



Prince William 4-H

Our Clubs, Our Community



December 10, 2025

Upcoming Events

Dec 10 - PW 4-H Leading
by Speaking SPIN

Dec 11 - PW 4-H
Canning Class

Dec 13 - Wreaths Across
America Ceremony

Dec 14 - **SHOP TSC!**

12-3 PM Nokesville
4-H Club

3-6 PM Patriot HS 4-H
Club

Dec 30 - PW 4-H
Whisper Booth
Training

Jan 10 - PW 4-H
Cloverbud Club

Jan 13 - PW 4-H
Association Meeting

Jan 21 - **VA 4-H Day at
the Capitol**

Jan 23 - PW 4-H Share
the Fun Dress
Rehearsal

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Click to Visit



SATURDAY! Wreaths Across America-Quantico Wreath Laying



VOLUNTEER FOR WREATH LAYING!

[Click here to Volunteer for PW 4-H Wreath Laying.](#)

Prince William 4-H'ers, families, and clubs are encouraged to participate in the Wreaths Across America-Quantico Wreath laying. Unfortunately, volunteers are not permitted to attend the opening ceremony. There is not an easy way to organize a large delegation to lay wreaths in a designated area. Small groups are encouraged to choose a time to gather in the parking lot and hop on a shuttle to participate in wreath laying.

OPENING CEREMONY

The in-person ceremony is restricted this year, however, we're encouraged to watch the livestream on the [Wreaths Across America - Quantico Facebook Page](#).

PUBLIC WREATH LAYING

Date: Saturday, December 13th

Time: 12 PM (noon)

Parking Location: Mt Zion Baptist Church, 18410
Chapel St, Triangle

[Click here for specific details.](#)

Carpooling is encouraged because parking is limited at the church. A free shuttle is provided to bring participants to and from the cemetery and will run from noon until all wreaths are placed.



SUNDAY! Shop and Support Local 4-H'ers!



Location: Tractor Supply Co., 10870 Balls Ford Rd., Manassas

December 14th

Noon - 3 PM

Nokesville 4-H Club

3 PM - 6 PM

Patriot HS 4-H Club

Come hang out with members of Nokesville 4-H Club and Patriot High School 4-H Club! They'll be sharing their 4-H stories and showing how YOU can help create opportunities for the next generation of community leaders. Grab your holiday shopping and make a difference at the same time!

Only 4 days until Hanukkah, 15 days until Christmas, 16 days until Kwanzaa...

Remembering Marcia Thies: A True 4-H Star



CELEBRATING
The life of
MARCIA THIES
August 31, 1964 - December 4, 2025

We are heartbroken to share that our 4-H family has lost someone truly special - Marcia Thies. Marcia wasn't just a volunteer; she was a mentor, a leader, and a friend who made every 4-H event brighter.

Marcia gave her all to 4-H. She was a proud mom to five 4-Hers, a 4-H All Star, a club leader, a Prince William 4-H Fair Camp regular, and the most fun Virginia 4-H State Congress chaperone you could imagine (*just to name a few*). Her energy, kindness, and love for helping youth grow made a lasting impact on everyone she met.

Her legacy lives on in the confidence she helped build, the skills she taught, and the joy she shared. Whether you learned something new at a meeting or laughed with her at camp, you were touched by her generosity and spirit.

Marcia passed away on December 4, 2025, at the age of 61. She lived a life full of adventure, faith, and family - always giving back to her community. She loved photography, flowers, geocaching, and spending time outdoors. Most of all, she loved people.



We will miss Marcia deeply, but her influence will continue to inspire us. One of the best ways to honor her memory is to follow her example - get involved, volunteer, and make a difference. Whether it's helping at a club meeting, supporting a fair event, or mentoring younger members, your time and energy can change lives just like Marcia did.

Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H'S HOMEMADE HOLIDAY CRAFT NIGHT

Prince William 4-H's lit up the night with joy, laughter, and holiday spirit! Homemade Holiday Craft Night was a fun-filled evening where our 4-H youth came together with the residents of Arbor Terrace to enjoy activities and spend quality time together. We loved making felt wreaths - some residents even decorated their walkers with them - building graham cracker houses and playing fun games!

A big thank-you to Adam and Lexi for representing the 4-H Teens and volunteering your time. And a special thank-you to Mrs. Grant for your help at the graham cracker house station! We appreciate all of you for making the night so special.



THURSDAY: PW 4-H Teen Canning Class



LEARN CANNING WITH PW 4-H

READY TO CAN? LEARN A SKILL THAT LASTS A LIFETIME!

Date: Thursday, December 11

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: St. Benedict Monastery, 9535 Linton Hall Rd, Bristow

Who should Attend: Youth ages 13-19

[Click here to register.](#)

Looking for a fun, hands-on way to level up your kitchen skills and impress your friends and family? Prince William 4-H is hosting an Introduction to Safe Canning class - just in time for holiday gift giving!

This isn't just about putting food in jars - it's about learning a skill that promotes food safety, self-sufficiency, and healthy living. Plus, you'll walk away with something you made yourself...**cranberry orange chutney!**

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- **Food Safety Basics:** Why cleanliness matters and how to prevent contamination. Learn about botulism and other foodborne risks (and how to avoid them!).
- **Tools of the Trade:** How to use canners, jars, lids, and other essential equipment the right way. Tips for keeping your gear in top shape.
- **Step-by-Step Canning Process:** From washing and prepping produce to filling jars and sealing lids. Master processing times and altitude adjustments.
- **Labeling & Storage:** How to date jars, organize your pantry, and spot spoilage before it's a problem.
- **Nutrition & Sustainability:** Preserve seasonal produce for year-round enjoyment. Reduce food waste and save money while eating healthy.
- **Hands-On Practice:** You'll actually can a product yourself—because learning by doing is the best way!



LIFE SKILLS YOU'LL GAIN

- Responsibility and attention to detail
- Problem-solving and critical thinking
- Confidence in preparing safe, homemade food

Bring Science to Life with the PW 4-H Embryology Project!

Are you looking for an engaging, hands-on way to teach science and spark curiosity in your students or club members? The Prince William 4-H "Beginnings of Life" Embryology Project is the perfect opportunity!

This exciting program gives youth a front-row seat to one of nature's most fascinating processes - watching a chick develop and hatch from an egg. Over 21 days, participants care for fertilized eggs in an incubator, observe growth, record data, and learn problem-solving skills. It's science in action - and it's FUN!

Why Participate?

- Meets Virginia SOLs in math, science, English, life science, and computer technology.
- Builds responsibility, respect for life, and critical thinking.
- Supports teamwork and leadership development.
- Students gain hands-on experience with 4-H staff guidance every step of the way.

Who Can Join?

Prince William 4-H Clubs • Private and Public Schools • Homeschool Groups • Manassas City Schools • Manassas Park Schools

See [Page 8](#) for more information. [Click here to register your group.](#) **REGISTRATION IS FILLING QUICKLY!**

Prince William 4-H SPIN Project Leading by Speaking



Who

The 4-H Youth Leadership SPIN Club, in partnership with Toastmasters International Youth Leadership Program, is offering an 8-session hands-on course designed for 4-H youth ages 9-

What

Learn to speak with confidence, deliver powerful speeches, think on your feet, use your voice and body language effectively, and give and receive feedback like a pro!

TONIGHT

Where & When

Session Dates*: December 10, 17, January 7, 14, 21, 28, & February 4

*please commit to all sessions!

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Location: PW 4-H Headquarters

Why

Public speaking is a cornerstone skill in 4-H because it builds confidence, leadership, and communication abilities that youth can use throughout life. Lead your club, challenge yourself in 4-H competitions, and grow your voice as a leader.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Participation is free, sponsored by PW 4-H.
Space is limited. Register by Dec 5th.
Enroll in 4-H Online prior to registering.



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University




If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Prince William 4-H, Virginia Cooperative Extension at (703-792-6000/TDD*) during business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120. Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local governments, and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit ext.vt.edu/accessibility.



Extemporaneous Speech
Dramatic Reading
Music Recording
Presentations
Public Speech
Voiceover
Podcast

Whisper Booth

 Prince William 4-H in partnership with the Prince William Central Library Makerspace is offering teens a unique opportunity to learn a new skill - audio recording in a whisper booth!

A whisper booth is a sound isolation space that is soundproof and reduces ambient noise. It's the perfect space to record professional audio projects, speeches, auditions, and more. The space offers state-of-the-art equipment such as headphones, microphones, and a sound control board. Trained teens have the opportunity to reserve space in the whisper booth at any time to utilize the equipment, practice, and produce audio recordings. Guess what you don't do in a whisper booth? *WHISPER!*

Register TODAY for this exciting experience !

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.

Thursday,
December 30th

Noon - 1 pm

Central Park Library Makerspace
8601 Mathis Avenue
Manassas

Event is open to Prince William
4-H'ers ages 14-18.

Registration is limited.

CALLING ALL 4-H ERS 4TH GRADE AND UP

PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE JANUARY 5



4-H DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Experience 4-H in Richmond: meet
Prince William legislators, explore the
Capitol, and much more!



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

CHECK OUT STATE LAW § 22.1-207.7

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IS A PARTNERSHIP OF VIRGINIA TECH, VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA), AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. FOR THE FULL NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT, PLEASE VISIT [EXT.VT.EDU/ACCESSIBILITY](https://ext.vt.edu/accessibility).



PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H



Bring Science to Life with the Embryology Project

Are you looking for a hands-on, unforgettable way to teach science and spark curiosity in your students or club members? The Prince William 4-H "Beginning of Life" Embryology Project is the perfect opportunity!

This project gives youth a front-row seat to one of nature's most amazing processes - watching a chick develop and hatch from an egg. Over 21 days, participants care for fertilized eggs in an incubator, observe growth, record data, and learn problem-solving skills. It's science in action, and it's FUN!

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Meets Virginia SOLs in math, science, English, life science, and computer technology.
- Builds responsibility, respect for life, and critical thinking.
- Includes step-by-step 4-H educational materials guiding students from incubation to brooder building.
- Supported by Prince William 4-H staff every step of the way.

WHO CAN JOIN?

- Prince William 4-H Clubs
- Prince William County Schools
- Manassas City Schools
- Manassas Park Schools
- Homeschool Groups

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Fertilized eggs
- Training and guidance
- Support during the hatch
- Chick collection and transport to a local farm

Don't miss this chance to make science come alive in your classroom or club! Spots fill quickly, so sign up Dec 1st and give your students an experience they'll never forget.



IMPORTANT DATES*

Dec 1 - Registration Opens

Jan 5 - Registration Closes

EDUCATOR TRAINING OPTIONS

Feb 4 - 6-7:30 PM @ PW 4-H

Feb 11 - Time & Location TBD

INCUBATOR PICKUP @ PW 4-H

Feb 5 - 1-4 PM

Feb 9 - 10 AM - 2 PM

EGG PICKUP @ PW 4-H

Feb 16 - 4-6 PM

Feb 17 - 9 AM - 12 PM

HATCH DAYS

Mar 9 - 13

CHICK DROP OFF @ PW 4-H

Mar 20 - 2-6 PM

Mar 26 - 12-3 PM

*Dates subject to change

Registration is **OPEN!**
Click here to register.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Prince William 4-H, Virginia Cooperative Extension at (703-792-6000/TDD*) during business hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120. Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local governments, and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit ext.vt.edu/accessibility.

National 4-H Animal Science Career Night

DECEMBER 18, 2025
7-8pm EST | 6-7pm CST

Presented by
National Association of Extension 4-H
Youth Development Professionals,
Animal Science Working Group



Join us for an evening to hear from noted speakers in the animal science industry as they share career exploration insights, advice, and more! Open to youth in grades 7–13 (ages 12–19).

FREE



Register by December 17, 2025 11:59pm est

For more information Contact:
mb2173@njaes.rutgers.edu



Mr Jack Ward

Executive Vice President of the
American Hereford Association



Mr Sam Cohen

Zoological Supervisor
Bush Gardens, Tampa FL



Upcoming 2026 VA 4-H Youth Animal Science Events

BLUE RIDGE STOCKMAN'S CONTEST

Monday, January 19th • Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg

\$10/person. Lunch is provided.

Registration is required at this link: [Blue Ridge Stockmans Registration](#)

Please forward any questions to [Herb Hoffeditz](#).

VT B & B MEAT SCIENCE CAREER AND EVALUATION DAY

Saturday, January 24th • 9 AM - 3:30 PM • Virginia Tech

\$15/person. Lunch is provided.

Available to 4-H & FFA youth ages 13-19; limited to 8 participants/club and a total of 80 participants

Registration is required at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2025-Meats-Clinic-New>. **Register by Jan 7th at 5 PM.**

Please forward any questions to [Katherine Carter](#) or [Katie Powell](#).

VT B & B HORSE WEEKEND

February 6 & 7 • Virginia Tech

Hippology Contest - Friday, February 6th

Horse Judging Contest - Saturday, February 7th

Registration link, rules, and details coming soon.

COREY CHILDS MEMORIAL STOCKMAN'S CONTEST

Saturday, February 14th • Virginia Livestock, Front Royal

Registration link coming soon. Please forward any questions to [Emily Shultz](#) or [Ken Mathews](#)

VT B & B LIVESTOCK WEEKEND

February 20 & 21 • Virginia Tech

Junior Stockman's Contest - Friday, February 20 (AM - Juniors; PM - Seniors)

Livestock Judging Contest - Saturday, February 21 (AM - Advanced Contest/Reasons; PM - Regular Contest/No Reasons)


Registration link, rules, and details coming soon.

STATE 4-H/FFA MEATS EVALUATION CONTEST

March 1st • Virginia Tech

Official State Contest for both 4-H and FFA (dual entry allowed).

Registration link, rules, and details coming soon.



HOSTED BY
BLOCK & BRIDLE
AT VIRGINIA TECH


MEAT SCIENCE CAREER DAY & EVALUATION CLINIC

Join us for a hands-on, behind-the-scenes look at the meat industry! Practice judging & evaluation for the State Meats Contest!

- ★ VT Facilities Tour
- ★ Live Animal Evaluation
- ★ Country Ham Processing
- ★ Marketing
- ★ Judging & Identification

**GET INSPIRED. GET INVOLVED.
GET A TASTE OF THE FUTURE.**

Register Now & Secure Your Spot!



**FFA: 6th grade & up
4H: 13 years old & up**

**\$15
Registration
(includes lunch!)**

2026 "Corey Childs Memorial" Stockmen's Contest

@
Virginia Livestock, LLC



Where: Virginia Livestock, LLC
2796 Rivermont Drive Front Royal, VA 22630

When: February 14th, 2026

Tentative Schedule:
Registration 8:00-9:00am
 Stockmen's Judging 9:00 am
 Lunch will be served at end of the contest (around noon)
 Stockmen's contest results following the YQCA Program
 Registration is \$5.00 per person lunch is included.
 Please Register by **February 6th, 2026**
 Be on the lookout for online registration information coming in the near future.
 Spots fill quickly, be sure to register early!

*** YQCA will only be offered to contest participants. Watch for YQCA registration coming in the near future. ***

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation to participate in this activity, please notify the Warren County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension at (540) 635-4549 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please contact us by Friday, February 6th, 2026.

VA 4-H: VT B&B Feed Kits

Starter and NEW Add-On Kits Available

- Starter Kits will be like those offered last spring
- Add-on Kits will include additional feeds not included in the Starter Kit
- Various pick-up locations and shipping options available
- Great kits to use as resources for Livestock and Dairy Skillathons, Hippology, Junior Stockman's, or other Youth Animal Science Educational Programs

Order Form: [Block & Bridle at VT Feed Kit Preorder Form – Fill out form](#)

Virginia 4-H Lumber Cup



[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Register by Dec 12. No cost to participate.

Turman Wood Group and The Virginia Farm Bureau, 4-H clubs and students are invited to participate in the first ever **Virginia Lumber Cup- a new student woodworking challenge** that offers hands-on learning while allowing students to test their skills.

This competition is open to all middle and high school groups, but lumber supplies are limited to the first 150 groups. Students will be directed to regional pick up spots to obtain their bundle of lumber. Projects are due for judging by April 5. This is a great opportunity for students to engage with forestry/timber professionals and their regional Farm Bureau community.

Virginia 4-H WHEP Contest - Interest Registration

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Location: James Monroe's Highland, Charlottesville

[Click here to register your 4-H team.](#) [Click here to learn about WHEP.](#)

Virginia 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) is a hands-on, environmental education program for 4-H and FFA youth, ages 8-19. It teaches young people valuable lessons about wildlife management, conservation, leadership, team-building, citizenship, and communication. **RESPOND BY DECEMBER 12TH**



Judging School Virginia

Date: Saturday, January 10th

Location: Williamsburg Lodge, 310 S. England St., Williamsburg

Cost: FREE

[Click here for more information and to register.](#) **Register by January 7th.**

Judging School Virginia is brought to you by the Caroline County Agricultural Fair Association in conjunction with the Virginia Association of Fairs and Virginia Cooperative Extension. This session is in conjunction with the [Virginia Association of Fairs Annual Conference](#).

- **Session I (9:05-10:05 AM):** Food Preservation I (Vegetables/Meats), Woodworking, Quilts, Crocheting/Knitting
- **Session II (10:10 - 11:10 AM):** Food Preservation II (Fruits/Jams/Jellies/Preserves), Photography, Quilts, Veggies/Fruits
- **Session III (11:15 AM - 12:15 PM):** Crafts, Photography, Dried Foods/Vinegars, Crocheting/Knitting



OPEN TO PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H'ERS!

PW 4-H are encouraged to attend Jumpstart: Career Exploration to learn about career opportunities in the 4-H Pillars of Agriculture, STEM, Healthy Living, and Civic Engagement! **Prior to registering**, please contact PW 4-H Extension Agent MaryBeth Lerch at mblerch@vt.edu.

Conference

Jumpstart: Career Exploration for 7-9th Graders

Friday-Sunday

February 6-8, 2026

W.E. Skelton
4-H Educational
Conference Center

Where Curiosity Meets Career Exploration



W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center
775 Hermitage Road, Wirtz, Virginia 24184

Spend the weekend exploring new career paths, meeting inspiring professionals, and connecting with other students at [Jumpstart!](#)

Through hands-on workshops, interactive panels, and team activities, participants will discover opportunities in one of four tracks: **Agriculture, STEM, Healthy Living, and Civic Engagement.**

From leadership sessions and an etiquette dinner to evening activities and reflection groups, the conference offers a mix of learning, networking, and fun.

Scholarships may be available!

Prior to registering, please contact PW 4-H Extension Agent MaryBeth Lerch at mblerch@vt.edu.

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local governments, and is an equal opportunity employer. For the full non-discrimination statement, please visit gvt.vt.edu/accessibility.

Price: \$110

Includes: Lodging (2 nights), 5 meals, T-shirt

To Learn More Contact: smithkd7@vt.edu
or alisonks@vt.edu

Registration:

Opens: December 2, 2025

Closes: January 16, 2026



This conference is held in

partnership with: Virginia 4-H,
Virginia DECA, Virginia FFA, Virginia
HOSA, and Virginia SkillsUSA.

**Virginia
Cooperative
Extension**
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

VA 4-H All Star Awards

Who Should Apply: Virginia 4-H All Stars
Apply by midnight December 31st.

Each year the Virginia 4-H All Stars recognize selected 4-H All Stars and award college scholarships during the 4-H All Star Midwinter Conference. The 2026 4-H All Star Midwinter Conference will be held in Petersburg, February 7-8, 2026. 4-H All Stars selected for recognition or scholarships should attend the Midwinter Conference.

- **C. Dean Allen Award for Excellence** (for faculty) Nominations may be made by 4-H volunteers, unity, district or state Extension faculty members.
- **Dottie Nelson Award Nomination** (for volunteer adult leaders) Nominations may be made by 4-H volunteers, unit, chapter, or state Extension faculty members.
- **Hall of Fame Nomination** (for VA 4-H All Stars with more than 15 years of service) Nominations may be made by individual All Stars, unit, or district chapters.
- **Bradshaw Award** (for VA 4-H All Stars with less than 15 years of service) Nominations may be made by individual All Stars, Extension personnel, unit, or district chapters.
- **Wayne Keffer Scholarship Application** - (for current VA 4-H All Star college and graduate students of any age) The Wayne Keffer Scholarship Fund provides two \$1,000 college scholarships annually!



Scholarship Alert! We Know Some PW 4-H'ers that MUST Apply!

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)
Applications are due February 6th by 5 PM.

Each year, the Prince William Chamber Foundation, in partnership with the Prince William Chamber of Commerce, awards \$2,500 scholarships to outstanding local graduating high school seniors. For 2026, the Chamber will award 5 (five) scholarships. Four of the scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors, and one will be directed to alternative schooling/adult education.



This year, the Chamber Foundation will award 5 scholarships in the following categories:
 ★ Workforce Development & Certification ★ Higher Education ★ Military & Public Service
 ★ Entrepreneurship ★ Adult Education Eligibility Requirements!

VSU-CE Youth Day of Service

Virginia 4-Hers, Agents, and our Virginia 4-H Community: please join us for our Youth Day of Service on January 19th from 9 AM - 1 PM at Virginia State University. This year, we are partnering with AgriMeal for Change to prepare healthy, shelf-stable meals that help reduce hunger in our communities. Together, we'll package thousands of meals that will support local food banks, shelters, and families in need.

Please remember to wear comfortable shoes, as we will be standing for a little over an hour during the meal-packing activity.

Following our service project, lunch will be provided, along with an inspiring session on 4-H leadership, officer roles, and upcoming travel opportunities.

A reminder that each participant and adult volunteer must be registered in 4HOnline.com to attend. We can't wait to serve with you!



**January 19, 2026
9a-1p**

Douglas L. Wilder Building

AGENDA

9AM Registration & Introductions

9:30AM Production Training

10:00AM Service: Production Packing

11:30AM - 12:00PM Lunch

12PM Officer Training

12:30PM Officer Training

1PM Debrief and Closing

VSU College of Agriculture

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. The programs and employees are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, sex, including pregnancy, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, genetic information, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other factor protected by law.



VT Big Ideas in the Humanities

Dates: Each Saturday morning in February (2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28)

Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM | In person

Who Should Apply: Middle school students ages 11–14 from across the region.

Cost: FREE (but space is limited)

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#) **Applications due Dec 19.**

Applications are open for this exciting humanities-based enrichment experience for gifted and high-achieving middle schoolers (grades 6–8) on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg! Students will embark on an extraordinary humanities journey designed to spark imagination and fuel passions for the arts, storytelling, philosophy, language, history, creative writing, and more.

To complete the application, students will need to provide a recommendation contact (a teacher, administrator, counselor, coach, community member, mentor, etc.) and a short essay or video expressing their interest in attending the enrichment experience and why the humanities excite them.

VA Fairs Youth Leadership Scholarship Contest

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

Want to win up to \$2,500 in scholarships? The VAF Youth Leadership Scholarship Contest is your chance to shine! If you're 14–19 years old as of January 1, 2026, and actively involved in your local VAF-member fair - whether as a youth board member, livestock exhibitor, contest participant, or volunteer - you're eligible. This contest celebrates leadership, teamwork, and creativity while helping you build real-world skills to make a difference in your community. Applications are due **December 5**, so don't wait - step up, show your leadership, and grab this opportunity!

Contestants must be present to participate.

VAF Conference

January 10, 2026

Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA

Youth Leadership Program



[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Calling All 4-H, FFA & Jr. MANRRS Members! Attend the Youth Leadership Program at the American Farm Bureau Convention - FREE! The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) is excited to offer a unique national opportunity for 4-H, FFA and Jr. MANRRS members!

From January 9-14, AFBF will host its 107th Annual Convention and Trade Show at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California. As part of this event, a special Youth Leadership Program will be held on Sunday, January 11th, exclusively for youth members of our partnering youth

agricultural organizations. This one-of-a-kind experience will allow students to:

- Connect with farmers and ranchers as well as industry leaders from across the country
 - Network with other youth leaders, learn together and build valuable leadership skills
 - Attend the Empowering Young Leaders reception with AFBF President Zippy Duvall
- Don't miss this chance to learn, grow, and be inspired alongside other future leaders of agriculture!

Virginia KidWind Challenge: Student Expo

STUDENT EXPO

Date: February 7th, 10 AM - 3 PM

Location: Virginia Tech, Blacksburg

[Click here to register.](#) **Register by January 23rd.**

[Click here to learn more about Virginia KidWind Project.](#)

The Virginia Kid Wind Renewable Energy Challenge Student Expo is an opportunity for students to take ownership of their learning and give their coaches a little break. The Expos will feature the following:

- Industry tables to learn about careers
- Hands-on workshops for students on advanced topics (gearboxes, airfoils, microcontrollers, advanced solar circuits)
- Sessions for coaches on preparing for the Challenge event
- FREE Lunch
- Panel discussion with experienced students
- Open testing time in the wind tunnel and solar environment
- Technical advisors

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL CHALLENGE

Date: Tuesday, March 17th, 8 AM - 4 PM

Location: Potomac Science Center (GMU), Woodbridge

[Click here to register.](#) Space is limited!

Teams will compete in the wind and/or solar challenge. Please note: Schools are limited to 3 teams in each division (wind and solar).

TEACHERS & CLUB LEADER RESOURCES

Check out the Virtual 101 Workshops and other resources KidWind has for preparing for a Challenge! [Click here to learn more.](#)

Virginia KidWind: 2026 Energy Art Challenge

[Click here for more information and to enter.](#)

Due by noon on March 2nd.

Calling on all K-12 students to create artwork on the theme: Solar POWERED.

KidWind is excited to launch our 3rd Annual Energy Art Challenge - this year focused on Solar Energy! Six entries from each grade division - Elementary (K-5), Middle School (6-8), and High School (9-12) - will receive an award and have their work displayed on the KidWind website.



VIRTUAL 101 WORKSHOPS



KidWind offers a variety of one-day virtual workshops covering renewable energy topics. These workshops are geared towards middle and high school teachers. Attendees will receive ~\$150 worth of classroom materials. Find more information [here](#), or scan the QR code. Registration for each workshop closes two weeks before the workshop occurs.

Solar Energy 101

December 6, 2025 - 11am-2pm EST

Wind Energy 101

January 10, 2026 - 11am-2pm EST

Battery 101

February 28, 2026 - 11am-2pm EST

Power Grid 101

March 7, 2026 - 11am-2pm EST

Marine & Hydropower 101

April 11, 2026 - 11am-2pm EDT

Use code **VWKS101CREATE** to reduce the cost to just \$50. That's \$200 off! Please note that only STEM educators who teach students in grades 6th and above who have not taken this workshop before are eligible for this discount.

Huge thank you to our partner CREATE!



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

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Your Dedicated PWC 4-H Staff

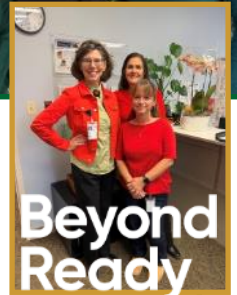
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