



January 8, 2024

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

The next issue of the MoCo 4-H newsletter will be published on the first week of February 2024. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, hamann@umd.edu, by January 26, 2024.

Welcome to 2024 and the new look of our 4-H newsletter. In addition to the new format, we will be changing the name of our newsletter and we invite you to submit ideas for our new name. Please send your ideas to Anna Hamann at ahamann@umd.edu by January 26.

The Farm Credit Foundation for Agricultural Advancement's scholarship

The Farm Credit Foundation for Agricultural Advancement's scholarship program will award at least ten scholarships in 2024, each valued up to \$10,000. All applicants must be planning to pursue a career in agriculture, and must reside within Horizon Farm Credit's 100 county territory. In Maryland, Baltimore, Carroll, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester. For more information, please go to <https://fcfoundationforag.smapply.io/>

2024 Leadership Trips

To earn one of these trips, you must submit a Senior 4-H Portfolio through the appropriate 4-H Online Event registration by January 15, 2024.

- National Leadership Conference (at Camp Miniwanca in Michigan in June)
- West Virginia Older Member's Conference (June)
- Virginia 4-H Congress (June)

- National 4-H Congress (Atlanta in November)
- For more information about the Senior 4-H Portfolio Program or the National 4-H Leadership Trip Opportunities, visit: <https://go.umd.edu/leadershiptrips2024>.



What will you make to improve life on this planet?

Think of a problem, big or small, that needs to be addressed.

Now, think of a solution to that problem; an invention that would address that problem. Use your imagination to push beyond today's limits to invent the future.

If you accept this challenge, your team must not only dream up an invention, but also design and prototype that invention. Use engineering, coding, and design techniques to turn your ideas into something tangible. High-tech or low-tech, mechanical or digital...What will you make to improve life on this planet?

The future is up to you.

The program

- Work with other 6-8th grade girls on a team invention (10-15 girls)
- Bi-monthly meetings to learn new skills and work with other girls on your inventions (**starting January 30, 2024**)
- Day long Field trips to Kid Museum (**February 19, 2024**)
- A showcase event to meet other groups participating in the program and showcase your work

**Interested?!
Contact**
Anelle Quashie
aquashie@umd.edu
(301) 590-2804
Contact by January 18th

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact your local University of Maryland Extension Office.

2024 Inbound Opportunities!

Do you know any families wanting to experience the world all in the comfort of their own home? We are seeking families to open their homes and hearts to a Japanese delegate between 12-17 years old and show them the American Culture. We need 14 families to host a Japanese Delegate this coming summer (2024) from mid-July through mid-August. The program is open to any family with a child 9-18 years old. No special trips or accommodations are required; simply let a delegate change your and your children's cultural awareness for the better! If you are interested in being a host, please submit an application at <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>

For more information on Inbound Opportunities, please contact Joseph Y. Cho at jcho8@umd.edu

Due by January 23 at the 4-H County Office

- Record Books.
- 2023 President's Volunteer Service Award Forms.
- Special Achievements Awards nominations
- Resumes.
- Resume Information Format

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

- Completed Diamond Clover Reports for levels 1 – 4.

Please use the Maryland 4-H Website for a 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>

Record Book Format

Record Books illustrate your 4-H experiences throughout the year. The pages in your Record Book must be placed between the Record Book covers. The Record Book covers are available at no cost at the 4-H Office. You should use dividers in your book for each of the sections below.

1. Title Page - This will include a current picture, name, age, 4-H Club and address.
2. Table of Contents - This should include all of the sections that can be found in your 4-H Record Book
3. Summary Record – Write all of your activities (4-H and others) throughout the year. Also, include the highlights of your projects (awards, communications, activities, etc.).
4. 4-H Story - Write a story telling the reader about your 4-H experience. Summarize your experiences; describe your different projects and events you attended. What did you learn this year? Personalize your story! (Story should be 2-3 pages double-spaced)
5. Project Records - Include your completed project records in this section. You can find project records forms at <https://extension.umd.edu/locations/anne-arundel-county/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms>
6. Pictures - You can have up to three additional pages of pictures that highlight your 4-H year. Make sure you include a caption with each picture.
7. Newspaper/Social Media Post - If you were featured in the 4-H County Website, or on a newspaper, you can print those posts to include in this section.

Maryland 4-H Dog Skillathon Fun Day

February 24. Tentative 1:00-3:00 pm.

The 4-H Dog Skillathon event provides 4-H members participating in county 4-H dog clubs and programs the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of dog related subject matter in a competitive setting.

Maryland 4-H Livestock Skillathon

March 2, at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds.

The Maryland 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of animal science and management. Practices are usually held at the Howard County Fairgrounds. However, there is a chance of hybrid practices.

No prior knowledge of livestock is required.

Maryland 4-H Horse Bowl Contest

March 9, UMD Plant Science Building (tentatively), College Park

4-H Horse Bowl provides an opportunity for two teams of three to four players to face off in front of a panel of judges and the moderator who asks questions during the matches. Each match consists of One-on-One questions which are limited to one player from each team to answer, and Open questions which may be answered by all players of each team. Players must be quick on the buzzer to earn the chance to answer the questions. Correct answers score points for the team.

The 2024 Horse Bowl Contest will be held in person at the Plant Science Building (tentatively) in College Park, MD on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Registration for the contest will be open in February 2024. Contest eligibility, rules and regulations will be posted soon at <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/animal-sciences/4-h-horse-program>.

Central Public Speaking Contest

March 9, place TBD.

One of the most valuable skills youth learn during their time in 4-H is public speaking. Each year, 4-H'ers participate in a Public Speaking Contest where they are able to practice and improve their public speaking skills. This skill, along with many others, helps to build confidence and leadership. Public speaking fosters creativity, critical thinking skills, leadership abilities, poise, and professionalism, which are valuable for the job market and life.

The categories for the Public Speaking Contest are: Extemporaneous, Interpretation, Prepared and Radio Spot, Visual Presentation and Demonstration.

This is an excellent opportunity, whether a 4-Her carries a public speaking project or not, to receive valuable tips and learn tips to enhance public speaking abilities. Champions will have the opportunity to participate in the State 4-H Communications Contest.

Check out our Public Speaking: Making a Great Speech handbook for more information regarding the competition and worksheets to help plan your speech.
<https://go.umd.edu/HowToMakeASpeech>

MoCo 4-H Award Ceremony

March 23, 7:00 pm. Heritage Room, Gaithersburg Fairgrounds.

Maryland 4-H Dairy Skillathon

March 23, Carroll County Extension Office. Tentative.

The 4-H Dairy Skillathon offers age-appropriate quizzes and stations that are designed to test youth knowledge of the dairy industry. The stations include visual diagrams and questions to demonstrate dairy related knowledge.

Maryland 4-Horse Communication Contest

April 13, Maryland 4-H Center, College Park

The Maryland 4-H Horse Communications Contest provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate their public speaking skills and knowledge of equine-related subject matter in a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. For this contest, members will submit a recording of their speech or demonstration for judges to evaluate. Three categories are offered for this contest including: 1) Individual Presentation, 2) Team Presentation, and 3) Individual Public Speech. Awards are offered in three age divisions: 1) Junior (ages 8-10), 2) Intermediate (ages 11-13), and 3) Senior (ages 14-18).

The 2024 Horse Communications Contest will be held in-person at the Maryland 4-H Center in College Park, MD on April 13, 2024. Contest rules and regulations will soon be posted at <https://extension.umd.edu/4-h/4-h-program-areas/4-h-horse-program>

Dairy Bowl Contest

April 20, Carroll County Extension Office. Tentative.

The 4-H Dairy Bowl Contest offers age- appropriate quizzes and match questions that are designed to test youth knowledge of the dairy industry. The practical application of the contestants' knowledge and skills is emphasized.

Maryland 4-H Public Speaking Contest

April 27, UMD, College Park

Champions or Reserve Champions from the Central Public Speaking Contest are eligible and encouraged to participate in the State 4-H Communications Contest during Maryland Day.

Camp Tawasentha

SAVE THE DATES!!!! Camp planning for 2024 Camp Tawasentha is in full effect! Mark your calendars for July 7-12, 2024. Our camp is ACA certified, and all adult volunteers are certified thru the University of Maryland's Extension program.

Camp is open to all children ages 8-18 as of January 1, 2024. Those that are aged 14-18 as of January 1 must hold a teen leadership position.

We will have our first teen leader meeting of the year on Sunday, January 14 from 1-3pm. This information session will provide you with everything needed to become a leader for Camp Tawasentha 2024!

INTERVIEWS will be held the following Sunday from 12-4pm. You will be given the information needed to sign up for an interview time on 1/14/24. Any questions, please contact Anne Clagett, clagettmom@gmail.com



News Articles 101

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 and 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 points, and 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 in third-person. A third-person narrator is a narrator that is detached from the plot line. The third-person pronouns include he, him, his, himself, she, her, hers, herself, it, its, itself, they, them, their, theirs, and themselves.

Make your story interesting and brief. Be sure to get to the point fast. Many people will only read the headline and the first paragraph. Most articles do not need to be more than 80 to 100 words in length.

Use short sentences, 15 to 20 words per sentence are easier to read.

News and Notes Article Specifications

Important things to know. The Editor may shorten your article to make it fit a specific length or reorganize your paragraphs so the essential information is in the first paragraph.

- Articles should be written in third person.
- Articles should be less than 150 words. Leave out unnecessary details.
- Check for grammatical errors. The better the grammar, the clearer your message will be.
- Articles should be copy print-ready.
- If using photographs, everyone in the photograph should be clearly identified, front to back, left to right. Use first name and last name initial.
- Submit only photographs that are of print quality. Too dark, too light, or blurry pictures cannot be used.



It is never too early to think about your summer garden

Winter is here with its, cold, rainy, windy, and sometimes snowy days. Yet, seed catalogs began appearing in the mail before the holidays, and soon you will find yourself with a large stack of catalogs. Some catalogs are magazine-like, with glossy pages and pretty pictures. Others are more rustic, with newsprint pages and drawings of vegetables and flowers. Some drawings are in color while others are in black and white. However, with all the choices, deciding what to plant for the fair will require some planning.

Seasoned gardeners can draw from their experiences to choose plants that will be ready at fair time. Beginner gardeners will find a wealth of information in the catalogs. Organize the list of vegetables and flowers you would like to show, so you can decide on seeds vs. seedlings and planting time to be ready for fair entry.

Regardless of whether you are a seasoned gardener or a beginner, talk with other gardeners or compare notes with other 4-H'ers on what vegetables and flowers did well this past summer. Remember to plant enough of each vegetable and flower so you can select the best specimens to enter at the fair.

In addition, when it is finally time to register for the fair, register all of the vegetables and flowers you anticipate being ready at fair time, as each vegetable and flower must have its own individual tag with the variety name according to the specimen entered online.

Make your plan. Follow your timelines. And Happy Gardening!

CLUB CORNER

Inventors Club

By Joe Hamblin

The club is busy working on their new Rube Goldberg Machine for 2024. They are going to compete in the yearly Rube Goldberg competition. This year each club member is building a section of the machine and everyone will work together to have everything work together. The challenge for this year's competition is to put "Toothpaste on a Toothbrush".

The club is building some new designs for this machine, 3D printed coin funnel, rolling log, skeet-ball and several other designs. The club is going to demonstrate the machine at the Rockville Science Day, Sunday April 21, and at the Montgomery County Fair. Come out and see our Rube Goldberg machine, and ask the club members any questions you have about how it works.

The Inventors has a very active Clover group that does exciting hands on projects at each meeting. The members are working on projects for this year. One of the projects is an Arduino Analog meter clock that will have one meter for Hours and another for Minutes. The club's other project group is working on Maker Craft projects, where they make a different item at each meeting.

The Inventors had a fun Christmas party in December and had a special guest speaker talk about the history of Calculators. He had 24 examples of important stages of the evolution of calculators from mechanical, electro mechanical, to earliest electronics. The oldest in the collection was from 1907.





Horse N Around Club

By: L. Steele

Horse N Around club members Lily. B, Lela. S., and Hannah. W. attended the Teen and Volunteer Forum, on November 5, in Ocean City. They hoped to learn ways to make their club more welcoming to new members and get inspiration for community service projects. They learned how to create fun games for all the kids to do together, and tried them out at their November club meeting. They are excited to use more of the new ideas with the club in 2024.



Lela S., Lily B., Hannah W., Grace B., at the Teen and Volunteer Forum

Horse N Around Club

By: Camryn L.

The Horse N Around club had a great 2023 filled with fun monthly meetings, members participating in many 4 H events, and an awesome Fair! The members wrapped up the year with their tradition of collecting gifts for *Toys for Tots*. In the spirit of the holiday season, the club members participated in a gift exchange and a party. The members are looking forward to a new year, new experiences, and more 4 H fun!



Horse N Around members collecting for *Toys for Tots*



Delivering toys for *Toys for Tots*

Damascus Community Club

By Wendy K.

In the final meeting of 2023, the Damascus Community 4-H club appointed new officers for the Club positions. After appointing the officers, the members had a celebration with a cookie bar and hot chocolate. The members also made paper snowflakes and played a game where they passed the bag in accordance to what the story said. As the year ends, the members will be making fleece blankets for the Linus Project. Finally, the members look forward to another great year in 2024.



Calendar

JANUARY

- 8 Portfolio & Out-of-State Trip applications.
- 15 2024 National Leadership Trips Portfolio due to State Office (National 4-H Congress, Camp Miniwanca, West Virginia Older Member's Conference and Virginia Congress).
- 23 Resumes, Record Books, Diamond Clover Levels 1-4 Reports, President's Volunteer Service Award, and Special Achievements Awards nominations due at the 4-H Office.
- TBD 4-H Enrollment information will be sent through 4-HOnline.

FEBRUARY

- 18 Maryland 4-H State Achievement Program
- 24 Maryland 4-H Dog Skillathon or Fun Day (Tentative 1:00-3:00pm).

MARCH

- 2 Maryland 4-H State Livestock Skillathon. ANSC Bldg., UMD, College Park. Snow date March 3.
- 9 Maryland 4-H Horse Bowl Contest, the Plant Science Building (tentatively). College Park, MD.
- 9 Central Cluster Public speaking contest (tentative)
- 23 Maryland 4-H State Dairy Skillathon. Carroll County Extension Office. Tentative.
- 23 MoCo 4-H Award Ceremony. 7:00 pm. Heritage Room, Gaithersburg Fairgrounds.

APRIL

- 13 State Horse Communication Contest in-person. Maryland 4-H Center in College Park, MD
- 20 Maryland 4-H Dairy Bowl Contest. Carroll County Extension Office. Tentative. UMD, College Park, MD.
- 27 State Public Speaking Competition. UMD, College Park, MD.

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