November 2018

A PDF Version of this newsletter is available on the Montgomery County 4-H Website

The next issue of News & Notes will be published on the first Friday in January. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, ahamann@umd.edu, by 26 NOVEMBER.

If you need special accommodation for a 4-H program, event, or activity, please call 301 590 3210 or e-mail jshriver@umd.edu

CLUB INFORMATION

Club Leaders, please check the information about your club on our Montgomery County 4-H website (https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/4-h-youth-development/4-h-clubs). We want to keep the club information up to date for future 4-H members.

If you need to add, update, or change your club description, and/or meeting information (day, time, place and/or location) please send the corrections to Sheila Ford at sheilaf@umd.edu, and Anna Hamann at ahamann@umd.edu

DAIRY SKILLATHON PRACTICE

There will be a Dairy Skillathon Practice at the 4-H Dairy Goat Club Meeting on Nov. 19. We'd love to have anyone interested in this to please attend. Meeting starts at 7 PM in Bldg. 2.

MARYLAND 4-H VOLUNTEER & TEEN FORUM

Friday, 16 November – Sunday, 18 November
Check-in: Friday, 6:00 – 10:00 pm
Princess Royale, Ocean City, Maryland

The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.
The Forum is an excellent opportunity for teen and adult volunteers to learn the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful leaders in their local 4-H programs. This is an excellent opportunity to network with other families, volunteers, faculty and staff in the 4-H Program. The schedule for the 2018 workshops can be found at:

https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/volunteers/maryland-4-h-teen-and-volunteer-forum

### FAIR SCHOLARSHIP

Application are due no later than 4:30 pm on 19 November

The Montgomery County Agricultural Fairgrounds offers over $35,000 in 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 of volunteer service to a non-profit organization to be eligible for these scholarships. Scholarships are awarded in March at the Fairground’s annual meeting.

A completed application, transcript and supporting documentation must be returned to the Montgomery County Agricultural Center Inc., 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 no later than 4:30 p.m. on 19 November, 2018 for consideration. The scholarship winners will be notified by mail in February and announced at the annual meeting in March.

If you have any further questions please contact Jeannine Shriver, 301 590 3210, jshriver@umd.edu.

Download the 2018 scholarship application at: http://mcagfair.com/about-us/scholarships/

### BEEF STEER REGISTRATION

Livestock Registration form due 28 December, 2018

County Weigh-in 5 January 2019, Montgomery County Fairgrounds

Attention 4-H Steer exhibitors. If you wish to show a steer for the 2019 season you must complete and return the Livestock Registration Form to the 4-H Office (18410 Muncaster Rd, Derwood, MD 20855) no later than 28 December, 2018. Please notice that there are 2 sides to this form and both must be completed.

In addition, to exhibit a steer you must attend the county weigh-in which takes place at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds scheduled for 5 January, 2019 starting at 8:00 a.m.

The Registration form can be found online:
Interested in learning more about livestock animals? Think you might be interested in being a veterinarian? Regardless of whether you own an animal or simply have a desire to learn about them, we want you! The Livestock Skill-a-thon Team is getting ready to start practices. You will learn everything you would in an introductory animal science class, including feeds, meats, animal identification, equipment, and everything in between. If you are interested, please contact David Gordon at (301) 590-2813, email at dgordon3@umd.edu.

Most practices will be on Wednesday nights. Everyone who participates will have the chance to attend the State Skill-a-thon Contest held in connection with the Maryland Cattleman’s Convention on the first Saturday in March in Hagerstown, MD.

You can apply for various exciting out-of-state trips through the state 4-H Office. These trips provide senior 4-H’ers with leadership experience and allow them to meet people from all over the country. If you have any problems and/or questions, please contact the appropriate program manager at 301-314-9070.

All trip applications, and Portfolio Program Overview can be found at: https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/youth-families/leadership-trips-awards-and-scholarships

In order to apply, you must complete the correct trip application (which requires the signature of a Club leader and your county 4-H Educator, Alganesh Piechocinski), create a portfolio/resume, and write an essay that answers the question "Describe your most significant 4-H experiences and how they contributed to your personal growth as shown by attitude, insights, and life skills gained." You then need to upload these three items to the Out-of-State Trips Portal on the state 4-H website. After your application has been received, you will be asked to attend an interview.

For the following trips, you must apply by 15 January, 2019: You must Download / Fill out / Save & Attach in the Out of State Trips Portal. Please check the Portfolio Program Overview for more information. In addition, please contact your Club Leader and former participants to learn about the interviewing process, and what were their experiences participating in any of the out-of-state trips.

- **West Virginia 4-H Older Members Conference** – six days in mid- to late June at the West Virginia 4-H Camp outside West Virginia University. This program develops leadership among older 4-H’ers by giving them an opportunity to participate in discussion of timely issues and problems, and teaches new skills which can be used in their local clubs and communities.

- **Virginia 4-H Congress** – three days in mid- to late June at Virginia Tech. Virginia 4-H Congress provides competitive and non-competitive educational experiences to teens and helps them to develop life skills and leadership abilities to become contributing citizens in their
communities.

- **National Leadership Conference (NLC) - Camp Miniwanka.** This program is held on 360 wooded acres on a mile-long stretch of Lake Michigan and aims to develop character, leadership skills, personal and group effectiveness, and a nurturing balance within your life. The camp will take place from June 14-21, 2019.

- **National 4-H Congress** – this program starts the day after Thanksgiving in Atlanta, GA, lasting for five days. This has been the flagship event of the 4-H program for over 80 years and receives around 100,000 visitors. Youth get a quality, educational, cross-cultural experience and meet other youth from across the United States and its territories. Congress is designed to address the needs and issues of youth while helping to develop capable, competent, and caring citizens.

**RECORD BOOK AND RESUME TRAINING WORKSHOP**

**Workshop 27 November**

The Record Book & Resume Training Workshop will be on 27 November starting at 7 pm at the 4-H Office. It should run between one to one and a half hours. The workshop will be split into two groups—those wanting record book training and those who are seniors wanting resume training.

All 4-H’ers are encouraged to create yearly record books of their project work, accomplishments, and learning experiences. The record book training will teach you to organize your record book properly so that you can, if you want, enter it in the record book judging in January. You will be given an official 4-H record book cover at the workshop. You can find out more about 4-H record books and see the forms we use at our website in the 4-H Member Area: [https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/4-h-record-books](https://extension.umd.edu/montgomery-county/4-h-record-books)

Senior 4-H’ers (14 years old and up) can create resumes that can be used to apply for the county fair court and out-of-state 4-H trips—this workshop will help you gain the skills needed to craft an excellent resume. The training will also help you when creating professional resumes for job hunting.

Register before Wednesday, 21 November. To register, please contact Jeannine Shriver, 301 590 3210 or by e-mail at jshriver@umd.edu.

**OTHER IMPORTANT DUE DATES IN JANUARY 2019**

Please have the following items to the County 4-H Office **on or before Friday, 4 January 2019:**
- Resumes
- Record/project books—most Club leaders will collect your books well before January 5 and turn them in to the County Office. Forms can be found at https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/youth-families/4-h-club-documents
- Completed Diamond Clover Reports for levels 1 – 4.
- FOR LEADERS: achievement awards nomination form

**RE-ENROLLING IN 4-H FOR 2019**

Every 4-H youth member and adult volunteer who wishes to remain in 4-H in 2019, will need to re-enroll in 4-H Online and pay the $10 membership fee. Adults do not pay the $10.00 fee. You must re-enroll by the due date or you will be unable to participate in county, cluster, or state 4-H activities.

Club leaders will be sent club rosters late in February listing everyone who has re-enrolled and paid their dues online, as well as anyone who has yet to pay online.

**CAMP LEADERSHIP INFORMATION MEETING**

When: 9 December, 2018, 1-3pm  
Where: Montgomery County Extension Office  
18410 Muncaster Road Derwood, MD 20855

Who: All campers aged 14 and up and any camper who wishes to apply for a leadership role in 2019 Camp Tawasentha and their parents (we really encourage parental attendance as there is a large commitment involved). We will be providing all applications and documents necessary for leadership roles, reviewing expectations for leadership roles, and answering any and all questions. For more information you can contact Anne Clagett: clagettmom@gmail.com or cell 301-300-2045.

**NEWS ARTICLES 101**

Many people spend a lot of time reading and writing. The more you use/practice your writing skills, the easier it will be to write papers for school, college, and business. In fact, you will be using your writing skills the rest of your life.

Has your club made an important contribution to the community? Is there an interesting or unusual event, and/or important information you want people to know about your club? How about important accomplishments of club members? All the above would make excellent articles for the News & Notes.
Do you want your article to be interesting to read? Successful articles follow a specific writing format. Before you can write your article, you must gather as many facts as you can. Structure your story using the 5 W’s and the H:

- **What?** The specific event that took place.
- **Who?** The people involved. Who is it about? Use first name and last name initial.
- **Where?** Where did it happen, or where is it going to happen?
- **When?** When did it happen, or when is it going to happen?
- **Why?** Why is it important? Reasons for the event taking place.
- **How?** How did it happen? Was it unusual?

Now that you have the facts about the activity, decide what the most important point is. Then write the headline. Be creative, your headline must grab the attention of the reader. After the headline, start the first sentence of the article with the most important point in mind.

The main news article is written from bottom down. In other words, the most important information appears in the first two paragraphs. Each successive paragraph will provide the less important details. Your article should be written from an impersonal point of view.

Make your story interesting and brief. Be sure to get to the point fast. Many people rush through an article and will only read the headline and the first paragraph.

The editor may shorten your article to make it fit a specific length. Ask yourself if it is OK if the editor decides to include only the first two paragraphs. If not, reorganize your paragraphs so the essential information is in the first paragraph.

Be brief. Most articles do not need to be more than 80 to 100 words in length. News and Notes articles should be less than 300 words. Leave out unnecessary details. Use short sentences, 15 to 20 words per sentence are easier to read. Sentences longer than 30 words are hard to understand.

Paragraphs should be short and varied in length from one to five sentences on average.

Read and re-read your article and check for grammatical errors. The better the grammar, the clearer your message will be. Articles should be print-ready.

If you are using photographs in your article, everyone in the photograph should be clearly identified, front to back, left to right. Submit only photographs that are of print quality. Too dark, too light, or blurry pictures cannot be used. Check with your club leaders to make sure everyone in the photograph has given media consent before submitting any news report.

Editors rewrite and edit articles to improve readability by proofing and correcting errors in spelling, punctuation, and syntax. The goal of 4-H is to “develop citizenship, leadership, responsibility and life skills of youth through experiential learning programs and a positive youth development approach.”

Great references for writing articles can be found at:

https://4h.unl.edu/documents/reporters_guide.pdf
“I keep six honest serving-men, (They taught me all I knew); their names are What and Why and When, and How and Where and Who” – Rudyard Kipling

Club Corner

Materials for the “Spare the Recycler” Group Project

By Mr. Ed Hogan

1. Large plastic jars are available (pretzel and other oversize containers) with lids, suitable for terrariums, or to house creations inside the clear plastic.

2. Metal decorators and presentation “tin” containers with lids. These containers will be used for, candy, baking items, etc., for delivery to shut-ins, care homes, daycare center, or rehabilitation patients in a facility.

Please call Mr. Ed Hogan at 301-922-2681. Mr. Hogan will arrange to get the supplies to you or to your group.

Electric Club

Field Trips

By Aiden Douglas and KL Plano-Faber

The Electric Club enters a different phase to master circuiting, wire connection methods, and electric control switching, including variations for on-board ship and underwater craft.

We expect field trips this year to learn more about the nation adapting to micro circuits, co-generation, green energy sources, and managing large electric systems with emerging backups.

Field trips are open to Electric Club members, other 4-H club members, and friends of 4-H’ers. More information on how to register will appear in the December copy.
Inventors Club

Leaders: Joe Hamblin and Kathy Worth

The Inventors showed their Rube Goldberg Machine, Harmonograph and Giant Robot Operation game at the Silver Spring KidFest. Originally the club had a prime booth location outside on the main pavilion, but the weather didn’t cooperate. All the outdoor booths moved indoors, thankfully the new Silver Spring Civic Center has lots of room. The good news was the rain did not keep people away from the event.

The kids were able to get the Rube Goldberg Machine up and running and had four complete runs. The machine is complex and does not like to be moved, so each time we move the Rube Goldberg Machine is takes a lot of fine tuning to get it working right. The audience really enjoyed watching the machine run and asked lots of questions about it. This is the last time this machine will be used and seen, when the event was over we took it apart for the last time. Some of the parts in the Rube Goldberg Machine where printed on the club 3D printer, we plan to do more of that with the new machine.

Due to the weather several of our members could not attend, several of them where also sick. The items we show at these events all require people to man them, I want thank the kids that showed up many of them stayed for much longer than their one hour time slot and especially thank the parents.

The Inventors are settling into the new year and new club members, they have started building new Rube Goldberg Machine and are preparing for the Rockville Science day in the Spring.

The kids have started designing the new machine, this year’s challenge is to put a coin in a piggy bank. The kids have built two machines now they are experts and they have a lot of very interesting ideas. They are going to use a solenoid in the machine, marble elevator and we have to keep the Giant Yellow Duck. The duck has been in all of our machine so far, the kids have something special planed for it in the new machine.

Zenith Club

Eleven 4-H Members Walked into a Senior Center…

By Aurea Sellmeyer

At 2:00 pm on Thursday, June 14, 2018, eleven Zenith 4-H Club members, age eight to nineteen, walked into Aspenwood Senior Living in Silver Spring, MD. Their purpose, you might ask? To perform all kinds of entertaining talents! The club opened the program with a sing-along performance of the Star-
Spangled Banner in honor of Flag Day. Then Simon and Joseph told jokes, Addie shared a story, and Lena recited poems. Chrissy, Clare, John, Elsa, Andrew, and Aurea played solos and duets on trumpet, flute, clarinet, and piano. Then Elly threw on a top hat and performed magic tricks. The reaction was great - the senior citizens were very pleased and entertained. It was a very enjoyable experience for Zenith members and the senior center residents. This fun service learning activity was organized by Addie Capion as part of her Diamond Clover Level 5 Project.

Starting on the Right Paw:
Training Tips for a Positive Relationship with Your Dog

By Elsa Sellmeyer

Hello 4-H! My name is Elsa Sellmeyer. I am eighteen years old, and I have just completed my Diamond Clover Level Six project. My Diamond Clover project was centered on the creation of a video about training shelter dogs, in which I demonstrated how to teach useful commands to make dogs easier to live with, work with, and further train, therefore creating better partnerships between people and their dogs. I was inspired to do this project after my family adopted a shelter dog with many behavioral issues. I wanted to make the process of training, especially shelter dogs, easier for other people, and in turn increase success rates for newly adopted dogs and their owners.

My project benefited the Montgomery County Humane Society (MCHS), a privately run, no-kill shelter whose mission is ending animal homelessness through education, outreach, and adoption. I reached out to my community and selected ten dogs in need of varying degrees of basic training. I involved friends and my mom as videographers, and they recorded me working with each dog from start to finish, so my video accurately portrays the full training process, complete with problems encountered. I worked closely with Addie Soares, the MCHS Humane Educator, throughout this project to make sure the end result was a video MCHS would find useful.

To reach a broad audience and ensure sustainability of my project, I gave my video to MCHS to use in their education program and I published the video on YouTube so it is free and accessible to everyone. To further promote it, I designed posters with a QR code to the video and provided them to many local animal shelters and veterinarians’ offices. Ms. Soares invited me to be a guest speaker and present my video at an outreach and education event after my project was finished.

I hope that by sharing my project via the News & Notes, I can inspire more 4-H members to participate in the Diamond Clover program! I also hope some of you will find my video useful in working with your own dogs and that you will pass it on to anyone else who may find it helpful. If you appreciate the video, please consider a donation of time, supplies, or money to MCHS.

For more information about MCHS: mchs@mchumane.org or (240) 252-2555; 601 South Stonestreet Ave. Rockville, MD 20850, 11 am - 5 pm, 7 days a week
Helping the Homeless

By Elly Capion

In March, Zenith Club members made sandwiches for Shepherd’s Table. Andrew Chen led this activity.

Shepherd’s Table is an organization in downtown Silver Spring which offers help to the homeless. Some of the services provided include meals, information and referrals, clothing, prescription assistance, mailing address, eye clinic, legal assistance, haircuts, etc. When we dropped off the sandwiches, we asked what their greatest need was. They said volunteers. Often they have lots on Thanksgiving Day and none that weekend. They also said they need lots of casseroles. You can take them anytime, and they will freeze them until needed. They also need lots of sandwiches which you can make and deliver anytime.

I hope you are inspired to help in some way. For questions visit www.shepherdstable.org

Clarksburg Helping Hands

By Dale Ryan

One of our club members, Lauren Dallas, member of the 2018 Maryland 4-H Horticulture Team, competed at the National Junior Horticultural Association (NJHA) Convention held in St. Louis, MO. The purpose of this contest is to illustrate, interpret, emphasize, and promote horticulture and the NJHA. The Maryland Team came in second and won the Outstanding State Display Award. In addition, Lauren place 7th overall. Congratulations to Lauren and the members of the Maryland 4-H Horticulture Team.
The 27th annual Aspen Hill Community Festival was held on Saturday, September 22, 2018 at the Aspen Hill Library. The festival draws the whole community out with activities like puppet shows, a science presentation, our Reading Buddies crafts, balloon animal twisters, and a display of fire and rescue vehicles. Visitors could also get a free book from Friends of the Library and a light-up arm band for pedestrian safety. We anticipated a large turn-out, so we prepared lots of crafts for the event. The weather was great, so we had a lot of visitors.

Our club led 5 different stations, including Nutrition Jeopardy, Paper Pumpkins, Spider Lollipops, Decorate-a-Cookie and Turkey Handprints. The stations were very popular with all the kids, especially the Decorate-a-Cookie station! We are grateful to Mrs. Williams who baked and individually wrapped 80 delicious pumpkin cookies for the kids to decorate! All of the stations were really fun, and you could see that the kids were really excited to do the activities.

Everyone loved the Jeopardy prizes too! We also set up an information station about our club which included a tri-fold display and a laptop with club photos along with a sign-up sheet for families interested in our club. We are grateful to the Martin family who provided the laptop and made a presentation to show a variety of activities that our club does. A few new people are planning to visit our club, so be prepared to welcome visitors over the next few meetings.

We thank the Reading Buddies coordinators and all the volunteers who came out to help with crafts – we couldn’t have done it without you! Almost every member of the club came out at some point during the festival, and some families stayed for the whole festival. We all had a fun time helping kids to make the crafts, and enjoyed the camaraderie during the puppet shows and science presentation. We are especially glad for all the people who helped with setup and clean-up – the library was very impressed with our activities and speedy clean-up.

The Reading Buddies Program is an excellent leadership opportunity that teaches 4-Hers how to plan and lead reading, health and craft activities for kids age 3-10. We are always looking for new ideas and help with leadership for Reading Buddies events, so please remember to contact Mrs. Luckabaugh to let her know which Reading Buddies programs you can help with. This is a great way to give children in our community a head-start in life!
Damascus Community

4-H Ice Cream Making Contest at the Damascus Community Fair

By Stephen Kuszewski

During the Damascus Community Fair, our 4-H club made some delicious frozen sweets like Blueberry Cheesecake ice cream and Mint Chocolate Chip. We used a hand crank mixer and a lot of willpower.

One of the most fun parts about this day was being a part of 4-H and working together; even though the weather was gloomy, spirits were up.

4-H Harvest Party

By Stephen Kuszewski

Ahh . . . the Harvest Party! A time for friends, food, and ping pong. There were many fun activities for people of all ages, such as painting pumpkins contest, and my personal favorite, ping pong ... I never won. Some of the delicious food that we had at this party were things like pizza, pumpkin soup, Italian beef sliders, hot chocolate, cookies, cupcakes, apple crumble, and some good ol’ apple cider. We also painted pumpkins.

Maryland 4-H Aerospace Challenge

By Karl Finn Gulling

Maryland 4-H hosts an event called the “Aerospace Challenge” yearly. This challenge allows kids interested in aerospace from all over Maryland to participate in an event that teaches kids about aerospace, physics, aerospace history, and more. However, the challenge isn’t just local; the two top scoring seniors go on to the National Youth Engineering Challenge in September.

To enter, kids have to qualify as regional qualifier, and that's it! Youth do not require an aerospace or rocketry project to join, and all 4-H youth are eligible. Those that qualify are encouraged to attend the
aerospace workshop, where they get to study for the exam, prepare for the rocket build, and find other people interested in aerospace.

Then comes the Aerospace Challenge! The contest includes a parts identification, a general exam covering model rocketry, aerodynamics and safety, a build session for a model rocket, a judged launch for the model rockets and, for seniors, an interview on rocket design and build of the entry. After the participants have completed all the stations, there is an awards ceremony. This year, Karl Finn Gulling won the Intermediate championship. The Aerospace Challenge is a great program for anyone interested in aerospace.

4-Hers Launch into STEM at the Maryland 4-H Aerospace Challenge

By Heather Guernsey

The Maryland 4-H Aerospace program blasted off its eighth year at the Howard County Fairgrounds on July 22, 2018. Eighteen 4-Hers from different 4-H clubs in Maryland earned a chance to compete in the Challenge at one of the three Regional Aerospace Qualifiers that were held in June. The Qualifiers were open to any 4-Hers between 8-18 and you don’t need to carry Rocketry or Aerospace projects to compete in the Qualifiers.

Challenge contestants were encouraged to participate in the Aerospace Workshop that was held on July 15 at the Howard County Fairgrounds. At the Workshop, Juniors learned about the basics of aerospace and how to build a rocket while Intermediates and Seniors learned about electronic payloads. Everyone learned about rocket parts, craftsmanship and finishing techniques before the rocket build sessions. Juniors built the BMS School Rocket, intermediates built the Estes Baby Bertha Rocket, and seniors built the Quest Big Betty.

The Aerospace Challenge was held on July 22 at the Howard County Fairgrounds. We started right away with the build session. Juniors built a Quest Payloader One, Intermediates built a Quest Courier and Seniors built an Estes Loadstar II rocket. As each person finished their build session, they went to the examination area to take a rocket parts identification test and another test about general aerospace history and knowledge, including things like Newton’s Laws, forces of flight and phases of rocket flight. The Juniors got to launch their Payloader One rockets with a live cricket inside. Intermediates got to launch their Quest Courier rockets with a raw egg inside. You got points if your egg stayed intact after the flight. Seniors got to launch their Loadstar II rockets with an altimeter so you could measure how high each rocket flew.

The Junior Champion was Logan Moon and the Intermediate Champion was Karl Gulling. The following senior teams won special awards at the Challenge:

Champion Team: Aaban Syed and Craig Stone
Reserve Champion Team: Heather Guernsey and Sam Jones

The top 2 highest individual scoring seniors also won Arduino kits and a chance to compete again in next year’s challenge for a trip to Perdue University in 2019. They were Aaban Syed and Heather Guernsey.

Congratulations to the Aerospace Challenge winners and thanks to the volunteers for this event.

Maryland State 4-H Engineering Camp

By Lauren and Heather Guernsey

We had the opportunity to participate in the State 4-H Engineering Camp, held at Deer Creek Overlook in Harford County, in April 2018. It was 3 days packed with fun challenges to teach us about the engineering process. When we arrived at camp, we were divided into 5 teams. We had to choose a name for our team and create a team poster while we got to know our teammates. Three members of our Lucky Clovers attended the camp this year – veterans Heather Guernsey and Everett Hutter and newcomers Brennan Zhao and Lauren Guernsey. Brennan and Lauren were in “The Engineers” and I was in the “MEK” team.

Our first challenge was to make a table out of newspapers that could hold the most weight. All teams did an amazing job, and the tables were able to hold several stacks of computer paper and 2 jugs of sweet tea – it was a ‘sweet’ balancing act! While having dinner, we watched the movie “Apollo 13,” about how the Apollo 13 mission was saved when the engineers at Mission Control were able to create a fix for the oxygen problem using materials available on the spacecraft. We then talked about the engineering process.
On the second day, the first challenge was to build a windmill with the fastest turning blades. Each team was given a hub and the same set of materials. There were cardboard, Styrofoam, different sized towels, plastic cups, etc. We started by making our windmill out of foam board that we tilted at a 45 degree angle in the hub. We cut and attached the paper cups to try to catch more wind, but took them off when we found that it worked better without. Our team came out 2nd, and The Engineers took 1st place.

Next, we rotated among different activities: soldering circuits, flying drones and welding a pencil case. I learned how to solder a circuit board that lit up an LED and made an alarm sound. Soldering can be tricky if you don’t have a steady hand. I had to clean up extra solder on my board before I could get it to work properly. The teacher gave a blacksmithing demonstration using a hammer and tongs to shape spirals in the metal on a staff. I learned how to fly a drone. Whenever the drones broke, they were sent over to the adults at the soldering station for first aid!

We chased balloons to discover our next challenge. Inside the balloon was a paper with an engineering area. Team shad to make a presentation on their area. The MEK team talked about suspension bridges. We also had to make a mousetrap car out of mousetraps and other things. Some teams got their cars moving pretty fast but others barely moved. “The Engineers” won and we celebrated at night by eating s’mores over a campfire.

On the last day, we packed and cleaned. Everyone got a chance to ride on the tractors. It was a real highlight to mark the end of the camp. Don’t forget to add Engineering Camp to your plans next year!

A ‘Corny’ Story of 4-H Clubs

By Justin Wan

One day in April I went to the county office for a workshop and came across some interesting posters about a century of 4-H history. One old photo with a boy sitting on a mound of corns particularly attracted my attraction (see below). It contains the ‘corny’ origin of our 4-H clubs which many modern 4Hers, including me, might not know.

Back then in 1900 the Farmer’s Institute in Illinois gave 500 boys packages of corn seeds for corn growing experiments. Subsequently A Farmer’s Boys Experiment Club was established and it might be the earliest foundation of our 4-H clubs nowadays. As a result, in 1903 USDA encouraged the formation of more boys’ corn clubs in South. Also in 1904, a superintendent of schools in Minnesota spent twenty dollars of his salary sponsoring first corn-growing contest involving the youth around our country.
The photo was taken from the corn-growing contest in 1910 in which Jerry Moore set a record by growing 228.7 bushels of corn back then. Four record breakers were awarded trips to Washington, D.C., where they met with public officials, including President Taft, and received certificates. The trip became a major incentive for corn club members. By 1912 close to a million 4-H club members were recorded only after a little bit over a decade! Today 4-H has a whopping 6 million children participants, 540,000+ volunteers, and 25 million alumni.

Fascinated by the importance of the corn played in 4-H history, I researched facts about corn growth and did some math on corn yield. I learned that a single corn seed can grow into a crop with 2-3 ears of corn with a total of 1600 to 2400 corn seeds just in one year. That’s a thousand times multiplication. Also twenty dollars in 1904 might be able to buy 50 pounds of seeds which can be enough for planting about 5 acres of corn field. Assuming an average yield of 150 bushels per acre and each bushel weighing about 50 to 60 pounds, we have around 8,000 pounds of corn yield per acre and a total of 40,000 pounds of corn which equals to three to four African elephants!

The history of our 4-H clubs back in a century ago reminds me of this story of how a corn seed can grow in so much corn over a relatively short period of time! With just twenty dollars and a White House trip reward for corn competitions, the vision of a school superintendent in Minnesota sparked the dreams of many 4-H young pioneers and inspired them to build a larger and stronger 4-H organization around the country!

Back in Time

By Terrin Carpenter

The Back In Time Club enjoys being out in the community. This month we worked with animals, did some face painting events, and taught about a variety of cool things.

One of our club members owns an animal sanctuary. She shared her hermit crabs with us at the Damascus Community Fair so that we all could compete in the Pet Show. We won 1st Place on the Hermit Crab Race and 1st & 2nd Places on the Costume category. We also volunteered at Popular Spring Animal Sanctuary’s Open House where we watched and protected the chickens from the visitors. We had to herd them out of the goat pen.

At The Great Pumpkin Patch in Mt. Airy, our club and the Frederick Goat Club were the two 4-H Clubs teaching about animals. Our station was constantly busy with visitors holding and learning about our kitten, rabbit, Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches, tree frogs, American Toad.
We also hosted a petting zoo for approximately 100 people at Wilson Blvd Christian Church’s Community Fair in Arlington, VA. We taught about the ducks, chicks, feral cats, donkey, goat, miniature horse, piglet and rabbit we had with us. Two of the animals were bought at the MoCo Fair. Then, we all went to a ranch and returned ½ the animals home after the event.

After our club meeting at the Historical Agricultural Barn, Ms. Sandy Staples taught us about the animals that participated in Close Encounters.

We have some amazing face painters! They painted faces at the Damascus Freedom 5K before the runners ran to their cars all soaked and wet with paint running off some kids’ faces.

One of the coolest things we have done was to teach the National Hunting and Fishing Day visitors at the Izaak Walton League of America – Rockville chapter about fossils. We also kept the BB-Gun firing lane safe. During our break, we canoed, hiked and practiced archery.

At The American Indian Festival at Patuxent River Park in PG County, we were the only 4-H Club working alongside Girl Scouts teaching basket making and doing story telling.

We hosted 4 stations at the Harvest Festival. At two of the stations, we taught the visitors how to Tin Smith and create dipped Candles. At another station, visitors held and petted some of the 22 animals one of our club member has in her animal sanctuary. We also had a face painting station.

At Smokey Glen Farm, to thank those who support our military families, we painted faces for the children waiting for the 400 bikers to come home from a 3 day bike ride starting in PA.

Many 4-H’ers attended the Damascus Community Fair’s Banquet. 4-H’ers took home 6 of the Most Entered Entries awards and two of the Most Awarded Blue Ribbons awards.

As you can see, we are very busy assisting our community. Enjoy the fun and join us. We are always looking for more volunteers for our community events.
Starting on the Right Paw:
Training Tips for a Positive Relationship with Your Dog

Scan the QR code with your phone camera to view the video!

Produced in cooperation with the Montgomery County Humane Society of Rockville, Maryland, and 4-H Diamond Clover program of Montgomery County, Maryland.