

Prince William

Our Clubs, Our Community



December 17, 2025

Upcoming Events

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

Jan 30 - PW 4-H Share the Fun

Feb 5 - PW 4-H Club Leader Professional Development Zoom

Feb 10 - PW 4-H Rabbit Project Kickoff

Feb 14 - PW 4-H Contest Day

Feb 28 - PW 4-H Food Challenge

Inside this issue:

Prince William 4-H 2 Updates

Virginia 4-H Updates

Contacts & 22
Recourses

Click to Visit



PW 4-H Honors Heroes at Wreaths Across America



Last weekend, members of Nokesville 4-H Club, Kettle Run 4-H Club, and Trigger Time 4-H Club bundled up in their green 4-H gear and headed to Quantico National Cemetery for Wreaths Across America. It was a beautiful - but chilly -day filled with purpose as youth and families joined thousands across the nation to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

The event reminded us why volunteering matters: it's about using our Head, Heart, Hands, and Health to give back, honor those who served, and teach future generations the value of service. While new changes this year brought lessons - like arriving early (wreaths ran out!) and planning for long shuttle lines - the experience was unforgettable.

A special thank you goes out to everyone who sponsored a wreath. With over 36,000 graves at Quantico National Cemetery, each wreath must be purchased and sponsored to make this tribute possible. Your generosity ensures that every hero is honored and that youth can participate in this meaningful tradition.

Why is this important for youth? Because volunteering

builds leadership, empathy, and civic responsibility. Every wreath placed is a moment of gratitude and a chance to learn that small acts of service make a big impact.

Thank you to all our 4-H'ers, families, and sponsors who made this day possible!















Prince William 4-H CLUB REPORT



Kettle Run 4-H Club

By Grayson Dove, Kettle Run 4-H Club Historian

December 9, 2025. We had our November meeting on the 25th. We followed parliamentary procedure and Simon, one of our co-presidents, led the meeting. We talked about all the things we did since our last meeting like the recognition night, engage locally and the outdoor challenge and hike. Then we started our service project for the month. We all brought in cans and other types of food to donate to the food pantry and then we decorated Thanksgiving signs for an elderly home in Manassas. We had a lot of fun hanging out and doing something nice for other people.









Prince William 4-H CLUB REPORT DUE DATES

1st Monday (Jan 5)
Nokesville Equestrian 4-H Club
Patriot High School 4-H Club

2nd Monday (Jan 12) Kettle Run 4-H Club Benton Middle School Club

3rd Monday (Jan 19) Trigger Time 4-H Club

4th Monday (Dec 22) Nokesville 4-H Club Linton Hall 4-H Club

Thank YOU for Your 4-H Club Reports

PW 4-H Club Officers - We want to hear MORE from you!

Each month, club reporters, historians, or secretaries send a quick summary of your club's activities (cool projects, service, awards, shoutouts), about 6 photos, and any thank-yous to community supporters. Don't forget to sign your name, role, and club name, then email it to chelmlinger@pwcva.gov and CC your adult club leader. These reports help track your club's journey, keep families and the community in the loop, and might even attract new members! Plus, you're building real-world skills - try using Al to turn your report into a newsletter article!



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Prince Wiliam 4-H CLUB REPORT





Trigger Time 4-H Club

By Rebecca Ahrens, Trigger Time 4-H Club Reporter December 17, 2025

SCOPOS BB GUN VIRTUAL MATCH

In November, fourteen Trigger Time members participated in the Scopos BB Gun Virtual Match. Targets were shot at each team's home practice location and uploaded online for results. Trigger Time finished strong in all four positions, taking first place in the match. The team was led by Sophie Carter who also claimed first place with her score of 348-5. She was followed closely by the other contributing team members: Jubilee Richter (339-5), Jolene Gaynor (327-2), Xanthie Mintz (300-1), and Alexander Wolpert (297.3). This was also the first competition for three of Trigger Time's members. Everyone had a great time competing.



SCOPOS NATIONAL SPORTER AIR RIFLE LEAGUE

Finishing the season strong, Trigger Time narrowly defeated Picayune NJROTC by only six tenths of a point! Trigger Time scored 1120.8 to Picayune's 1120.2. Contributing to the team score were Tanner Ridings (285.3), Lexi Strand (283.1), Rebecca Ahrens (282.6), and Ayden Strand (269.8). Trigger Time placed 9th place in the Champions Division, with an average of 1114.2 and a regular season record of 5-2. This qualified the team to compete in the Sporter Invitational Post-Season Tournament.

In the Post-Season Tournament, the top eight sporter teams from the Champions Division compete in the Championship Tournament, while the teams in 9th-16th place are bracketed into the Invitational Tournament. Much like the regular season, teams are paired up to compete in a 3-position match, but only the winner advances to the next round. Trigger Time's first matchup was with Northridge MCJROTC from Greeley, CO. After the scores came in, Trigger Time was declared the winner with a ten-point lead over Northridge; 2247.1 to 2237.2. The contributing members were Lexi Strand (576.1), Tanner Ridings (573.2), and Rebecca Ahrens (571.5), and Samantha Holmes (526.3). This score advanced the team to the second round of the playoffs.

Trigger Time then faced Ramona NJROTC from Ramona, CA. Once again, Trigger Time succeeded with about a ten-point margin of victory. Contributing team members were Rebecca Ahrens (581.9), Lexi Strand (571.3), Tanner Ridings (565.5), and Ayden Strand (550.1). This week Trigger Time faces their local rivals, Lafayette Gun Club, to compete in the final round of the Post-Season to determine the overall champion of the Invitational Tournament.

AIRNATS NATIONAL SECTIONAL QUALIFIER

On November 15th, members of Trigger Time competed in the Lafayette Gun Club Sporter Cup. The match was a sectional qualifier for the 2026 Junior AirNats National Championship. There were 336 individuals and 96 teams that participated. Overall, Trigger Time placed 7th in the nation; qualifying as a team. Rebecca Ahrens placed 3rd and qualified as an individual. The Junior AirNats match will be held in January at Camp Perry, Ohio.



CONGRATS TO PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H'ERS RECOGNIZED FOR LEADING BY DOING

The Fred Fees Award recognizes a youth member who best demonstrates the values of the late Fred Fees, a founding leader of the Trigger Time 4-H Club. This award honors individuals who exemplify outstanding sportsmanship, strong character, and a commitment to service.

Presented annually by the Trigger Time 4-H Shooting Education Club, the Fred Fees Award highlights youth who truly reflect these core values. This year, the club is proud to

recognize two recipients. Tim Hirshey and Lexi Strand. Congratulations to both for their dedication and leadership within the program.





Nokesville 4-H Club: Geocaching & Conservation Service Day

By Michael DeRoche, President of the Nokesville 4-H Community Club, SAVE Ambassador with Keep Virginia Beautiful, and YCLI Participant with Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District December 11, 2025

Last Sunday, December 7, Nokesville 4-H continued its conservation work at Wakeman Stormwater Pond in Manassas as part of our native buffer restoration project with Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District. This is the same area where our club planted buttonbushes earlier this year to help stabilize the shoreline and support local wildlife. I helped lead this combined geocaching, litter cleanup, and seed-spreading project so our club could continue improving this important watershed site.





We started with a geocaching activity and attempted to find two caches. The first remained unfound, but we will be back to try again in the spring. Reaching the second required crossing a small stream which was a lot of fun for everyone. The cache we did locate was in poor condition, so we cleaned it out for the next geocachers. We were rewarded with finding a travel bug that had been sitting there for more than a year! Its mission is "take me anywhere there are flying things," so our group plans to move it to a travel-bug hotel closer to Dulles Airport to help it

continue its journey.

After geocaching, we completed a litter cleanup around Wakeman Pond. Because this stormwater pond drains into Bull Run, the Occoquan, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay, removing trash here makes a meaningful difference downstream. Our group collected 89 pounds of litter, and we returned the next day to remove a tire with a rim, adding about 40 more pounds. The City of Manassas thanked us for helping prevent pollutants and microplastics from entering the water.





We also spread 100 swamp milkweed seed bombs to support monarch butterflies and other pollinators. It is the host plant that monarch caterpillars depend on for survival, and it provides nectar for butterflies and other pollinators. Milkweed seeds also need winter cold to sprout, so spreading them now helps restore native habitat in the spring where it is needed most.

Thank you to everyone who participated or supported this project, because your effort helped prevent:

- plastic bags, bottles, and wrappers from breaking down into microplastics
- chemicals from a discarded tire from leaching into the stormwater pond
- trash from traveling downstream into Bull Run, the Occoquan, and the Chesapeake Bay
- wildlife from being harmed through entanglement or ingestion
- invasive plants from spreading in areas where native milkweed can now grow

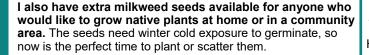
These actions protect clean water, healthy soil, and safer habitats for both people and wildlife. Young members saw that their work matters, and adults showed how stewardship is something every age group can share. Together, we made a real, visible improvement to our community.

HOW EVERYONE CAN HELP

As a <u>SAVE Ambassador</u>, I encourage everyone to take simple steps that add up to big results:



- dispose of trash properly and recycle when possible
- pick up litter when you're out walking, hiking, or geocaching
- leave places better than you found them
- plant and spread native seeds that support pollinators and wildlife



We will be organizing more clean-up opportunities in 2026! Please join us!



People that joined us - Catherine and Maria Konstanty, Aerin, Patrick, Ewan and Charlotte Peak, Katie Cook, Kate Porokh, and my grandpa Sergey Porokh who helped me get the tire out of the frozen over pond.

GOT A STORY TO SHARE?

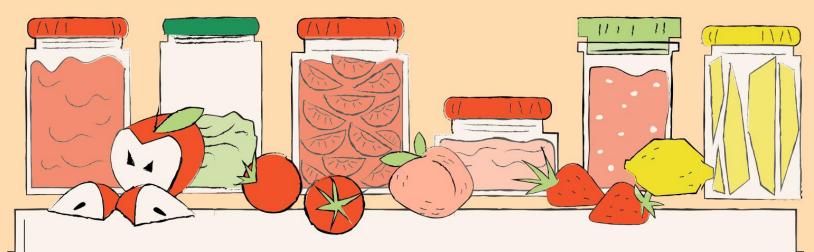
Your fellow 4-H'ers Sierra-Nicole and Michael have already shown how they're making a *Clover Impact* using their Head, Heart, Hands, and Health - now it's your turn! How are YOU using what you've learned in 4-H to make a difference in your community or the world?

Send us your story and get featured in the Prince William 4-H Weekly Newsletter AND on our Instagram and Facebook pages. This is your chance to speak up about the issues that matter to teens today, boost your communication skills, and even flex those new AI skills you've been learning.

Ready to inspire others? Let's hear your voice!



18 USC 707



CANNING LIKE A PRO WITH PW 4-H



Last Thursday, Prince William 4-H turned up the heat in the kitchen with a hands-on Learn to Can workshop! Led by Thomas Bolles, VCE-Prince William ANR Extension Agent, and Christina Hastings, our local canning expert, teens learned the art of safe food preservation while making a holiday favorite—cranberry chutney.

After a quick intro on what chutney is and why it's awesome, participants rolled up their sleeves and got chopping, grating, and measuring. One 4-H'er summed it up perfectly: "Chopping onions is a life skill!" By the end of the night, everyone walked away with three jars of homemade chutney to enjoy and share with family and friends.

Canning isn't just about filling jars—it's about learning skills that last a lifetime: food safety, sustainability, and confidence in the kitchen.

Want to join the next session and level up your kitchen game? Contact MaryBeth Lerch and get ready to can with PW 4-H!



Page 6 Prince William 4-H

PW 4-H Leading by Speaking SPIN: Last Week's Highlights & Tonight's Challenge



Last week, our 4-H Youth Leadership SPIN Club took a big step forward in developing public speaking and leadership skills! The meeting featured club officer elections, where candidates delivered speeches explaining why they wanted to serve. Members then cast their votes, demonstrating an excellent use of Robert's Rules of Order, just as learned during officer training.



The session didn't stop there - members practiced evaluating speeches in a positive and encouraging way, putting their new skills to the test by judging a Toastmasters leader. They also discovered the importance of time management in meetings and speeches, using the classic colored card system to keep presentations on track.

Tonight's meeting promises to be just as exciting! Members will come prepared to deliver a short extemporaneous speech on topics they submitted at the last session. It's time to see what creative ideas they'll "pull out of the hat" and how they rise to the challenge!

A HUGE 4-H THANK YOU to Dr. Doreen Hamilton and Ms. Linda Walker of Toastmasters International. Their enthusiasm and encouraging feedback are helping grow our public speaking skills...and just in time to help us prepare for VA 4-H Day at the Capitol, Share the Fun, and PW 4-H Contest Day!

PW 4-H Adult Volunteers: Please Check Your Volunteer Level in 4-H Online



We need your help to comply with Virginia 4-H requirements! All adults (parents, guardians, and volunteers) who attend 4-H meetings, events, and programs are required to enroll in 4-H Online. Volunteers play a vital role, and we have different levels based on responsibilities:

- Level I One-Time/Occasional Volunteer: No supervisory duties; helps with events or activities under supervision.
- Level 2 Regular Volunteer: Works with youth, handles funds, or has supervisory roles (e.g., Club Leaders, Coaches).
- Level 3 Overnight Volunteer: Participates in overnight camping programs with direct supervision of youth.
- Level 4 New Volunteer: First-time volunteers completing full enrollment and screening.

Each level has specific requirements, such as applications, background checks, and forms in 4-H Online. Please select the correct level and associated roles when enrolling.

IMPORTANT: If unsure of your volunteer level, please contact <u>MaryBeth Lerch</u> at PW 4-H Headquarters. If you complete a background screening unnecessarily, you may be charged a fee. Not all adults/volunteers are required to complete the background screening. For detailed descriptions and requirements, click here to view the full guide.



Will you join me on Feb 7, 2026 or support my Plunge? http://tinyurl.com/2z3wacur

Support PW 4-H'er's Community Service

FREEZIN' FOR A REASON! CCAN's Annual "Keep Winter Cold"

Polar Bear Plunge Date: February 7th

Location: National Harbor

Click here for more information, to join the Plunge, or to donate to the cause.

Michael DeRoche is plunging into icy cold waters with fellow climate activists to help raise vital funds for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network's (CCAN) critical climate campaigns in 2026. CCAN's annual Polar Bear Plunge at the National Harbor is their largest annual grassroots fundraising event. Each winter, hundreds of passionate climate activists run, walk or skip into the icy cold Potomac River to help raise money to support their work.

Will you join Michael on February 7th or donate today to support his Polar Bear Plunge?

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 an 8-session hands-on program designed for 4-H'ers ages 9-18.

Where & When

Session Dates*: December +0, 17, January 7, 14, 21, 28, & February 4

*please commit to all sessions!

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Location: PW 4-H Headquarters

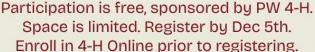
What

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!

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











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.



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.

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 INVIVERSITY, 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.

















PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H

CLUB CLUB

Meets the 2nd Saturday of the Month from October to May from 10am-Noon

JANUARY 10TH

TIME: 10 AM - Noon

LOCATION: Prince William 4-H Headquarters, 8033 Ashton Ave., Manassas

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Greater Prince William youth ages 5-8, with a parent or guardian,

who are interested in exploring 4-H

Calling all Greater Prince William Area youth ages 5–8! Join us for an exciting January Cloverbud Club meeting where the theme is Winter Fun and Wellness. Get ready for a day packed with creativity, learning, and laughter:

- "Cook" a Frozen Yogurt Parfait a tasty, healthy treat!
- Craft Your Own Snow Globe a winter wonder you can take home.
- Play Indoor Winter Games including the ultimate Freeze Dance challenge!

Cloverbuds explore short-term, hands-on projects led by caring adults in the 4-H Pillars: civic engagement, STEM, healthy living, and agriculture. Every activity is research-based and designed to spark curiosity while building skills for life.

Come discover, create, and play while laying the foundation to become tomorrow's community leaders!



Learn more about 4-H at www.pwcva.gov/4-H.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER. Registration is free, but required.

Come grow with us!





Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech. · Virginia State University



PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H

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
- 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 - 6-7:30 PM @ McCoart, Woodbridge

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!



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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.

Page 12 Prince William 4-H

Virginia 4-H Day at the Capitol



Mark your calendars - January 21, 2026 is your chance to step inside Virginia's state government and make your voice heard! 4-H Day at the Capitol gives teens a behind-the-scenes look at how laws are made, lets you meet legislators, and shows how your ideas can shape your community.

This year is extra exciting - it's right after the inauguration of a new governor! You'll explore Capitol Square, take part in Voice Your Choice, join the 4-H Rally at the Bell Tower, and even deliver clover plants to legislators as a symbol of 4-H pride. Plus, you'll build leadership and public speaking skills while connecting with other 4-H'ers from across the state.

Don't miss this chance to represent youth, share your ideas, and see government in action. Wear comfy shoes, bring your curiosity, and get ready to make an impact!

Prince William 4-H'ers - See <u>Page 9</u> for more information and REGISTER TODAY! Seats are almost full.



VA 4-H All Star Updates for Future, Current, and Aumni

VIRGINIA 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.

- <u>C. Dean Allen Award for Excellence</u> (for faculty)
 Nominations may be made by 4-H volunteers, unity, district or state
 Extension faculty members.
- <u>Dottie Nelson Award Nomination</u> (for volunteer adult leaders) Nominations may be made by 4-H volunteers, unit, chapter, or state Extension faculty members.
- <u>Hall of Fame Nomination</u> (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.
- <u>Bradshaw Award</u> (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!

VIRGINIA 4-H 2026 ALL STAR NOMINATIONS STATE

REVIEW

Date: Friday, January 2nd at 10am

Location: Goochland Extension Office

Click here to register to participate.

If you are an All-Star, we would love your assistance with reviewing the nominations. If you are an agent interested in learning about the 4-H All-Stars and how members are selected, you are welcome to join and learn how you can help your 4-Hers make their nominations shine in 2027!

Virginia 4-H All Stars
"Roots to Boots"



Honoring Our Past, Stepping Into the Future.





Join us for a weekend of service, fellowship, and fun!

NEW THIS YEAR:

Saturday Luncheon @ Keystone Tractor Museum!

Reduced pricing for first-time attendees!

Randolph Farm Pavilion @ Virginia State University 4415 River Rd, Petersburg, VA 23803

FEB | 6-8 | 2026

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. Less than 5 spots

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.

Blue Ridge Stockmans Contest Monday January 19, 2026

Cost is \$10/person to include lunch.

Contest Details ories Breed - 10 with breed description

- uipment 10 items for Jr. 20 ns for Sr
- Items for Sr. Feed 10 with feed usage for Sr. Meat 10 cuts: Species/primal/retail knowledge Quiz 25 multiple choice questions. Junior and Senior versions



Contest Format

Contest is open to all 4-H and FFA embers and will consist of 2 divisions All ages will be as of the contest date.

Junior division

4-H members ages 8 - 13

FFA members grade 6-8

- enior Division
- 4-H members ages 14-19 FFA members grade 9-12

Where

The Blue Ridge Stockmans Contest will be held at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds and will utilize both outside and indoor facilities. Contestants should dress appropriately!

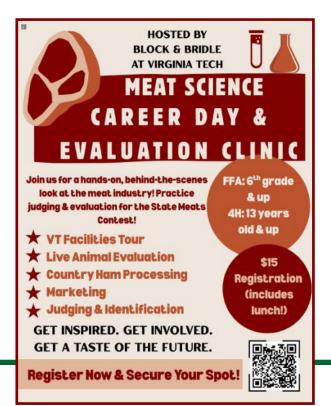
GORE'S INVITATIONAL MEATS JUDGING CONTEST

Saturday, February 7th • Gore's Meats in Edinburg

Available to all enrolled and eligible Virginia 4-H and FFA Youth.

Registration required at this link: https://forms.gle/yrpzc2EcERfNfjep8. Register by January 31

Clinic/Contest for those preparing for the State 4-H/FFA Meats Evaluation Contests or anyone hoping to learn more about Meats Evaluation. Please direct any questions to: saheishman@shenandoah.k12.va.us or dbritenour@shenandoah.k12.va.us



Central High School

Agriculture Education Department and FFA Chapter 1147 Susan Avenue Woodstock, VA 22664 Phone: (540) 459-3806 Fax: (540) 459-5932



December 2025

TO: 2026 Virginia 4-H and FFA Meat Judging Team Coaches

FROM: Gore's Meat Processing, Sherry Heishman, Derek Ritenour

SUBJECT: 2026 Shenandoah Valley Invitational 4-H & FFA Meats Judging Contest and Clinic

The 2026 Gore's Invitational 4-H & FFA Meat Judging Contest will be held at Gore's Meats Edinburg-Foltz Division. Contest registration will be held at Gore's beginning at 8 am. This contest should be regarded as a preparation contest for the Virginia State 4-H & FFA Meats Judging Contest sponsored by the Block & Bridle Club at Virginia Tech.

Registration fees will be \$20 per team or \$5 per individual; Additional adults are also \$5. This fee covers registration and lunch. Lunch will be a pork barbecue sandwich, chips, cookie and water. Invoice can be sent if requested.

Please email if a student needs the test read to them.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions concerning these details, by phone at

Please print out the registration information (emailed to you upon form submission) and mail, along with payment to

Central High School 1147 Sus

Checks may be made payable to Central FFA.

Registration: or https://forms.gle/vrpzc2EcERfNfjep8

To be eligible for the contest, payment and registration must be received by January 31, 2026

Page 14 Prince William 4-H

Upcoming 2026 VA 4-H Youth Animal Science Events

COREY CHILDS MEMORIAL STOCKMAN'S CONTEST

Saturday, February 14th • Virginia Livestock, Front Royal

Registration is required at this link: https://tinyurl.com/2026-CCM-Stockmans-Contest. Register by February 6th. 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.

VT BEEF LEADERSHIP COUNCIL BEEF BOOT CAMP

Friday, March 6th • at Alphin-Stuart Arena, Virginia Tech

Registration is required at this link: https://forms.gle/aKilMg2yZOr227Rp8. Register by February 27th.

Available to Virginia 4-H and FFA Youth.

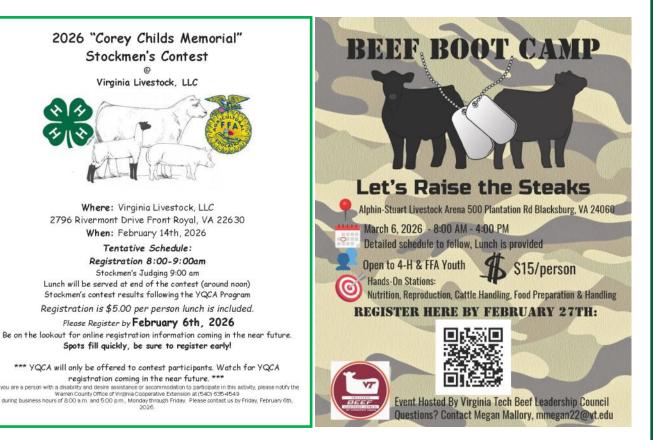
Please direct all questions to Megan Mallory at mmegan22@vt.edu

2026 "Corey Childs Memorial"

"Lets Raise the Steaks" - Hands-on Stations that focus on Nutrition, Reproduction, Cattle Handling, Food Preparation and Handling. Perfect opportunity for youth who are new to cattle or seasoned show/beef industry kids. Stations will be fun and educational, led by VT students and Beef Industry Leaders.

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. ***



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

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 <u>Virginia Association of Fairs Annual Conference</u>.

- 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

VA 4-H: Virgina Dairy Princess Program



Date: February 7th
Location: Richmond, VA
Click here to learn more
and to apply.

Applications due Jan 1. The Virginia Dairy Princess Program connects consumers with dairy farmers by promoting the dairy industry and dairy foods across the state. The Dairy Princess and her court represent Virginia dairy at parades, public events, and meetings, while building leadership and communication skills - and the Princess earns a scholarship at the end of her reign. Supporting roles like Dairy Maids and

Duchesses help with events, teamwork, and training for future candidates, making this a fun way to advocate for agriculture, meet new people, and grow as a leader.





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:





Mr Jack Ward

Executive Vice President of the American Hereford Association



Mr Sam Cohen

Zoological Supervisor Bush Gardens, Tampa FL



Page 16 Prince William 4-H

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!

Scholarships Applications OPEN!



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 - I 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!

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-discriminationstatement, please visit axt.vr.edu/accessibility.



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



YOUTH TOUR JUNE 15-19, 2026

Experience The Capital Like Never Before

Are you a high school junior with big dreams and a passion for making a difference? If your family gets electricity from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC), this opportunity is calling your name.

Youth Tour is not just a trip. It is an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience that can change the way you see your future. This is your chance to stand where leaders have stood, see history up close, and imagine yourself making an impact.

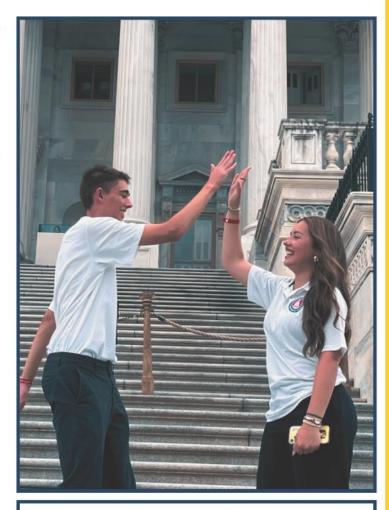
Picture This:

Walking the same halls where the nation's biggest decisions are made. Meeting students from across the country who are just as driven and ambitious as you. Getting behind-the-scenes access to places you have only seen in textbooks or online.

What's Waiting for You?

- Tour Highlights: Tour the U.S. Capitol, and experience other unique opportunities only in Washington D.C.
- Leadership Growth: Meet lawmakers, network with other future leaders, and learn how to use your voice to create real change.
- All Expenses Covered: Travel, meals, lodging, tours, and activities are included at no cost to you.
- Lifelong Connections: Make friends with other ambitious students from Virginia and beyond who will inspire you and support you for years to come.

Youth Tour has shaped generations of leaders. Now it is your turn to shine. If you are ready for this opportunity to represent your community by attending this event, submit your application today!



How to Apply:

Go to myrec.coop/youthtour to submit the online application. Tell us about yourself and why this life-changing experience has your name written all over it.

Deadline: January 31, 2026 Do not miss your shot! Youth Tour is calling and is ready for you!

Questions? → community@myrec.coop



YOUTH TOUR JUNE 15-19, 2026

Youth Leadership Council: The Ultimate Level-Up

Every year, one standout student from Virginia is chosen to represent the state on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Leadership Council (YLC), an elite program bringing together top students from across the country. During Youth Tour, that student could be you.

Why It's a Big Deal:

- Attend the 2026 NRECA Annual Meeting, a national gathering of energy and cooperative leaders, with all
 expenses paid.
- Build hands-on leadership skills, strengthen your public speaking abilities, and learn how the energy industry works from the inside out.
- Represent Virginia by carrying the state flag at the opening session and assisting NRECA staff with important event operations.

What Makes YLC Special:

This is more than a conference. It is an opportunity that can transform your leadership journey. You will leave more confident, more connected, and ready to make an impact in your school, your community, and your future career. You will also meet other motivated students from across the United States who share your passion for leadership and service.

How to Be Chosen:

The Virginia delegate is selected during Youth Tour, so be ready to make a strong impression. Step up, stand out, and you could be representing our state on the national stage. Will you be the one carrying Virginia's flag?





Page 20 Prince William 4-H

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!



2025 2026



PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H

TBD TSC & 4.4 Paper Clover Campaign TBD VA 4-HIFFA State Poultry Evaluation Contest TBD VA 4.4 Healthy Living Summit TBD VA 4.4 Northeast District Contest Day	5 VA 4-H Lumber Cup 11 PW 4-H Cloverbud Club 14 PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Professional Dev 18 VA 4-H Northeast District Contest Day 18 National 4-H Conference 18D National 4-H Conference 17D VA 4-H Equismariz 17BD VA 4-H Shooting Ed New Instructor Certification 17BD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Interest Mitg 17BD PW 4-H Tree Planting 17BD PW 4-H FFA Beef Challenge, Beef Roundup, Tractor Operators Contest	APRIL	4 PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Market Day 5-11 National 4-H Week 7 Proclamation at PWC BOCS 8 PW 4-H Association Fundraising Committee Mtg 11 PW 4-H Shooting Ed New Instructor Certification 14 PW 4-H Portfolio Training 16 PW 4-H Teens to BLOOM 19-25 National Character Counts Week 21 PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Professional Dev 23 PW 4-H Green & Growing 27 PW 4-H Green & Growing	OCTOBER
	10 PW 4-H Cloverbud Club 12 PW 4-H Association Board & Leader Year-End Meeting TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Workshops TBD PW 4-H Outdoor Challenge SPIN Project TBD VA 4-H Northeast District Food Challenge Contest	MAY	1 VA 4-H Shooting Ed Instructor Re-Certification 3-4 PW 4-H Sewing SPIN Club 4 VA 4-H Soil Judging Contest 6 PW 4-H Engage Locally 8 PW 4-H Engage Locally 12 PW 4-H Association Meeting 16 PW 4-H Hike: 4-H Outdoor Challenge 20 PW 4-H Teens to BLOOM 24 PW 4-H Officer & Leadership Training 28-Dec 2 National 4-H Congress 28-Dec14 TSC & 4-H Paper Clover Campaign	NOVEMBER
	16-29 Virginia 4-H Congress 21-26 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championship 30 1st Time Junior 4-H Camper Parents' Meeting TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Market Day TBD VA Dept of Forestry Camp Woods & Wildlife TBD VA 4-H Livestock Judging Contests	JUNE	1 PW 4-H Embryology Registration Opens 3 PW 4-H Homemade Holiday Craft Night 4 PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Professional Dev 10 PW 4-H Leading by Speaking SPIN Project 11 PW 4-H Canning Class 13 Wreaths Across America Day 30 PW 4-H Whisper Booth Training	DECEMBER
For more detailed in	TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Market Day TBD State of Virginia's NRA Youth Education Summit TBD Prince William/Stafford 4-H Junior Camp TBD Southem Regionals 4-H Horse Championships TBD VA 4-H Youth Dairy Field Day	JULY	 10 PW 4-H Cloverbud Club 13 PW 4-H Association Meeting 21 Virginia 4-H Day at the Capitol 23 PW 4-H Share the Fun Dress Rehearsal 30 PW 4-H Share the Fun TBD PW 4-H Tree Seedling Orders Due 	JANUARY
For more detailed information as events approach, see the newsletter at www.pwcva.gov/4-H.	TBD VA 4-H Northern District Shoot TBD VA 4-H Pork Challenge TBD PW 4-H Fair Camp TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Market Day	AUGUST	5 PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Professional Dev 10 PW 4-H Rabbit Project Kickoff 14 PW 4-H Contest Day: Presentations, Table Setting, Fashion Review 14 VA 4-H Stockman's & Livestock Judging 28 PW 4-H Food Challenge 18D VA 4-H Hippology & Horse Judging 18D 4-H Shooting Sports National Quiz Bowl 18D VA 4-H Shooting Ed Instructor Recertification	FEBRUARY
HEART HANDS HEALTH Updated 12/09/2025	4-6 VA 4-H State Horse and Pony Championship 5-6 VA 4-H State Shoot TBD PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Market Day TBD VA 4-H Shotgun Championship TBD State Fair of Virginia TBD State Fair of Virginia TBD SFVA Youth Livestock Shows, Livestock Skillathon, Dairymen's Contest, Dairy Goat Contest,	SEPTEMBER	1 PW 4-H Junior Camp Reg Opens 1 VA 4-H and FFA Meats Evaluation 3 PW 4-H Dog Project Kickoff 6-7 PW 4-H TALT - Junior Camp Counselor Training 10 PW 4-H Leaders' Mid-Year Mtg & 4-H Association Mtg 14 VA 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl 14-15 VA 4-H Spring Air Champs 21 VA 4-H WHEP Contest 25-29 National 4-H IGNITE 1BD VA 4-H Teen Summit 1BD PW 4-H Association BlNGO	MARCH

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

8033 Ashton Ave, #105, Manassas, VA 20109

Click to Visit Online:

Prince William 4-H
Virginia State 4-H
National 4-H



Your Dedicated PWC 4-H Staff

MaryBeth Lerch

Extension Agent, 4-H mblerch@vt.edu
703-792-4536



CLICK HERE FOR

THE PRINCE

WILLIAM 4-H 2025-2026

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PWC 4-H Resources

National 4-H

National 4-H Homepage

Virginia 4-H

VCE 4-H
4-H Online Information
The 4-H Foundation
4-H All Stars
STEM in Virginia 4-H

Prince William 4-H

PW 4-H Homepage

PW 4-H Programs

PW 4-H Camps

PW 4-H Events & Calendar

PW 4-H Document Center

Portfolio Records

Member Record
Cloverbud Sheet
Project Record Ages 9-10
Project Record Ages 11-12
Project Record Ages 13-18

Prince William 4-H Member Record - President
Prince William 4-H Member Record - Vice President
Prince William 4-H Member Record - Officer

Prince William 4-H Documents & Resources



Youth Officers

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Tim Hirshey, Vice President
Sarah Fox, Secretary
Samantha Holmes, Treasurer
Ayden Strand, Jr Fundraising Committee Chair

Adult Officers

Susan Wolf, President Alan Lerch, Vice President Shelby Kohn, Secretary Sydney Nguyen, Treasurer

Committee Chairs

Fundraising Committee - Shawn Clinger & Sarah Fox Recognition Committee - Alan Lerch Membership Committee - 4-H Staff





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