour

Youth Classes
Led by 4-H clubs.

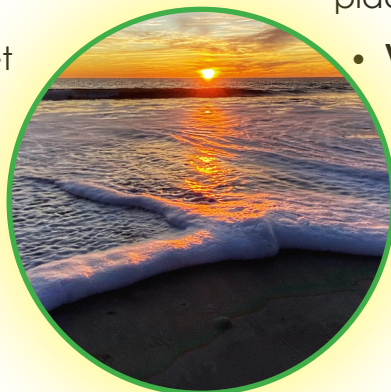
Additional activities...

Saturday Evening Activities- Enjoy informal connections and fun with fellow participants on Saturday, November 15 starting 6:30 pm. We will also have music and dancing!

And much more!

Things to do in Ocean City, MD

- **Walk the boardwalk (Free)**, Stores are not always open this time of year but the boards are fun to walk, start on 27th street walk to the inlet and back, this is about 5 miles. On Weekends, the stores, food places, and arcades are frequently open if the weather is nice. There are usually sand sculptures around 2nd street, just off the boardwalk in the sand.
- **Play on the Beach (Free)**
- **OC Visitors Center – 40th street**. This is attached to the Convention Center. Currently no events are posted, but they work hard to have things there almost every weekend.
- **Visit OC Town Hall** on 3rd Street and see all the historic pictures
- **Walk the White Marlin Mall**, outdoors; West Ocean City (Free). There are many places to shop and eat. This is a good safe | outdoor mall.
- **Flagship Cinemas**, White Marlin Mall West Ocean City. This is a clean, well run theater.
- **Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum, at the Inlet**; Open Sat-Sun 10 am – 1:30 pm; Kids <11yr Free, \$6 for >11yrs
- **Museum of Ocean City**, Dorchester Street; Open Sat-Sun 10am – 1:30 pm; Kids <11yr Free, \$6 for >11yrs
- **Escape Rooms – Mid Town 59th St** \$34.99/person
- **Ocean City Skate Park – 3rd street**. This is brand new and improved. Weekdays 2:00 p.m. – Dark; Weekends 9:00 am – Dark; \$15/person
- **Town Center 68th Street –** multiple food options, Sweet Frog Frozen Yogurt, Dunkin
- **Old pro Golf Indoor 68th Street**; \$12/person for a round of golf



- **Old Pro Mini-golf indoor at 136th Street**; \$12/person for a round
- **Art League of Ocean City**; 94th Street. Gallery, offer classes, and other experiences.
- **Ocean City Library** on 100th Street, usually has a nice free train table set up in the fall. Free
- **Gold Coast Call**, indoor; 112th street. Has several places to eat, shops, and a theater.
- **Carousel Hotel** on 118th street, Ice Skating \$14 for access and rentals
- **North Side Park 125th Street**. This is a very large park with a nice playground, open walking paths, green spaces, trees, ponds, and a nice dock that extends into the bay. It is lovely.
- **Game World on 146th Street**. Offers LazerTag, mini-golf, and an arcade.
- **OC Paintball in West OC** usually offers a "Grinch Hunt" paintball option in November.
- **Visit Assateague Island National Seashore** (about 15 min South of the 50 Bridge); Visitor's center is very informative. The island offers 3 main hiking trails covering 3 of the island's habitats. The island is home to free-ranging wild horses which tend to be more active in the early morning and evenings before sunset. There is also a history house, The Rackliffe House and trail behind the visitor's center.
- **Visit Historic Berlin** (about 15 min. West of Ocean City). It is a charming little town with small shops, historic churches, and multiple places to eat, and galleries.
- **Visit Historic Snow Hill** (about 25 min. West, then South on 113). This is a charming town. It is small and historic with shops and eateries.
- **Visit Bethany Beach** about 20 min. North on Coastal Hwy. They are another great shore town.

