**REMINDER: Inclement Weather Policy**

As we enter the winter months, I wanted to remind you of our inclement weather policy. We follow the Anne Arundel County School System with regards to events. If schools are closed or close early (including cancellation of afternoon sports/activities) then 4-H events, club meetings, etc. must be cancelled or rescheduled. If school opens late then activities can still continue as planned.

Just as an FYI-Our office follows the county government, so if Anne Arundel County Government closes, so does our office.

*******4-H ENROLLMENT FOR 2015!*******

All enrollment will be done online this year. The link to complete registration is below. Attached you will find the guide to help walk you through the process. IF you have any issues enrolling please contact Doris Sabur at dsabur@umd.edu and she will help walk you through the process!
https://md.4honline.com/Login.aspx?403D4067697663762B4C61322B4D3D

**Public Speaking Contest!**

Contest will be held on February 21st at Annapolis High School starting at 10am. Use link below to register online!  
https://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/public-speaking-registration-form

**Anne Arundel County Youth Workshop Series:**

**Friday Parents’ Night Out 2015**

Provided by the Anne Arundel County 4-H Program

Drop off your kids from 6:30-9:00PM at the University of Maryland Extension Office on the beautiful Sunrise Farm in Gambrills, Maryland and get a taste of the programs that 4-H offers. These 6 workshops will explore Arts and Crafts, Photography, Fine Arts, Agriculture, and more! All completed projects will be ready to show at the Anne Arundel County Fair. Sign up for the series for a discounted rate, or choose the workshops a la carte. See attached flyer for more information and registration details. Please RSVP by Feb 10th is you plan to attend on the 13th.
SAVE THE DATE! Record Books Due-February 6th!

2015 4-H VARIETY SHOW

The 2015 4-H Variety Show will be held on SUNDAY, February 8, 2015 with a snow date of SUNDAY, February 22nd. The Variety Show will be held at the Baldwin Methodist Church Educational Building Hall in Millersville. Doors will open at 3:15 p.m. and the program will begin at 4:00 p.m.

The registration form, flyer, rules and judges' sheet are attached. Since the Variety Show was cancelled last year, Rule #14 DOES NOT APPLY THIS YEAR.

Deadline for registration is Monday, February 2, 2015.

Food will be available for purchase and 4-H families are asked to donate baked goods for the bake table. The 4-H Exchange Club will also have a silent auction.

TERRY COOPER UNSUNG HERO AWARD

The Anne Arundel County 4-H Foundation is accepting nominations for the Terry Cooper Unsung Hero award. This award was established in memory of Mrs. Terry Cooper, a dedicated 4-H volunteer who worked quietly behind the scenes doing whatever was needed to support the 4-H program. She was always willing to help, whether it was to serve as a judge, adult staff member at camp, or to bake a cake for the 4-H cake auction. Mrs. Cooper did so without any expectation of reward or recognition.

The Unsung Hero award may be awarded to one adult and one youth who have made a significant contribution to the 4-H program, but who have received little or no recognition for their efforts. The winners will be announced at the County 4-H Achievement Night.

The nomination form, which includes the award criteria and submission information, is attached. Anyone can nominate an individual for the Unsung Hero Award.

Deadline for submission is Wednesday, February 11th.

4-H FOUNDATION MEETINGS

The Anne Arundel County 4-H Foundation meets the third Wednesday of each month at the 4-H office at 7 p.m. If you are interested in helping support our county 4-H program, please join us at our next meeting.
Annual 4-H Legislative Day in Annapolis on Monday, February 16, 2015

We are partnering this year with the MOST Agency (Maryland Out of School Time) and the Boys & Girls Clubs. The event will be held in the Miller Senate Building, East 1&2 as in the past but in the afternoon from 1:00 – 4:00 pm and will have a STEM EXPO.

The final agenda is still being developed by the committee and will focus on youth civic engagement and advocacy as in the past. Part of the focus will build on the State Comptroller’s initiative to Start Schools After Label Day, “Let Summer Be Summer”. (This was introduced to those that attended 4-H Day last year by the Deputy Comptroller.)

In addition, there are many new Legislators representing our districts this year and obviously a new Governor. We want to show them that 4-H, as well as our partners in Out of School Time, emphasize STEM components in our curriculum. Groups are being asked to present a display or brief hands-on activity for the Legislatures.

Attached you will find a flyer/registration to distribute to your 4-H’ers / Volunteers. Your group can be registered as individual Clubs or as a County. Please return the registration to me by February 9. Space for the STEM EXPO is limited so make sure to get those participating in ASAP. As always each County is to set up their own visits with their Legislators following the scheduled event.

We are looking for a great turn-out by our 4-Hers and Volunteers to help tell the “4-H Story”!

Please contact me if you have questions.

Cynthia L. Warner
4-H Educator
University of Maryland Extension, Harford County
410-638-3255
FAX 410-638-3053
cwarner1@umd.edu

2015 Maryland 4-H Livestock Skillathon

The 2015 Maryland 4-H Livestock Skillathon will be held on Saturday, March 7 at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 901 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD, US, 21740. We are pleased that the contest is again being held in conjunction with the Maryland Cattle Industry Convention & Hay and Pasture Conference sponsored by the Maryland Cattlemen's Association.

Again, this year the MCA board is offering offer a luncheon at a greatly reduced rate for the youth and families as they await the results after their hard work of participating in the Skillathon contest. The board is proud to host Trent Loos as the guest speaker for the program. They will be restricting access to the show to only those who take part in the luncheon. About Trent Loos…Trent is host of the Loos Tales radio show launched in January of 2001. Loos Tales airs
on over 100 stations nationwide and boasts 3 million listeners on-air and online. His program shares the message about the people and places in rural America and strives to re-connect consumers to their food. In 2008, Trent was recognized as the “Voice of Rural America” by the West Quest organization for his ground-breaking work in advocating for agriculture and speaking on behalf of the folks who would rather stay home and tend to their crops and livestock than take on those attacking their life-sustaining industry.

The Livestock Skillathon is a contest in which individuals compete. There are NO team entries. There will be a $5.00 entry fee for each contestant. Additionally, the optional luncheon/speaker is offered to contestants at the reduced rate of $10.00. Adults who are coming as the team coaches and parents of contestants in the Skillathon contest may also pay the $10.00 fee and join us for the luncheon and entertaining speaker. Please complete the attached Registration Form and mail/email/fax to the Maryland 4-H Center by Monday, February 23.

There is no limit to the number of individuals that each UME unit may enter in this contest. Individual contestants for this statewide competition must be approved and pre-registered on the Registration Form by their 4-H Extension Educator.

Contest Rules and the Registration Form are attached. Please contact Chris Anderson at canders2@umd.edu if you have questions. Please share this information with interested members and volunteers.

NOTE: We encourage adults to take part in the MCA Convention & Hay and Pasture Conference educational sessions planned for Saturday. A single day registration to attend all Forage/Beef Sessions, Trade Show and the Cattlemen’s Luncheon is available for $30.00. Visit http://www.marylandcattle.org for details and to register.

Also, make note on your calendars the following skillathon events available to your members:
1) The Farmer's Coop Swine Skillathon – April 11, 2015, Frederick Co.

Thank you,
Chris Anderson

Need service hours? The 4-H Office could use your help! Contact Amanda with your availability in the new year if interested!