UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Montgomery County 4-H

January 5, 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 February 2026. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, ahamann@umd.edu by January 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.

4-H Dairy Advisory Webinar Meeting

Interested volunteers are invited to join the 2026 Maryland 4-H Dairy Advisory Meeting. The meeting is going to be held on Friday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m.

During the webinar session we will discuss State 4-H Animal Science updates pertaining to the dairy project area and plans for 2026 4-H Dairy Project events, including Dairy Bowl, Dairy Judging, Dairy Skill-a-thon, the State Fair Dairy Show and other opportunities. Individuals wishing to join the advisory/planning session can register via Zoom
at: https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/5Ahcid5IScCHVLV_dOXL7Q

4-H Dog Advisory Webinar Meeting

Interested volunteers are invited to join the 2026 Maryland 4-H Dog Advisory Meeting.
The meeting is going to be held virtually on Sunday, January 11, at 6:00 p.m via zoom.

During the webinar session, we will discuss plans for the 2026 4-H Dog Project events, including the Dog Skill-a-thon (tentative. Feb. 21), State Fair Dog Show, and Dog Bowl. Individuals wishing to join the advisory session should email Ashley Travis at ashley90@umd.edu or Chris Anderson at canders2@umd.edu to request the Zoom connecting information.

2026 Wildlife Habitat Education Program Training

Date: Saturday, January 17, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Lunch provided)

Location: Montour County Fairgrounds, 2628 Broadway Rd, Danville, PA 17821

Cost: $50

Registration Deadline: January 9, 2026
Join us for an in-depth introduction to the 4-H/FFA Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP), led by Matthew Springer, Ph.D. This training is designed for high school seniors, educators, coaches, and volunteers who want to prepare teams for WHEP competitions.

What you will learn:
- How to use the WHEP textbook for participant education
- Basics of wildlife terminology
- How to acquire practice and training materials for your team
- Overview of all four competition components
- Tips for effective team practice and contest preparation

Training Highlights:
- Morning Session (Indoors):
  - Introduction to the textbook, ecoregions, and species
  - Explanation of competition components
  - Wildlife challenge examples
  -
- Afternoon Session (Outdoors):
  - Walk-through of Management Plan and Wildlife Management Practices
  - Oral Reasoning example questions
  - Discussion on creating/diversifying contests regionally or statewide

Participants should dress for the weather as the afternoon will be spent outdoors.
You can pay your registration fee at the time of registration by credit card or by mailing a check made payable to Penn State University to:

PA 4-H State Office, Attn: WHEP Training
453 Shortlidge Rd.
University Park, PA 16802

Payment must be received or postmarked within five (5) business days of registration for registration to be considered complete and your spot to be held. Pre-registration to attend the event is required by no later than January 9. No walk-in registrants will be accepted.

For event-specific questions, contact Amy Murphy at adb8@psu.edu. If you have any event registration questions, need to make an adjustment to your registration, or need to cancel a registration, please contact Hannah Alexander at hza54@psu.edu. Refunds will only be given to those who cancel prior to January 9.

The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Amy Murphy at adb8@psu.edu in advance of your participation or visit.

4-H Resume and Essay Writing Workshop

On Tuesday, January 13 from 6:30-8:00 p.m., we will be meeting in-person at the Montgomery County 4-H Building to workshop 4-H resumes and essays for the National Leadership Trips as a group. Please bring your best draft of both your 4-H resume and essay as we answer questions and provide feedback. If you are interested in having your 4-H resume reviewed, but you are not interested in applying for a National 4-H Leadership Trip, please join us! We can help with your 4-H resume!

Please register here by January 11, 2026: https://forms.gle/PyAX98Rj7DCunP4s7

4-H Horse Advisory Webinar Meeting

Interested volunteers are invited to join the 2026 Horse Advisory Meeting. The meeting is going to be held virtually on Monday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.

During the webinar session, we will review last year's 4-H Horse Project events and discuss plans for the 2026 events, including the Horse Bowl, Horse Communications, Hippology, Horse Judging, and Virtual Equine Art and Photography contests, as well as the Maryland State Fair 4-H Horse Show. Individuals interested in joining the advisory session should email Chris Anderson at canders2@umd.edu to request Zoom connecting information.

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.

Maryland 4-H Dog Skill-a-thon

The tentative date for the 2026 Maryland 4-H Dog Skill-a-thon is Saturday, February 21, at the University of Maryland campus in College Park. Registration will open and the 2026 contest rules will be posted after the Dog Advisory Meeting.

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 and Meredith Null at meredith.myers22@gmail.com.

MC Agricultural Center 2026 Scholarship Applications

The Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc. (MCAC) offers post-secondary scholarships to individuals who are planning to further their education in agriculture, family and consumer sciences or related fields of study. Applicants must provide documentation on volunteer service on the Fairgrounds to be eligible for these scholarships.

The scholarship winner will be notified in March and presented at the annual meeting in May.

Applications must be submitted online by January 10, 2026, by 11:59 p.m.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GkaYJzs_RbNC1WEwpxEWgqogqGpQLq5m/view

If you have any questions, please contact the Fair Office at 301-926-3100 x205

4-H Online Opening

4-H Online is scheduled to reopen on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. If you have a problem re-enrolling, please do not create a new profile and contact Sheila Ford at sheilaf@umd.edu.

All members and volunteers will need to re-enroll in the new year by logging into 4-H Online. When 4-H Online reopens, members must log into 4-H Online to re-enroll in 4-H for the new calendar year. Members mutst pay $10/child annual enrollment fee (up to $30 per household) to continue to participate in 4-H. Scholarships are available.

Applications for 2026 Montgomery County Teen Council

We are excited to share the application for the 2026 Montgomery County Teen Council! If you or your child will be at least 14 years old on January 1, 2026, and will be re-enrolling in Montgomery County 4-H in 2026, you are eligible to apply!

Please consider joining us to make a difference in Montgomery County and have your voice heard! You do NOT need to have lots of leadership experience to join the Teen Council, but we want you to have an interest in learning how to be a leader and to grow!

You will find a blank copy of this form at the following link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A20kKlw5OuR77qDtAwZnjROLkg4Zn1K1?usp=drive_link

Please email your completed application and resume to cbmontgo@umd.edu and csavage9@umd.edu by January 16, 2026.

2026 Alpaca A-Z Health Seminar

4-H members are invited to attend the 2026 Alpaca A-Z Health Seminar on January 16 & 17, 2026 in Annapolis, MD.

The Alpaca A-Z Health Seminar is hosted by Maryland Alpaca Breeder's Association. The seminar will feature Patrick Long, DVM, a world-renowned and well-respected practicing veterinarian in Corvallis, Oregon.

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-Her who submits their Volunteer Service Hours to the Montgomery County 4-H Office at Achievement Night. We can also present them with a Certificate of Recognition from the Montgomery County 4-H Office and potentially a small merit prize.

An updated version of the President's Volunteer Service Award form at the following link

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A20kKlw5OuR77qDtAwZnjROLkg4Zn1K1?usp=drive_link

Due to the MOCO 4-H Office by January 20, 2026

Due to the MoCo 4-H Office by January 20, 2026:

- Record Books
- Completed Diamond Clover Reports for levels 1 – 4
- Youth Achievement Awards Nomination Form
- Volunteer Achievement Awards Nomination Form

Please mail your materials or deliver documents to the Montgomery County 4-H Office, Attn: Sheila Ford, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855 or email to sheilaf@umd.edu.

Resume Format

https://extension.umd.edu/locations/anne-arundel-county/4-h-youth-develoPMent/4-h-forms

Sample of the Diamond Clover Reports

https://extension.umd.edu/progrAMs/4-h-youth-develoPMent/progrAM-areas/youth-and-adult-leadership/diAMond-clover-awards-and-scholarships

Electronic 4-H Record Books

If you plan to do a Record Book for this year, you will have the opportunity to submit an electronic record.

What is a 4-H Record Book? A 4-H Record Book is a standard record of your activities in 4-H - your projects, activities, events, skills development and learning experiences. The 4-H Record Book helps improve your skills in record keeping and goal management.

The electronic record uses the ZSoft Suite. You will be able to make, edit, and share electronic record books.

To start using the electronic records tool, you will need to create a household, and add yourself as a member of that household, like 4-H Online.

The website is https://4h.zsuite.org/

When you go to the website, please click on "Sign Up" on the right-hand side of the screen. From there, please follow the steps outlined in this help document section that goes over how to create a household and add members to that household:

https://zsuite.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/static/Help/ZSuiteHelp/ZSuiteAccountSetup.html

Please note that club members are the only profiles that can make and edit record books. The Primary Account and any subsequent parent/volunteer/leader can view the books but cannot work/edit them.

Electronic Record Books are an option for this year to complete your Record Book. You are still welcome to complete a paper copy instead.

4-H hopes to fully roll out access to the electronic record books on November 1, 2025, for club members and their families.

Record books are due to the MoCo 4-H Office by January 20, 2026.

Volunteer Robotics Information Session

Changes are coming to the Maryland 4-H robotics state contest, and we want you to be part of the conversation! On Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 7:00 pm, Maryland 4-H will be holding a virtual meeting to discuss the future of robotics contests in Maryland 4-H.

If you are a volunteer or parent who is interested in robotics through Maryland 4-H, please reach out to cbmontgo@umd.edu so that we can share the Zoom link with you!

2026 Senior 4-H National Leadership Trip

It is time to apply for 4-H National Leadership Trips for 2026! This is an exciting opportunity that is available to Senior 4-Hers (4-H age 14-18 years old). Applications are due on January 21, 2026. on 4-H Online. (Please remember to re-enroll in 4-H Online when it reopens on January 14, 2026, so that you can submit your application on time).

Please reach out to cbmontgo@umd.edu or csavage9@umd.edu if you need help with 4-H resume writing, applications, or the interview process.

All documents relevant to National 4-H Leadership Trips can be found in a Google Drive folder that all available resources linked to help you through the process of applying for Leadership Trips and writing 4-H resumes and essays. The Google Drive folder can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Vu6MdvsgAM1QAdWWQbBZDs_5ZXOfXd0A?usp=drive_link

Following a list of National 4-H Leadership Trips that you can apply for if you will be a 4-H Senior in 2026:

4-H Virginia Congress

- Date: Not released yet. Set to release on March 1, 2026. Typically held in late June.
- Location: Blacksburg, VA at Virginia Tech
- Website: https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/state-congress.html
- Description: A great introductory leadership trip where Maryland 4-H delegates have been allowed to attend Virginia's state leadership conference. There is a mix of educational, recreational, and social opportunities to engage in. This is a great way to build life skills and leadership capabilities while making new friends!

West Virginia Older Members' Conference

- Dates: July 19- July 24, 2026
- Location: Jackson's Mill, WV, the West Virginia University event facility
- Website: https://extension.wvu.edu/youth-family/4h/camps/older-members-conference
- Description: Another great introductory trip that involves camping where Maryland 4-H delegates are allowed to attend West Virginia's Older Members' Conference. This is a smaller camping conference where conference members camp in rustic lodging and can to attend workshops while making new 4-H friends.

Camp Miniwanca National Leadership Conference

- Dates: June 13-20, 2026
- Location: Shelby, MI (near Lake Michigan)
- Website: https://ayf.com/programs/national-leadership-conference/
- Description: Do you love camp and want to learn more about yourself? Then Camp Miniwanca is for you! Camp Miniwanca is a rustic leadership

conference where you live in rustic camp lodging but have the experience of a lifetime. This trip allows you to delve deeper into your capabilities as a leader by learning more about yourself.

National 4-H Congress

- Dates: Not released yet, but typically runs the day after Thanksgiving until the following Monday or Tuesday
- Location: Atlanta, GA
- Website: https://www.national4-hcongress.com/
- Description: This is the largest 4-H National Leadership Trip where it is acclaimed for being fun by combining education, community service, and recreation/socialization.

Camp In-Service

The camp in-service will be held at 9:00 a.m. on January 31, 2026, at the Howard County Fairgrounds.

This training is open to any adult involved in or interested in working with the Maryland 4-H Camping program. The registration information is coming soon.

2026 Maryland Horse Career Program

4-H Members are invited to apply for the Maryland Horse Career Program hosted by the Maryland Horse Foundation. The Maryland Horse Career Program is an educational week-long overnight cohort program aimed at increased awareness of career options and highlighting various paths for pursuing a career in the horse industry.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age by June 1st. Interested applicants should visit https://marylandhorse.com/maryland-horse-career-program/ for more information, testimonials, and FAQ's, and submit their complete application (application form, a resume, and one letter of recommendation) to Maryanna@marylandthoroughbred.com by February 1, 2026.

Workshop “The Secret Language of flowers”

Uncover the story of “Tussie-Mussies” and craft your own heartfelt floral message. The Flower arranging workshop will be held on Saturday, February 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County 4-H Office. Registration is coming soon!

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.

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

Registration will be coming soon!

MoCo Award Nomination Forms

Do you want to recognize someone or even your own hard work? Consider submitting an award nomination form for yourself or someone else!

Award Nomination Forms and any accompanying documents will be due to Ms. Sheila Ford by email (sheilaf@umd.edu) by February 2, 2026.

You will find a blank copy of this form at the following link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A20kKlw5OuR77qDtAwZnjROLkg4Zn1K1?usp=drive_link

Public Speaking Workshop

On Monday, February 16, 2026 (President's Day) from 10:00 a.m. 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-Iuq6oAsHPb5b1P-2mZrginUUXAVw/viewform

MoCo Achievement Night

We will be hosting our 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 5:00-7:00 p.m.

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! A registration link will be created in 4-H Online once it reopens in January.

Fashion Revue Workshop

In the morning on Saturday, February 28, 2026, we will be hosting a Fashion Revue Workshop in partnership with Frederick County 4-H and Howard County 4-H.

Topics being considered: thrifting clothes and modifying thrifted clothes.
Location: TBD

A registration link will be released soon!

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's position and provide you with resources and tips to be successful!

A registration will be created on 4-H Online once 4-H Online opens again in January.

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

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

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

A registration form will be released in early 2026.

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

CLUB & COUNTY CORNER

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Aden M. (Junior), Natalia L. (Junior), Leia J. (Junior), and Addie C. (Intermediate) for placing at this year's Dog Bowl as Individual Competitors!
Also, congratulations to our Junior and Intermediate teams for placing!

Damascus Community 4-H Club

Clarksburg Helping Hands 4-H Club, a year in review.

The club members wish you and your families a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2026 New Year!!!

How time flies! The Clarksburg Helping Hands 4-H club will be celebrating its 20th year.
In 2025 the club had a wonderful year at MCAF. The club won the Champion ribbon for both the Booths and Banner's and went to state fair where the Booth won reserved Champ and the Banner placed seventh. Thank you to Vincent and Matthew M. In addition, many of our gift baskets also received first place at the MCAF.

Congratulations to Jason for being the MCAG Fair king 2024, and Joseph for being the Damascus Fair King 2024.

Congratulations to our Jr. Leaders. Diego received his Diamond Level 6 for the Wooden Flags given to the Honor Flight and various American Legion and police officers. Joseph received his Diamond Level 6 for the Birdhouse Project. The twenty birdhouses are going to be located on the Damascus Rec Center walkway.

Congratulations to all the Club members. Showing the club's skills at Damascus Fair, the club won third in the ice cream contest.

The club members look forward to new activities for 2026 with our new Club Officers.
Vincent Pres, Wesley 1st VP Jason 2nd VP, Noah Rec. Sec, Joseph Coord. Sec, Matthew Treasurer, Ryan L Historian.

In 2026 they hope to have meetings at the fairgrounds starting in March on Sundays 2:00- 4:00 p.m.

The January and February meetings will be through ZOOM due to the unpredictable weather.

Clarksburg Helping Hands

The Clarksburg Helping Hands 4-H Club is ringing out the old year 2025 with many successes and bringing in the new year 2026 for high hopes for a fun program and hopefully a lot of new members,

The club had a successful year with so many community service baskets for county families with everyone participating in some way.

Thanks to Vincent and Matthew for giving the club wins for the Club Booth (Champion at county and Reserved Champion at state Fair) and Club Banner (Champion at county and seventh at state). Congratulations to Jason as he finished his reign as MCAF 2024 King and Joseph as Damascus fair 2024 King.

This year Diego graduated and moved onto college, completing his Diamond Level 6 project making 250 wooden flags for Honors Flights and service personnel. We wish him the best.

The club participated in the Damascus Fair ice cream contest coming in third with great support from the members and their parents. Finally at the end of the year Joseph received acceptance of his completed Diamond Level 6 project making Bluebird houses for Damascus Rec Center. Thank you to Wesley for his Health book, Ryan L for the Secretary book, and Ryan T for the Treasurer book.

As the club moves forward in 2026, many of the members will be graduating High School and moving onto college. The club is looking for new members to keep the club going in the future. Congratulations to the recently elected officers for 2026. Vincent Pres., Wesley 1st VP, Jason 2nd VP, Noah Recording Sec, Matthew Corresponding Sec, Ryan L Historian.

The club voted on meeting on the second Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The club will be conducting Zoom meetings for Jan and Feb.

Anyone interested in joining the Clarksburg Helping Hands 4-H Club, please email dalejyan@yahoo.com or contact the 4-H Office.

4-H Calendar
Due dates and Events

January

9 4-H Dairy Advisory Webinar Meeting

10 MC Agricultural Center 2026 Scholarship Applications
11 4-H Dog Advisory Webinar Meeting
13 4-H Resume and Essay Writing Workshop
14 4-H Online Opening
16 Montgomery County Teen Council Application deadline
16-17 Alpaca A-Z Health Seminar
20 Record Books, Completed Diamond Clover Reports for levels 1 – 4, Youth Achievement Awards Nomination Form, and Volunteer Achievement Awards Nomination Form
20 Volunteer Robotics Information Session
21 National Leadership Trips deadine
26 4-H Horse Advisory Webinar meeting
31 Camp In-service

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)

2026 Alpaca A-Z Health Seminar

sponsored by

Maryland Alpaca Breeders Association

Featuring
Dr. Pat Long

January 16 & 17, 2026

Dr. Patrick Long

Patrick Long, DVM, is a world renouned and well respected practicing veterinarian in Corvallis, Oregon. Llamas and alpacas comprise more than half of his practice. He graduated from Kansas State University with his DVM degree in 1976. After 5 years in the US Army, he has since practiced in Oregon, working with llamas and alpacas since 1982. He has spoken at many national and international meetings on llama and alpaca care. Dr. Long is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Oregon Veterinary Association, the Willamette Valley Llama Foundation, and he is a board member of the Alpaca Research Foundation and the Morris Animal Foundation. He is co-author of the Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care book. Dr. Long has written many articles for Alpacas Magazine and has participated in several importation screenings for ARI. Dr. Long's areas of interest are herd health management, nutrition, and reproduction.

MABA Members Tickets FREE

Register Early - Space is Limited

TICKETS

Non-members
1st ticket...$150
2nd ticket...$75
same farm or family
Juniors, FFA, 4H...$25

GOLD AWARD WINNING

accomodations at the

Country Inn & Suites by Radisson
Annapolis, MD

410-571-6700

2600 Housley Rd, Annapolis, MD
discounted rooms for attendees

Please book by December 14, 2025

January 16th, Friday Evening

5:00-6:30 pm	Meet and Greet *Hors d'oeuvres and finger food provided*
6:00-7:30 pm	Lecture What's New In Basic Herd Health

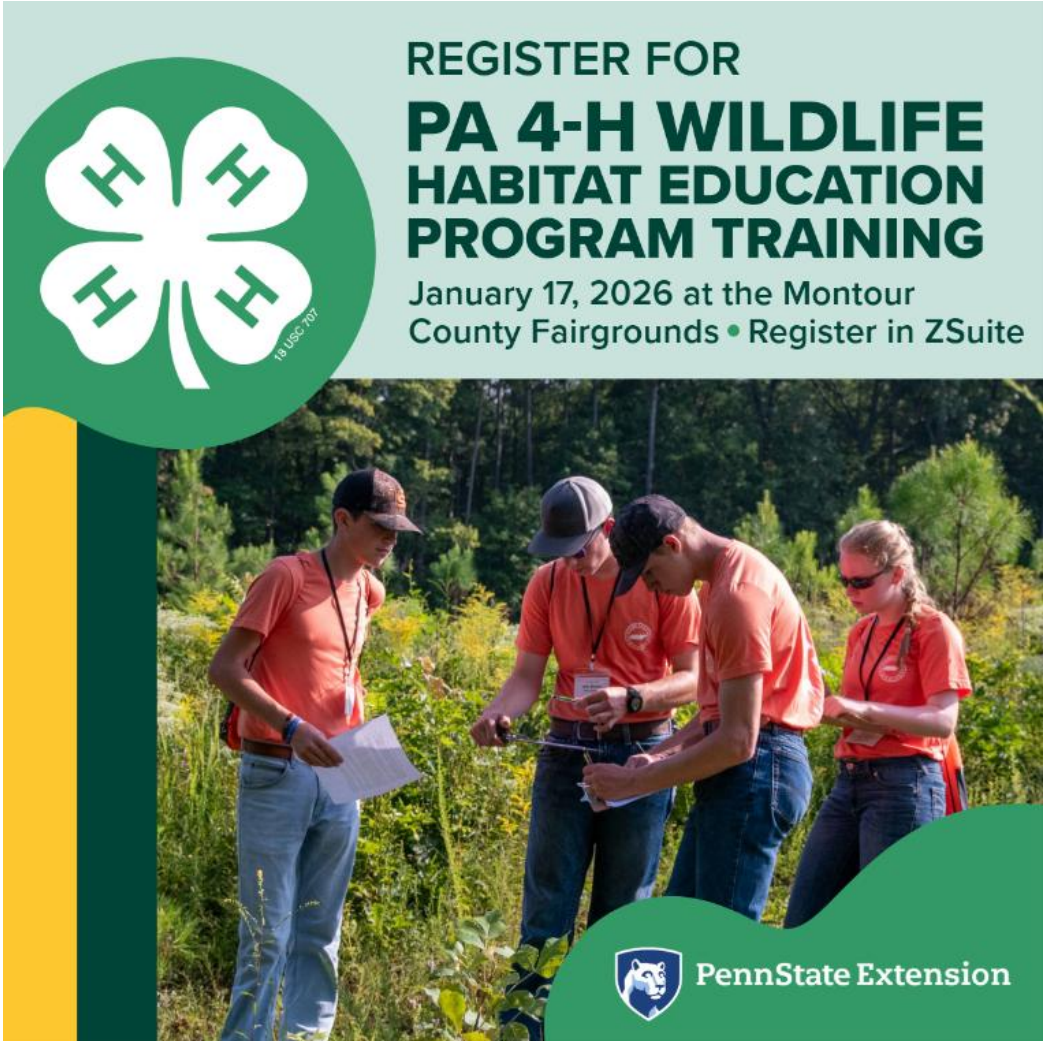
January 17th, Saturday

8:00-8:30 am	Continential Breakfast
8:30-9:30 am	Breeding Protocol - Best Practices
9:30-10:30 am	Neonatal Care
10:30-10:45 am	Break
10:45-12:00 pm	Elder Care & Geriatrics - keeping older alpacas healthy and productive
12:00-1:00 pm	Full Luncheon provided
1:00-2:15 pm	Nutrition
2:15-2:30 pm	Break
2:30-4:00 pm	Diseases, Prevention, Intervention & Biosecurity
4:00-5:00 pm	Questions & Answers Session

Attendees are welcome to gather at the Boatyard Bar & Grill, 400 4th Street. Dining options will be at everyone's own expense. Free parking.

Scan QR code or copy & paste the URL to register for seminar

https://www.eventeny.com/events/patlongseminar-24282


REGISTER FOR
PA 4-H WILDLIFE
HABITAT EDUCATION
PROGRAM TRAINING
January 17, 2026 at the Montour
County Fairgrounds • Register in ZSuite
18 USC 707
PennState Extension

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.

Chandini Montgomery, 4-H Educator, 301-226-7956, cbmontgo@umd.edu
Catherine Savage, Agent Associate, 301-226-7957, csavage9@umd.edu
Sheila Ford, Extension Program Assistance, sheilaf@umd.edu
Anna Hamann, Admin Asst. (part-time), Newsletter Editor, ahamann@umd.edu

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Beyond Ready

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Our mailing address is:
Montgomery County 4-H
18410 Muncaster Rd
Derwood, MD 20855

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