



Montgomery County 4-H

March 1, 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 April 2026. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, ahamann@umd.edu by March 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. to 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 13, 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 4 at 7:00 p.m. ET. Sign up for the webinar here: https://4-h-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dFxFx-vUTlaD6rkGE61xCA#/registration

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.

Livestock Skillathon

Livestock Skillathon contest, Saturday, March 7 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds!

If you have any questions, contact Catherine Savage at Csavage9@umd.edu and Meredith Null at meredith.myers22@gmail.com.

4-H Volunteer Re-enrollment

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.

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

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 to 2:00 p.m. EST. You may sign up for as many as you would like!

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.

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's 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.

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-H'ers 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

SeaPerch Training

Open to UME 4-H certified volunteers only. SeaPerch, a part of RoboNation, uses underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV's) in their contests and programs, and holds their national contest every year at UMD in May. Their program guides students on building an underwater ROV while supplying educators with the tools and training to help guide youth through the process. You can find out more about SeaPerch here: <https://seaperch.org>
A MD 4-H SeaPerch training will be held on June 2 (June 3 rain date) at the State 4-H Office in College Park, MD.

The training session is free and all supplies will be provided. Attendees will be able to take materials home. During the trainings, participants will learn about the SeaPerch program, learn how to implement SeaPerch into their local efforts, and be able to build a SeaPerch ROV to try out while learning about the engineering design process.

If you are interested in this training, you must contact Chandini Montgomery (cbmontgo@umd.edu) as soon as possible if they are interested in the Sea Perch Training.

Agricultural Fair Judging Score Sheets

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/1tie5DPksfI7EHuM1EdVLxccc8NbimSjsb?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/>

CLUB & COUNTY CORNER

Damascus 4-H Club

By Isabel L.

The Damascus 4-H Club voted on the charity to donate to, with the birthday money they collected throughout the year, at the January meeting. The options

were the Damascus Little Free Pantry, the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County, and Habitat for Humanity. The Damascus Little Free Pantry won the vote. The members came up with ideas on what volunteer and recreation activities to do as a club. Some ideas for volunteering were a trail cleanup, volunteering at the Big Cheese, and scooping ice cream for the Lions Club ice cream place. Mafo did pizzaz. The members discussed what they did in the December project groups. For example, Foods 1 met and made candy. At snack time there was hot cocoa and cookies. They were supposed to make gingerbread houses, but the frosting went bad. However, the members ate the leftover marshmallows.

The theme at the achievement night in February was "Under the Sea." Project group leaders gave their group members presents to recognize their achievements. The club also had a costume contest, and the kids who finished record books got pins. In the costume contest there was a group that dressed up as Sebastian, Ariel, and Flounder and sang "Under the Sea".

At the February meeting, the members discussed and adopted a budget. They decided to spend more money on T-shirts than they did last year. They also decided to move some of the money that was for office supplies into the fair awards and charity categories. Not many project groups met in January. To get to know new members, the members played duck, duck, goose with names at the meeting.

Clarksburg Helping Hands

Congratulations to the following Club members that received awards at the MoCo 4-H Awards night.

2025 Senior Diego R.

2026 Seniors - Jayson L., Ryan L., Joseph M., and Vincent M.

Jr. Leaders - Jayson L., Ryan L., Wesley L., Joseph M., Matthew M., Vincent M., and Ryan T.

Gold Volunteer Award - Wesley L.

Diamond Clover Levels 1,2,3,4,- Matthew M., and Vincent M.

Jr Leadership Award - Matthew M.

Jr. Creative Art Award - Matthew M.

4-H Calendar Due dates and Events

March

- 7 Maryland 4-H State Livestock Skillathon, Montgomery County Fairgrounds,
- 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 to 11:00 a.m. via Zoom
- 25 Maryland Day, University of Maryland, College Park
- 27 Maryland 4-H Horse Advisory Meeting, 7 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom

May

- 2-3 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds
- 3 Goat, Sheep & Wool Skillathon, Howard County Fairgrounds
- 9 Eastern Shore 4-H Spring Show, Queen Anne's County 4-H Park
- 9 Western Maryland District Show, Garrett County Fairgrounds
- 19 Maryland 4-H Animal Science Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,
at Howard County Fairgrounds
- TBD Horse Bowl Buzz-Off, MD 4-H Center, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

June

- 5-7 Southern Maryland 4-H Spring Show, Charles County Fairgrounds
- 6-7 Breeders fair, Cecil County
- 13 Maryland 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology Contests, Howard County
Fairgrounds
- 13-14 Central Maryland 4-H/FFA Livestock Spring Show, Montgomery County
Fairgrounds
- 16 Maryland 4-H Animal Science Committee Meeting, 9 to 11:00 a.m. 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.

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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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