



Montgomery County 4-H

February 4, 2026



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.

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, or 301-926-3100, ext. 201.

The next issue of The Montgomery County 4-H News & Notes will be published the first week of March 2026. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, ahamann@umd.edu by February 23, 2026.

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.

Terp Young Scholars

This summer, learn to navigate the college experience with the University of Maryland's (UMD) Terp Young Scholars (TYS). For three weeks, academically talented students pursue an academic interest, engage with passionate faculty, and get a jump on college by earning three university credits.

TYS is an academic program, is designed specifically for high school students (rising grade 10 to graduating grade 12), and admission is competitive, and contingent upon space availability. Participants are admitted as non-degree-seeking students to the University of Maryland for the Summer Session.

Participants choose one three-credit course (offered in-person or online), attend class, study, work on projects, prepare for exams, and interact with their peers and regular UMD undergraduate students in a rigorous academic setting. The course cannot be taken pass-fail or audit. The grade and credits earned are posted to the UMD transcript and are part of the student's academic record.

Classes are held every day, Monday-Friday, with meeting times varying according to the specific course. Classes meet for three hours a day between 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and may include an afternoon lab/discussion.

TYS offers two learning options: campus or online. Participants choose whether to commute from home or participate 100% online. Students who choose the campus option enjoy access to UMD's outstanding facilities and amenities while living at home and commuting to campus each day.

You can find more information at <https://exst.umd.edu/pre-college-programs/terp-young-scholars/how-program-works>

Youth Alumni Advisory Committee Application

Are you interested in making a difference in 4-H at the National Level? Consider applying for the Youth Alumni Advisory Committee organized through the National

4-H Council! Here you have the chance to have your voice heard, participate in professional development and make a difference! This opportunity is open to ages 18-22 at the time of election. The application is open until March 5, 2026. To access the application and information packet, please click here: <https://4-h.org/resources/alumni/yaac/>

Youth in Action

Are you interested in sharing your 4-H story on a National Platform? Consider applying for the National 4-H Council's Youth in Action Program! If you win, you will become a National Youth Ambassador for 4-H. Even though the program is highly competitive, it is a great public speaking opportunity, and you may even be connected with well-known brands to tell your story on their platform even if you don't win! Applicants should be between ages 14-19. Applicants must turn 14 by the application deadline and should not have turned 20 before January 5, 2026. Applications are accepted through April 13th, 2026. To access the application and guidelines, please click here: <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>

There is a virtual information session on Youth in Action on March 4th at 7pm ET. Sign up for the webinar here: https://4-h-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dFxFx-vUTlaD6rkGE61xCA#/registration

Record Book Judging

We are looking for volunteers to help us judge record books on Thursday, February 5. Judging will be open from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to drop by at any time and stay for as long as you like! Even if you have never judged record books before, we can guide you.

If you are interested, please let us know here: <https://doodle.com/sign-up-sheet/participate/2c921f5b-9bc1-4822-9562-ecd14a71be50/select>

Workshop “The Secret Language of flowers”

Discover the story of “Tussie-Mussies” and craft your own heartfelt floral message. The Flower arranging workshop will be held on Saturday, February 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County 4-H Office.

Maryland 4-H Dog Skill-a-thon Due Date

The 2026 Maryland 4-H Dog Skill-a-thon is on Saturday, February 21, at the University of Maryland campus in College Park. Registration is open on 4-H Online until February 11, 2026.

Maryland 4-H Rabbit Advisory Webinar Meeting

Interested individuals are invited to join the 2026 Maryland 4-H Rabbit Advisory Meeting. The meeting is going to be held virtually on Tuesday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m.

During the webinar session, we will discuss plans for the 2026 Rabbit Project events, including the Rabbit Judging contest and State Fair 4-H Rabbit Show. Individuals interested in joining the advisory session should email Anna Glenn amglenn@umd.edu and Chris Anderson at canders2@umd.edu to request connecting information.

Volunteer Professional Day

Please join us on Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for our Volunteer Professional Development Day at the Montgomery County 4-H Office (18410 Muncaster Rd. Derwood, MD 20855). During this time together, we will network with other volunteers, share curricula books, share updates about resources for 4-Hers, and review the results of our volunteer and youth surveys from 2025 along with other helpful information!

Please enroll by February 15 on 4-H Online or accessible at the following link: <https://volunteerprofessionaldevelopment.4honline.com>

We will be combining this time with a 4-H Online enrollment help session and orientation video viewing either before or after the 2-hour block.

Public Speaking Workshop

On Monday, February 16, 2026 (President's Day) from 10:00 to 12:00 p.m., we will be hosting a public speaking workshop in partnership with Frederick County 4-H and Howard County 4-H. The Public Speaking Workshop will be held at the Frederick County 4-H Extension Office (330 Montevue Ln, Frederick, MD 21702).

Please register

here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqkhdUZGcZBLCU9JgoK-luq6oAsHPb5b1P-2mZrginUUXAVw/viewform>

State Horse Bowl Contest Due Date

The 2026 Horse Bowl Contest is on Saturday, March 14 at the Plant Sciences Building, University of Maryland, College Park Campus. Registration is open on 4-H Online until February 18, 2026.

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 [Csavage9@umd.edu](mailto:C savage9@umd.edu) and Meredith Null at meredith.myers22@gmail.com.

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 and National Trips
- Maryland 4-H Foundation Scholarship Recipients
- Animal Science Project
- Record Awards
- AGNR/Maryland 4-H Foundation Project Scholarships

4-H Volunteer Re-enrollment

4-H Online is open. If you have a problem re-enrolling, please do not create a new profile and contact Sheila Ford at sheilaf@umd.edu.

The 4-H year resets, therefore, returning members, leaders, and volunteers must re-enroll in 4-H Online for 2026.

All volunteers must re-enroll in 4-H Online to be considered an active and approved volunteer. All returning volunteers must re-enroll by March 1. Volunteers may not work with youth on behalf of 4-H or Extension without being enrolled in 4-H Online.

President's Volunteer Service Award – Paused

It has come to our attention that the President's Volunteer Service Award through AmeriCorps is currently paused. We do not know when it will resume, but we will continue to recognize any 4-H'er who submits their Volunteer Service Hours to the Montgomery County 4-H Office at Achievement Night.

Working with Youth with Disabilities Professional Development Series

Working with Youth with Disabilities Professional Development Series
The National 4-H Access, Engagement and Belonging - Youth with Disability Committee has created a series of virtual online sessions to learn more about working with youth with disabilities and how to engage these youth in 4-H! Please see all the virtual sessions below, all between 1:00-2:00 p.m. EST. You may sign up for as many as you would like!

February 11, 2026: Behavior Management - <https://z.umn.edu/AEBC-Disability-3>
Learn about evidence-based Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies that can help reduce challenging behaviors and support new skill development. This session explores communication approaches, proactive strategies, and practical techniques for handling challenging moments in real-time across different settings like camps, events, and meetings.

April 8, 2026: Promising Practices & Encouraging Participation
- <https://z.umn.edu/AEBC-Disability-4>
Gain insights into inclusive strategies from *Promising Practices for Working with Youth with Disabilities*, designed to support accessibility and belonging in 4-H programs. This session explores ways to create welcoming environments, engage caregivers, and promote meaningful participation for all youth.

October 7, 2026: Accessibility - <https://z.umn.edu/AEBC-Disability-5>
Discover how to design presentations and materials that work for a wide range of learning styles and needs. We'll review helpful tools and tips, including using alt text, outlining slides clearly, and designing in Canva with a focus on clear communication.

MoCo Achievement Night

Montgomery County 4-H will be hosting their annual Achievement Night at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds (6 Red Oak St, Gaithersburg, MD 20877) in the Heritage Building on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Even if you or your 4-Her are not receiving an award, please still attend to have fun and cheer

on your fellow 4-Hers! Registration is open until February 11, 2026, on 4-H Online and can be accessed here: <https://mocoachievementnight.4honline.com>

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please email cbmontgo@umd.edu by February 6, 2026.

Fashion Revue Workshop

On Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Howard County Fairgrounds Dining Hall, we will be hosting a Fashion Revue Workshop in modifying thrifted and old clothing in partnership with Frederick County 4-H and Howard County 4-H to prepare for the 4-H Fashion Revue!

Please look for a 4-H Online broadcast with the registration details soon!

Public Speaking Workshop

The 4-H programs in Montgomery, Frederick, and Howard Counties will be hosting their annual Public Speaking Contest on Saturday, March 14, 2026, starting at 9:00 a.m. at Bushy Park Elementary School (14601 Carrs Mill Rd., Glenwood, MD 21738).

Registration is open until March 6: <https://forms.gle/25hjzPWr4J5GAcXBA>

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please call our office at 410-313-2707. Accommodation requests are needed 2 weeks in advance of the event date.

Club Officer Training

On Saturday March 7, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., we will be hosting Club Officer Training for all clubs at the Montgomery County 4-H Extension Office. We

highly encourage all Club Officers to attend. We will be covering the role and responsibilities of every officer position and provide you with resources and tips to be successful!

Please register on 4-H Online by March 4 or access the link here:
<https://officertraining2.4honline.com>

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please email cbmontgo@umd.edu by Friday, February 20, 2026.

Public Speaking Contest

The 4-H programs in Montgomery, Frederick, and Howard Counties will be hosting their annual Public Speaking Contest on Saturday, March 14, 2026, in Howard County.

Please save the date on your calendar for the morning and afternoon! Exact location is TBD. A registration link will be released soon!

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/GZKvjpDu9BRz2GHG8>

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

Volunteer Professional Development Day

We would like to offer a volunteer professional development day where we can network with other volunteers, share curricula books, and share an update about resources for 4-Hers along with other helpful information! We will be combining this time with a 4-H Online enrollment help session and orientation video viewing either before or after the volunteer professional development 2-hour block.

Please use this link to let us know your availability: <https://doodle.com/group-poll/participate/dBEVwMnb>.

Please note that a registration link will be sent out after we find the best date for everyone.

Volunteer Years of Service Survey

We would like to update our recordkeeping for each volunteer so that we can award recognition pins and other accolades.

Please complete this short survey to help us gauge your years of service and volunteer contributions: https://ume.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07MoODJY48PlifA

2026 Agricultural Fair Dates

The Dates for the 2026 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair have been set!

Fair Week: Friday, August 14 – Saturday, August 22, 2026

Theme: Barn in the USA

Please remember that all current 4-Hers should be registered on 4-H Online by Sunday, March 1, 2026; however, if you have new members join, the deadline to register on 4-H Online to participate in the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair is Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

Please save the following dates as we begin to prepare for the fair!

Pre-entry Deadline for the Indoor Fair Building: Monday, July 20, 2026

Fair Workdays: Saturdays, July 25, August 1, and August 8, 2026

4-H Indoor Fair Building Club Entry Day: Monday, August 10, 2026

4-H Indoor Fair Building Non-Perishable Item Entry Day: Wednesday, August 12, 2026

4-H Indoor Fair Building Perishable Item Entry Day: Saturday, August 15, 2026

4-H Indoor Fair Building Entry Pick-Up Day: Sunday, August 23, 2026

Agricultural Fair Judging Score Sheets

It is time to start thinking about what you would like to enter at the Agricultural Fair this year. Remember to save those school projects and artwork to enter at the Fair this summer!

Judges use Score Cards to evaluate and assign consistent scores across the participants' entries. Each Division has its' unique Score Card. To see what the Judges are looking for, here is the link for the Score Cards the Judges will be using for each Division.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tie5DPksfI7EHuM1EdVLxcc8NbimSjsb?usp=sharing>

2026 Camp Dates -Save the dates

The 2026 Montgomery County 4-H Camp in Western Maryland will be held Sunday July 12, to Friday, July 17, 2026.

Montgomery County 4-H Camp is open to 4-Hers and non-4-Hers ages 8-18 years old. Children aged 14+ are required to become teen camp leaders.

Registration forms for campers (who are not teen leaders) will open on March 1, 2026, here: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/montgomery-county/4-h-youth-development/camp-and-summer-program/>

Updated Documents posted to the Maryland 4-H Website

Please take note of these documents that have been updated for 2026: <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/calvert-county/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms/> (Scroll down to 4-H Project Resources

- University of Maryland Extension (UME) 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics
- Maryland 4-H Livestock Registration Form
- Maryland 4-H Poultry, Rabbit, and Cavy Registration Form

Maryland 4-H Animal Science Project Updates Webinar for Volunteers

Maryland 4-H held the 2025-26 Maryland 4-H Animal Science Project Updates Webinar for Volunteers on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. This session provided an overview of the 2025 Animal Science program highlights and policy and event changes/updates for 2026. The recording of this session will soon be posted under the Animal Science Resources for Volunteers heading on the Animal Science Program page of the Maryland 4-H website at <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/animal-sciences/>

The recorded session would be of interest to Maryland 4-H Volunteers and local Fair Volunteers working with 4-H members in the Animal Science program areas!

CLUB & COUNTY CORNER

Congratulations!

By Chandini Montgomery

How often do you think about the plastic milk carton or the extra thread from your sewing project that you threw in the trash? Well, the Maryland Department of the Environment wants you to take a closer look at the recyclables and reusable materials that we throw away.

Anvita Divvela, from the Damascus Community Club, entered the 2025 Rethink Recycling Contest in November. She placed second in the workmanship category, and she was the only person there, that she knew of, representing 4-H!

Anvita made a piece of art using plastic bread ties from her local Creative Reuse Center, inspiring people to care about



their environment and reuse ordinary, disposable items in a creative way!

Photo By Jyothi
Puvvada

Many times, we forget that small pieces of plastic, like a bread tie, can have a big impact on the environment! With everyone's help to be more conscientious about what they throw away vs. recycle, we can be better stewards of the environment.

For more information, please find more information on how to recycle and reuse materials more:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/trash-recycling/programs/>

This year, Anvita hopes that more people will enter the contest and represent Montgomery County 4-H! You can even enter items that you have previously made for the fair like Anvita did!

To read more about the Rethink Recycling Contest, see pictures, and their recap video, please visit: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/recycled-sculpture.aspx>

If you want to hear Anvita's interview at the contest, scroll down to the bottom of the webpage for the Rethink Recycling Contest linked above and scroll through the video to the time marker 34:21.

4-H Calendar Due dates and Events

February

- 1 Maryland Horse Career Program
- 2 MoCo Award nomination forms due
- 7 "The Secret Language of Flowers" Workshop
- 15 Maryland 4-H Awards Celebration
- 16 Public Speaking Workshop

- 21 Maryland 4-H Dog Skillathon – 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (tentative)
- 21 MoCo 4-H Achievement Night
- 28 Fashion Revue Workshop

March

- 7 Maryland 4-H State Livestock Skillathon, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD
- 7 Club Officer training
- 14 Maryland 4-H Horse Bowl Contest, Plant Science Bldg., University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- 14 Central Cluster Public Speaking Contest
- 21 4-H Dairy Skillathon, Carroll County Extension Office
- 22 Skillathon for State Skillathon, Team Finalists (tentative)

April

- 4_ State Horse Communications Contest, University of Maryland, College Park
- 11 Dairy Bowl, University of Maryland, Carroll County
- 21 Maryland 4-H Animal Science Committee Meeting, 9:00a-11:00a via Zoom
- 25 Maryland Day, University of Maryland, College Park
- 27 Maryland 4-H Horse Advisory Meeting, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm via Zoom

4-H Disability Virtual Training Series

Co-hosted by the National 4-H Access, Engagement and Belonging - Youth with Disability Committee



Register Online for One or All of the Following One Hour Sessions:

All sessions will begin at 10:00 a.m. PST/11:00 a.m. MST/12:00 p.m. CST/1:00 p.m. EST

October 8, 2025: Disability Overview - <https://z.umn.edu/AEBC-Disability-1>

Learn why it's important to be prepared to support individuals with disabilities. This session explores definitions, types of disabilities, relevant laws, respectful communication, and practical ways to create positive experiences for all participants.

December 10, 2025: Accommodations - <https://z.umn.edu/AEBC-Disability-2>

Learn how to create environments where everyone can participate. This session explores how to gather information, use planning tools like one-page descriptions and accommodation kits, apply flexible teaching methods, and make adjustments to meet individual needs.

February 11, 2026: Behavior Management - <https://z.umn.edu/AEBC-Disability-3>

Learn about evidence-based Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies that can help reduce challenging behaviors and support new skill development. This session explores communication approaches, proactive strategies, and practical techniques for handling challenging moments in real-time across different settings like camps, events, and meetings.

April 8, 2026: Promising Practices & Encouraging Participation -

<https://z.umn.edu/AEBC-Disability-4>

Gain insights into inclusive strategies from *Promising Practices for Working with Youth with Disabilities*, designed to support accessibility and belonging in 4-H programs. This session explores ways to create welcoming environments, engage caregivers, and promote meaningful participation for all youth.

October 7, 2026: Accessibility - <https://z.umn.edu/AEBC-Disability-5>

Discover how to design presentations and materials that work for a wide range of learning styles and needs. We'll review helpful tools and tips, including using alt text, outlining slides clearly, and designing in Canva with a focus on clear communication.

For more information contact Darcy Cole, dacole@umn.edu

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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.

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