

Cecil County 4-H Staff



National 4-H Week provides an opportunity to increase public awareness and understanding of the 4-H program. It is held the first full week of October. The National 4-H Science experiment is held one evening during National 4-H week.

4-H Benefit Auction is held the first Saturday in December with a dinner as well as a live and silent auction. All proceeds are used to help support county and club 4-H programs.

Demonstrations and Communications Events provide opportunities for 4-H youth, who are encouraged to give a demonstration or talk about their 4-H projects. The county contest is held in February or March, with other events throughout the year.

Community Service, such as collecting food and clothing, as well as park clean-ups, is an important part of the 4-H program. Youth and clubs are encouraged to participate in activities that benefit the community. In addition, youth that record their hours and submit are recognized for their service.

Diamond Clover Award is a 6-level award to encourage members to engage in a variety of projects and activities thus enabling them to acquire the skills that will help them lead successful lives as competent, caring and contributing citizens. A new level can be achieved annually.

Judging provides opportunities for 4-H members to participate in and learn the skills of decision-making and oral reasons (justification) of placements. Current judging opportunities include the areas of dairy, livestock, poultry and egg, rabbit, horse, goat, horticulture, wildlife, forestry, and consumerism.

Quiz Bowl is similar to the game show "Jeopardy" except all questions are project-related. 4-H members are able to participate in and learn many facts and information about their projects. Quiz bowl opportunities include dairy, horse and dog projects.



Whether a young person is involved in workforce exploration, hands-on science projects, community service, or technology clubs, Maryland 4-H **empowers** young people to be the leaders of tomorrow. . . **today!**

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Cecil County 4-H Youth Development Program

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4-H... More Than You Ever
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On behalf of the
University of Maryland Extension,
Cecil County, we welcome your
participation in the Cecil County
4-H Youth Program. We are excited to
offer you the fun and educational
opportunities that 4-H youth enjoy. If you
have any questions, please contact us at
the Cecil County Extension Office.



Annually, more than 73,000 youth, ages 5 to 18, participate in 4-H programs in all 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City. Over 500 community 4-H Clubs provide a safe haven where **young people** can develop critical life skills.

Through 4-H projects and programs, Maryland 4-H'ers reach their **full potential** by developing these essential life skills:

- Decision-Making
- Acquiring Knowledge
- Taking Personal Responsibility
- Creative Thinking
- Communications
- Understanding Self
- Getting Along With Others

The 4-H motto, "**To Make the Best Better**," means that you should strive to improve your own knowledge, skills, and attitudes and help others to make their best better. **The 4-H Emblem** is a green four-leaf clover on a white background with white H's showing through. Green stands for life and growth; white is for purity. The H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The clover emblem is international.

Who Can Join?

4-H club members are youth ages 8-18, as of January 1 of the current year. Membership for youth ages 5-7, as of January 1 of the current year, is available; these youth are known as Clovers. 4-H'ers are enrolled in a club with a **University of Maryland Extension (UME)**-appointed volunteer leader that meets at least six times per year. Each club will have officers and a planned program. 4-H'ers must enroll in at least one project.

What is 4-H About?

The project is the foundation for learning. Projects are designed so individuals can progress at their own pace through learning experiences. With the guidance of parents, volunteers, or teen leaders, knowledge is applied to practical life experiences. To complete a project, a member:

- Completes the "hands on" learning activities.
- Demonstrates, talks, or presents reasons about the knowledge or skills they have learned.
- Evaluates the project through displays, exhibits, or competitive events.
- Records knowledge, skills, experiences, leadership, and citizenship in the project record.
- Completes the record sheet and turns it into the Cecil County 4-H Office.

There are more than 60 project areas to choose from. By participating in a project, 4-H'ers learn to work with others, explore new areas, and practice the principle of "learning by doing." County and regional workshops are offered in specific project areas throughout the year.

The 4-H Club Meeting is a very important learning experience. You and your friends, who are officers of your 4-H club, conduct the meeting. The adult volunteer leaders, teen 4-H leaders, and UME faculty and staff may assist in training you to conduct 4-H meetings. You will learn more and enjoy the program by taking an active part. As you progress and learn more about your club, you will discover more interesting things about 4-H.

4-H'ers are expected to show interest in their club, put forth the effort necessary to complete their project, and support their fellow club members. They are also expected to conduct themselves in manner so that 4-H club meetings and activities will provide a meaningful experience for everyone involved.

The adult leader of the club will explain the 4-H program and some of the local 4-H history to you. You will learn how many other kids are in 4-H in your area, what the available projects are, and about special area-wide 4-H activities, conducting 4-H meetings, electing club officers, committee work, and lots of other important things.

4-H Leaders

A very important part of 4-H is knowing the people you will be working with. These are the people you most often see at 4-H events and meetings. **Adult Leaders** volunteer their time to 4-H. They may be parents or other adults in the community who show a willingness to help boys and girls in their 4-H careers. They may advise 4-H'ers with the organization of their club or with carrying out their programs. Leaders help 4-H'ers with their 4-H projects and activities.

4-H Teen Leaders are older, experienced 4-H members serving as leaders to 4-H'ers, and they also help the volunteer adult leaders of your 4-H club. The teen leader may be taking a project in 4-H leadership and working in your club as part of his or her project work.

4-H Parents provide assistance and lend support to the 4-H program. They sometimes provide transportation and meeting places for 4-H clubs or help with fund raising. They provide important support to the volunteer leaders and UME faculty and staff.

UME Faculty and Staff have been college-trained to work with adult leaders and 4-H members. They help design 4-H programs based on the interests and needs of the 4-H members.

UME Volunteers are adult volunteers trained by UME, Cecil County, to work with club members. Club leaders are responsible for the organization and management of the club. Project leaders help 4-H members learn through involvement in a specific 4-H project. Activity leaders help 4-H members learn through involvement in activities.



The 4-H Talk Newsletter is sent from the UME Cecil County Office to each family enrolled in a 4-H club. The newsletter informs members and their families of upcoming events and deadlines for major activities. The newsletter contains only brief pertinent information and announcements, so attending local club meetings and project groups are very important to obtain all details.

4-H Record Books are a way 4-H'ers learn to keep records, evaluate their past accomplishments, and organize their thoughts. Youth are recognized for goal achievements, their leadership given to local club or county activities, and community service projects they have been involved in. They are awarded for their accomplishments at the annual 4-H Achievement Night.

Achievement Night is an annual event held on the first Saturday in March that recognizes 4-H youth and volunteers for their accomplishments and awards are presented for the previous year's work. 4-H volunteers, clubs, and supporters are also recognized for their service to the 4-H youth development program.

Winterfest offers a fun opportunity for 4-H youth to select four 1-hour classes in which they have an interest. Winterfest is held on the Sunday the day after the Achievement Night Program.

Eastern Shore Spring Show is a regional show for 4-H'ers to exhibit their animal projects (dairy, beef, sheep, swine, dog, rabbit and cavy, and goat). It is held the second Saturday in May.

Cecil County Breeders' Fair offers an opportunity for 4-H youth to exhibit and show their animal projects. Breeders' Fair is always the Saturday and Sunday following Memorial Day and is open to 4-H members in Cecil, Kent and Harford counties in Maryland, New Castle County in Delaware, and Chester County in Pennsylvania.

The Cecil County Fair is a 9-day event during the summer where 4-H'ers can exhibit and enter their projects, and participate in many 4-H-related activities and contests. Only Cecil County 4-H'ers can enter in 4-H classes.

Maryland State Fair is an 11-day event that is held the last week of August and continues through Labor Day. 4-H'ers can enter and exhibit their projects, and participate in contests and 4-H activities. This is a state-wide event for 4-H youth across Maryland.

4-H Camp is a summer camp for all 4-H'ers conducted at a nearby camp facility. Cecil County 4-H Camp directors plan the camp so that 4-H'ers (and non-4-H'ers alike) can make new friends who have similar interests. They plan a theme for each camp and workshops to teach leadership to camp participants.