



Prince William 4-H

Our Clubs, Our Community



Upcoming Events

- 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 21** - VA 4-H Shooting Ed Recertification
- Feb 28** - PW 4-H Food Challenge
- Mar 1** - VA 4-H Meats Evaluation
- Mar 3** - PW 4-H Dog Project Kickoff
- Mar 6-7** - PW 4-H TALT Weekend

Inside this issue:

- [Prince William 4-H Updates](#) 2
- [Virginia 4-H Updates](#) 10
- [Contacts & Recourses](#) 16

Click to Visit



January 14, 2026

Sign Up TODAY for PW 4-H Share the Fun!

Rehearsal: Friday, January 23rd from 5:30-7 PM

Show: Friday, January 30th at 7 PM

Location: The Nokesville School, 12375 Aiden Rd., Nokesville

Who Should Participate: **ALL PW 4-H'ers!**

See Page 4 for details!

PERFORMERS

[Click here to register.](#) **Register by Monday, January 19th.**

Ages: Cloverbuds through senior 4-H'ers!

* Please register early so that we can plan the timing of the show.

Share the Fun is our annual performing arts talent show where 4-H'ers gain skills and confidence performing in front of an audience. As part of the learning competition, 4-H'ers are provided feedback from judges and have the opportunity to move on to the state show. Share the Fun acts include: Combination, Dance, Drama, Instrumental, Variety, Vocal, Tech, and more!

[Click here to learn more about Share the Fun from Virginia 4-H](#) and how acts are scored.

VOLUNTEERS

[Click here to volunteer.](#) **Signup by Monday, January 19th.**

Share the Fun depends on many youth and adult volunteers to ensure success. Positions include: emcee, rehearsal snacks, setup (*Jan 30 @ 5PM*), bake sale, clean-up, performer wrangler, publicity, and judges. **Many volunteer positions count towards your PW 4-H Outstanding Member or VA 4-H All Star applications!**



EMCEE VOLUNTEER NEEDED ASAP! The emcee is critical to the flow of the show. Volunteer(s) will have input into the show script.

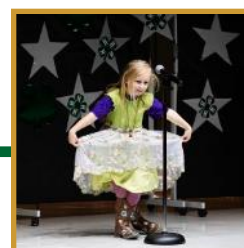
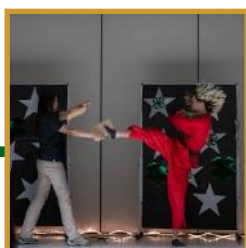
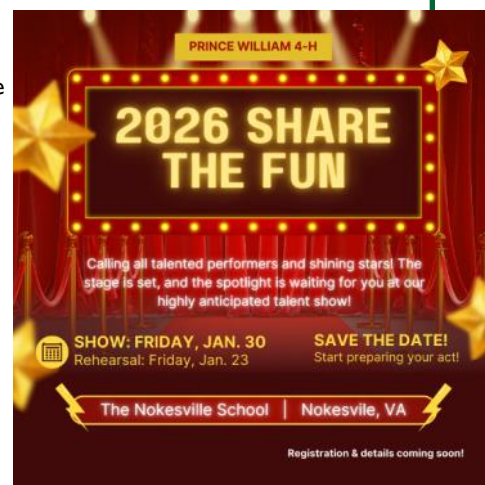
PW 4-H TEENS TO BLOOM

[Click here to volunteer.](#) **Signup by Monday, January 19th.**

PW 4-H teens interested in applying for camp counselor positions have been meeting monthly as part of PW 4-H Teens to BLOOM - Beyond Leadership: Outreach, Optimism, & Mindset. In lieu of the January meeting, all PW 4-H teens not performing are expected to demonstrate leadership skills by volunteering at PW 4-H 2026 Share the Fun. Volunteer positions range from the bake sale, set-up, clean-up, and more!

Next PW 4-H Teens to BLOOM Meeting Dates: Feb 17 and March 18

Please Note: Camp Counselor and Counselor in Training Applications are coming very soon!





Prince William 4-H CLUB REPORT



Kettle Run 4-H Club

By Sana Canny, Reporter, Kettle Run 4-H Club
January 11, 2026



The Kettle Run 4-H Club has focused on service and gratitude for those who have served our country. During our monthly meeting, members created thank-you cards for veterans to appreciate their service and sacrifices. In addition, members volunteered with Wreaths Across America, placing wreaths to honor and remember our fallen veterans during the holidays. With the opportunity to give back to our community, our club members were able to reflect on the importance of civic engagement and show respect for our veterans. We look forward to continuing service projects that make a positive impact!

Prince William 4-H CLUB REPORT DUE DATES

1st Monday (Feb 2)
Nokesville Equestrian 4-H Club
Patriot High School 4-H Club

2nd Monday (Feb 9)
Kettle Run 4-H Club
Benton Middle School Club

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

4th Monday (Jan 26)
Nokesville 4-H Club
Linton Hall 4-H Club



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CLUB REPORTS!

We're incredibly impressed by the youth in the PW 4-H program! Thank you for submitting your club reports and sharing how you're thriving in 4-H. Please continue to submit reports and photos to chelmmlinger@pwcva.gov and CC your adult club leader.

BE BEYOND READY WITH 4-H!



PW 4-H Cloverbud Club

PW 4-H Cloverbud Club kicked off the weekend with an epic Winter Fun & Wellness Day full of creativity, laughs, and hands-on learning! Even though the weather gave us rain instead of snow, the Cloverbuds didn't miss a beat - they made their own glittery "snow" for Arctic Snow Globes that sparkled like winter magic. Teen leaders Samantha and Bella, with Lilia's help, guided everyone in mixing the perfect combo of silver, blue, and crystal glitter for a take-home masterpiece.

Next, things got tasty! Cloverbuds learned the 4-H Healthy Living skill of "the claw" to safely slice bananas and then blended up their own fruit smoothies - yum!

Up Next: PW 4-H Share the Fun! Show off your talents and register TODAY!



Make a Difference with PW4-H at WAA Wreath Cleanup

Date: January 24th

Time: 10 AM until all wreaths are collected

Location: Section 98 (back of the cemetery), National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico

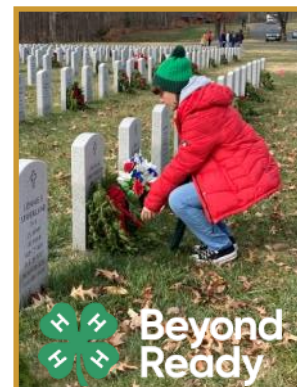
No registration necessary. All PW 4-H'ers and families are encouraged to attend!

Join us for the WAA Wreath Cleanup and help honor our heroes! In December, we honored those laid to rest with beautiful wreaths. Now it's time to retire over 13,000 wreaths, and we need your help! This is a great chance to show your 4-H Citizenship spirit and earn volunteer hours. We'll work together to get wreaths to the road, load them onto trucks, and unload them into dumpsters.

What to bring:

- Tools like rakes, brooms, hockey sticks, or wagons to move wreaths
- Trucks or trailers if you have them
- Warm clothes and work gloves (it's chilly and hands-on!)

Let's show up big and make an impact!



PW 4-H Succulent Project – Coming This March!

Who can join? All PW 4-H'ers!

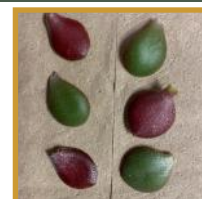
Led by: Master Gardener Linda Bresler

[Click here to join the project.](#)

Ready to dig into the 4-H Agriculture pillar? Join us for a hands-on workshop where you'll design your very own succulent dish garden!

Supplies will be provided, but here's a cool bonus: PW 4-H Youth Educator Pam Hardin is sharing leaves from her jade plant so you can start propagating your own succulents before the workshop! Limited leaves, soil, and instructions are available at Headquarters - **grab them while they last!**

If you're curious about succulents and want to learn how to grow and design with them, sign up today and join the project!



PW 4-H Winter Sowing Challenge

It's time to kick off winter sowing with Virginia native seeds - and you can do it with a simple milk jug! Thanks to Prince William Master Gardeners, we've got FREE Virginia native seeds and potting soil for PW 4-H'ers who want to try (or level up) their skills in milk jug gardening. It's your turn to rock this project as part of the 4-H Agriculture Pillar!

Here's how to start:

- Step 1: Grab a clean milk jug
- Step 2: Cut it in half & punch/drill drainage holes in the bottom
- Step 3: Fill with moist potting soil & plant your seeds
- Step 4: Tape it shut, label it, and place in a sunny spot

When the weather warms up, remove the lid and transplant your plants into your home garden—or **team up with your 4-H Club to grow flowers for the Prince William Fairgrounds!**

FREE SUPPLIES at PW 4-H Headquarters! PW 4-H Youth Educator Pam Hardin has limited soil and flower seeds ready for you - just bring a jug! Contact her to set up a time to pick up your supplies. *Check out Mrs. Helmlinger's winter sowing that she's trying this year!*

Need help? [Click here for a quick how-to video!](#) Don't miss out - start your winter sowing today!





PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H DELEGATION TO VIRGINIA 4-H DAY AT THE CAPITOL



YOUR VOICE. YOUR IMPACT. YOUR CAPITOL.

Step inside Virginia's state government and see how YOU can make a difference! This is your chance to:

- Get a behind-the-scenes look at how laws are made
- Meet legislators and show them what youth leadership looks like
- Explore Capitol Square and join the 4-H Rally at the Bell Tower
- Take part in Voice Your Choice and deliver clover plants to legislators as a symbol of 4-H pride

WHY THIS YEAR IS EXTRA EXCITING:

It's right after the inauguration of a new governor! You'll build leadership and public speaking skills, connect with 4-H'ers from across the state, and represent youth in a BIG way.

WHY YOUR VOICE MATTERS:

- Youth bring fresh ideas and creativity
- Learn how laws and budgets affect everyday life
- Advocate for issues you care about
- Show legislators the future leaders of Virginia - you!

DATE

Wednesday, January 21st



LOCATION

Virginia State Capitol



TIP

Wear comfy shoes, bring your curiosity, and get ready to make an impact!



PW 4-H SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

6 AM Meet at PW 4-H Headquarters
6:30 AM Bus departs for Richmond
9 AM Security and Clover Distribution
9:30 AM Legislative Visits (tentative):
Sen. Carroll-Foy, Del. Maldonado,
Del. Sewell, Del. Thomas, Del.
Torian, Del. Henson
10:30 AM Voice Your Choice at the
Delta Hotel; Lunch
12 PM Legislative Visits (tentative):
Sen. McPike in the Senate Chamber
1PM Visit Observation Deck at
Richmond City Hall
1:30 PM 4-H Rally at the Bell Tower in
Capitol Square
1:45 PM Virginia 4-H Day at the Capitol
Photo
3 PM Tour the Capitol
4:30 PM Bus departs to PW 4-H
Headquarters



PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H



2026 SHARE THE FUN

The Nokesville School | Nokesville, VA



SHOW: FRIDAY, JAN. 30 @ 7 PM

Rehearsal: Friday, Jan. 23, 5:30 - 7 PM

[Performers Click Here](#)

[Volunteers Click Here](#)

TYPES OF ACTS

Combination: Any combination of vocal, instrumental, and/or dance

Dance: Includes tap, modern, acrobatic, ballet, jazz, folk, and interpretive forms of dance

Drama: Includes mime, monologue, or acting out a short skit or scene from a play

Instrumental: May also sing or dance but judged solely on instrumental performance

Variety: Includes clowning, gymnastics/tumbling, magic acts, or puppetry

Vocal: Singing which may include dance or instrument, but judged solely on vocal performance

SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS WITH SHARE THE FUN!

Got talent? Love to perform? Share the Fun is your chance to shine! Whether you're into music, dance, comedy, or any creative act, this program gives 4-H youth the spotlight to show what they've got. It's all about expressing yourself, building confidence, and having a blast in front of an audience.

Judges look for creativity, showmanship, audience energy, and how you use costumes or props - so bring your A-game! The goal? Help you grow your talents in a fun, positive way while learning presentation skills that stick with you for life.

Ready to wow the crowd? Share the Fun is where your creativity takes center stage!



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.



PRINCE
WILLIAM 4-H

4-H ADULT LEADER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Join PW 4-H Extension Agent MaryBeth Lerch for dynamic, one-hour virtual sessions designed for all 4-H adult leaders and volunteers. These interactive meetings dive into key topics like positive youth development (PYD), social-emotional learning (SEL), emotional intelligence, and problem-solving—all within the context of 4-H project work. Plus, we'll explore additional subjects based on your club's unique needs and interests. Whether you're looking to connect with fellow volunteers, deepen your understanding of youth development, or inspire tomorrow's leaders, these sessions are a valuable opportunity to grow and make a lasting impact.



4-H Positive Youth Development (PYD)

Learn how to empower young people by fostering critical life skills like leadership, problem-solving, and community engagement through hands-on projects in a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment.

OCT
21



Youth Social Emotional Learning

Understand how to use the 4-H Thriving Model to emphasize high-quality, safe, and caring environments to help youth thrive, reach essential life goals, and achieve academic and social success.

DEC
4



Youth Emotional Intelligence

Understand a holistic approach that addresses mental health, education, employability, and character development, promoting healthy lifestyles and self-esteem in 4-H projects and activities.

FEB
5



Youth Problem Solving

By focusing on youth strengths and providing opportunities, relationships, and support, the 4-H PYD model helps young people thrive and reach their fullest potential, ultimately benefiting themselves, their families, and their communities.

APR
14



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



**CLICK HERE TO JOIN
ZOOM MEETING FROM
7-8 PM**

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.

PW 4-H Embryology Program Important Dates

EDUCATOR TRAINING OPTIONS (CHOOSE 1):

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 11 10 AM - 2 PM

EGG PICKUP @ PW 4-H

Feb 16 4-6 PM
Feb 17 9 AM - 12 PM

HATCH DAYS: MARCH 9-13

Registration is **CLOSED**. Please contact [DeeAnn Strand](#) for program support.



Save the Date: PW 4-H 2026 Tree Planting Day!

Date: Saturday, April 18

Time: 9 AM – Noon

Location: Meadow Planting Project TBD

Ready to get your hands dirty for a good cause? Join Prince William 4-H for an epic environmental service day with County Arborist Will Shoup! We're planting 250 trees - including bottlebrush, apple trees, and northern red oaks - to help reforest our community.

Why you'll love it:

- ♥ Dig in the dirt and make a real impact
- ♥ Learn pro tips on tree planting from an expert
- ♥ Celebrate Earth Day early with friends and nature vibes

This is your chance to give back, learn something cool, and have fun outdoors. Plus, if you're part of a 4-H club or school group, you can even host your own planting day!

Interested in hosting? Contact [Pam Hardin](#) by January 23 to reserve seedlings for your group.

LET'S MAKE PRINCE WILLIAM GREENER—ONE TREE AT A TIME!



Exclusive 4-H Citizenship Opportunity for PW 4-H Teens

Prince William 4-H has received an exclusive invitation for teens to apply to Congressman Vindman's Youth Mentorship Program!

The VA-07 Congressional Youth Mentorship Program gives participating youth the opportunity to receive mentorship from Congressman Vindman, community leaders, public servants, and private sector professionals. The cohort will meet 5-6 times a year, concluding with a mock congress or town hall. Cohort members will receive hands on experience on public service and federal processes, while receiving mentorship across different sectors. This program is open to all high school senior students in Virginia's Seventh District.

PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H'ERS: Please contact [Pam Hardin](#) when you submit your application for priority consideration. [Click here for the Youth Mentorship Program application.](#)



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.

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!

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.

Prince William 4-H

4-H CONTEST DAY

February 14th | 10 AM | McCoart Building, Woodbridge

All Prince William 4-H'ers are Encouraged to Participate!

Learning competitions aren't just about winning - they're about growing your skills and confidence! Each year, the goal is to improve your own score against the standard rubric, so you can see how far you've come.

It's totally normal to feel nervous, but remember - this is a safe, supportive space to try something new. Every attempt helps you learn, and every challenge makes you stronger.

So go for it! Step up, give it your best, and discover what you're capable of.

4-H Contests Include: Presentation, Extemporaneous Speech, Public Speech, Dramatic Reading, Fashion Review, Table Setting, and Vocal, Instrumental, or Combo

START PREPARING TODAY!

Look up information on the contests, tip sheets and scoring aids:
<https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/competitions.html>

This event is also the final session for all PW 4-H'ers participating in the Leading by Speaking SPIN Project led by Toastmasters.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER. Register by February 6th




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.

Upcoming VA 4-H Youth Animal Science Events

Blue Ridge Stockmans Contest
Monday January 19, 2026



Registration
Cost is \$10/person to include lunch.
[Link to registration form.](#)

Contest Details

ID Categories

- Breed - 10 with breed description for Sr
- Equipment - 10 items for Jr, 20 items for Sr
- Feed - 10 with feed usage for Sr
- Meat - 10 cuts
- Species/primates/retail

General Knowledge Quiz

- 25 multiple choice questions
- Junior and Senior versions

Judging Classes

- 3 - Live animal classes
- 1 - Meats class with questions
- 1 - Hay class with questions

Quality Assurance

- Junior and Senior team activity

Contest Format
Contest is open to all 4-H and FFA members 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

Senior Division

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

Schedule

6:45 AM - Contest instructions
9:00 AM - Contest begins
Noon - Lunch
2:00 - Results

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!

BLUE RIDGE STOCKMAN'S CONTEST

Monday, January 19th • Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg

\$10/person. Lunch is provided.

[Click here to register.](#)

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

Registration is FULL.

VT B & B HORSE WEEKEND: HIPPOLOGY & HORSE JUDGING

February 6 & 7 • Virginia Tech

Hippology Contest - Friday, February 6th

Horse Judging Contest - Saturday, February 7th

[Click here for details.](#) [Click here to enter.](#) **Enter by Friday, January 23rd.**

Note: no Jr/Sr Team Problem in Hippology,

GORE'S INVITATIONAL MEATS JUDGING CONTEST

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

Cost: \$20 per team or \$5 per individual; Adults \$5 (includes lunch)

[Click here to register.](#) **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 dbrittenour@shenandoah.k12.va.us

2026 "Corey Childs Memorial"
Stockmen's Contest
©
Virginia Livestock, LLC



COREY CHILDS MEMORIAL STOCKMAN'S CONTEST

Saturday, February 14th • Virginia Livestock, Front Royal

Schedule: registration 8-9 AM; stockmen's judging 9 AM

Cost: \$5 per person (includes lunch)

[Click here to register.](#) **Register by February 6th.**

Please forward any questions to [Emily Shultz](#) or [Ken Mathews](#)

VT B & B LIVESTOCK WEEKEND - STOCKMAN'S & LIVESTOCK JUDGING

February 20 & 21 • Virginia Tech

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

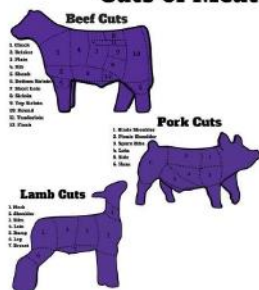
Livestock Judging Contest - Saturday, February 21 (AM - Advanced Contest/Reasons; PM -

Regular Contest/No Reasons)

[Click here for more information.](#) [Click here to enter.](#) **Enter by Monday, February 2nd.**

Note: no Jr/Sr Team Problem in the Stockman's Contest

KNOW YOUR Cuts of Meat



2026 VIRGINIA STATE 4-H/FFA MEATS EVALUATION CONTEST

February 28 • Virginia Tech Food Science & Technology Building

Entry Fee: \$15/contestant or \$20/contestant for Dual-Entered youth (includes lunch)

[Click here for more info and to register.](#) **Register by February 17th @ 5 PM.**

[Click here for the 2026 Meats Evaluation and Technology Handbook.](#)

Official State Contest for both 4-H and FFA (dual entry allowed). The winning senior teams from each organization's contest will represent Virginia at their respective National events. All contestants must provide their own frock, hair net, and hard hat.

Upcoming VA 4-H Youth Animal Science Events

VT BEEF LEADERSHIP COUNCIL BEEF BOOT CAMP

Friday, March 6th • 8 AM - 4 PM • Alphin-Stuart Arena, Virginia Tech

Cost: \$15/person

[Click here to register.](#) **Register by February 27th.**

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

"Let's 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.



VT POULTRY SCHOLARSHIP FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

[Click here for the application.](#) **Applications with references due by March 2nd.**

Each year the Virginia Poultry Federation and the School of Animal Sciences at Virginia Tech offer scholarships to assist with the academic careers of students demonstrating an interest in poultry and its related industries. Last year approximately \$10,000 was awarded to current and incoming students with a poultry interest in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.



VA 4-H Shooting Education Recertification

Date: February 21

Location: Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, 1267 4-H Camp Rd, Appomattox

See your 4-H club leader for registration. **Payment/registration must be received by Feb 9.**

Virginia 4-H Shooting education instructors are required to attend recertification sessions every seven years. More than 120 instructors need to be recertified this year. There will be one session on February 21 and the other on November 7. Failure to attend will result in decertification for each discipline involved. *This training is NOT for new discipline certification.*



2026 VA 4-H Dominican Republic Program - Apply Today!

Who Should Apply: Virginia 4-H'ers in 9th - 12th grades

Program Fees: \$2,600, with \$1,000 of that due as a deposit on March 16

[Click here for the Youth Application.](#)

[Click here for the Adult Volunteer Application.](#)

Applications due February 16th.

The Virginia 4-H Program in the Dominican Republic is now accepting applications from Virginia 4-H teens, agents and 4-H volunteers! This program started as a grassroots, county based program, which is now in its 18th year. Since one main focus of our program in the Dominican Republic is conducting a 4-H Day Camp for Dominican children, this program may especially appeal to 4-H Camp Counselors.

Interested 4-H'ers can learn more about the program through annual blogs and photos shared by participants:

2024 Blogs: [Group 1](#) | [Group 2](#)

2025 Blogs: [Group 1](#) | [Group 2](#)

[Click here for previous years' blogs and click on Dominican Republic.](#)

SERVICE BEYOND BORDERS

VIRGINIA 4-H DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SERVICE TRIP

SERVE. LEARN. GROW

Immerse yourself in the local culture, engage in meaningful service projects, and help facilitate day camps for local children. This is a unique opportunity to make a positive impact, take on exciting challenges, and create unforgettable memories.

WHO, WHEN, & WHERE?

This trip is open to all Virginia 4-H youth in grades 9-12. Participants can join one of two sessions: July 13-21, 2026 or July 27-August 4, 2026. The adventure takes place in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

READY TO APPLY?

The total cost of the trip is \$2,600, which includes airfare, lodging, and most meals. Applications are due by February 16, 2026 and will be accepted through <https://forms.gle/GanT63gnHode73nPF2>. A \$1,000 deposit is due by March 16, with the final balance due July 1. Don't miss your chance to join this unforgettable Virginia 4-H service experience!

CONTACT US:

Carol Nansel, Shenandoah 4-H
cansel@vt.edu
540-459-8140

Christine Hodges, Allegheny 4-H
chodges@vt.edu
540-862-0569

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

OPEN TO PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H'ERS!

REGISTRATION CLOSES FRIDAY!

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 ext.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

2026 VA 4-H All Star Midwinters Conference

Dates: February 6-8

Location: Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA

[Click here to register.](#) **REGISTER BY THIS FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH.**

This conference will feature a variety of different activities for everyone including a tour of VSU's Randolph Farm, a working farm located on VSU's campus that promotes hands-on learning and research in the agriculture field. There will also be an option to experience food security through a game developed by VSU's youth specialist and VSU Students. Need another reason to come? Explore Petersburg's History, VSU Campus, and enjoy family fun at Swader's Sports Park in Prince George.



PWCC Scholarship Applications Are 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!



Exclusive PW 4-H Teen Volunteer Opportunity at PWC VCE

Location: VCE-PW, 8033 Ashton Ave., Suite 105, Manassas

Volunteer Hours: flexible - after school until 5 PM in January

Apply: Send your resume to Ms. Jocelyn Hanly at JHanly@pwcgov.org and copy [Pam Hardin](#)

Looking for a way to earn volunteer hours, build your resume, and gain real-world office experience? This is your chance! The Virginia Cooperative Extension-Prince William Unit is seeking motivated PW 4-H teens to assist the Financial Education and Housing Counseling Program. This team provides free financial education classes to county residents, both in-person and virtually via Zoom.

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Help with administrative tasks like making copies, sorting, and collating course materials
- Ensure winter classes are fully stocked and ready to go
- Support a team that makes a real impact in your community
-

WHY VOLUNTEER?

- Earn official 4-H volunteer hours (PW 4-H will sign your paperwork!)
- Develop valuable administrative skills
- Boost your resume for future internships and jobs
-

Don't miss this opportunity to learn, grow, and give back!



PW 4-H ALUMNI: Applications Are Open for the PWC Government 2026 Internship Program!

Do you know a student who's looking for a summer internship that offers more than just course credit? Prince William County's paid internship program gives participants the chance to do meaningful work, gain real-world experience and make a positive impact in the community. It's a hands-on opportunity to learn, grow and see how local government works to serve the community. [Click here to learn more and apply.](#)

National 4-H



YOUTH IN ACTION APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#) **Applications due April 13th.**

[Click here for March 4th - Youth & Parents Application Webinar Info](#)

The 4-H Youth in Action (YIA) program celebrates young people who are creating real change in their communities. This national program amplifies the stories and leadership of 4-H youth, showcasing how 4-H has shaped their lives and equipped them to impact others.

Four Award Winners will receive a(n):

- \$5,000 scholarship for higher education, paid directly to the institution, including two-year and four-year colleges, trade schools, or other advanced learning opportunities.
- Year of professional and media development, training, networking, and national opportunities to serve as a spokesperson and thought leader.
- All expenses paid trips for each award winner and a chaperone to attend national events.
- Official reference letter from a National 4-H Council leader for educational or career purposes.

Apply today and share your story with a national audience!



YOUNG ALUMNI ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#) **Apply/Nominate by February 5th.**

National 4-H Council needs your help to identify and nominate dynamic, proven leaders to serve on the Young Alumni Advisory Committee (YAAC). The YAAC brings together young 4-H alumni to help shape the future of youth programming and strengthen connections between alumni and the 4-H system.

This group serves as a bridge to the young alum community, informing Council's Board of Trustees and working closely with associates to provide counsel and serve as 4-H ambassadors by elevating youth voice, engaging partners, and representing 4-H at events and through digital and media channels.

Register Now!

8th Annual Prince William Native Plant Symposium

2026

Saturday, February 14

9 AM - 4 PM

FALL IN LOVE WITH NATIVE PLANTS

A Native Plant Symposium to
Help you Create a Beautiful
Yard, Save Time & Money,
Improve Water Quality,
& Build Habitat for
Pollinators and Birds



Two-spotted Bumble Bee on Redbud © Judy Gallagher

Keynote Speaker:

William Cullina

F. Otto Haas Executive Director of the University
of Pennsylvania's Morris Arboretum & Gardens

Program: Sugar, Sex, and Poison: Shocking
Plant Secrets Caught on Camera

REGISTER HERE:

8pwcnpns.eventbrite.com

In-Person Early Bird: \$40 ends 01/09/26

In-Person Regular: \$45 ends 02/10/26

In-Person Student: \$10 with a student ID

Door: \$55

Online: \$25 ends 11:59 PM 02/13/26

Verizon Auditorium, George Mason University

10900 University Blvd. Manassas, VA 20110



It's Time to Start Planting!

January 30 • 6 PM • Warrenton, VA • FREE!

[Click here for more info.](#) No registration necessary.

Join Fauquier Education Farm for the kickoff of the 2026 Growers Academy season. This in-person session will walk participants through the full calendar year in the garden, including suggested planting dates, vegetable varieties grown, and the practices used at the farm. The event will also introduce the topics and schedule for other upcoming free workshops in the Growers Academy series. This event is free and open to the public, and no registration is required. For more information, contact Jim Hankins at fauquieredfarm@gmail.com.



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

8033 Ashton Ave, #105,
Manassas, VA 20109

Click to Visit Online:

[Prince William 4-H](#)
[Virginia State 4-H](#)
[National 4-H](#)

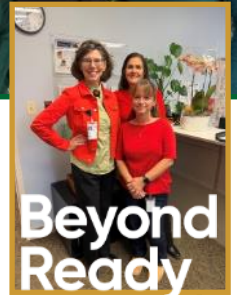


Your Dedicated PWC 4-H Staff

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



Pam Hardin
4-H Youth Educator
phardin@pwcva.gov
DeeAnn Strand
4-H Youth Educator
dstrand@pwcva.gov
Candi Helmlinger
4-H Program Specialist,
Newsletter
chelmlinger@pwcva.gov



**Beyond
Ready**

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](#)



2025-2026 PWC 4-H Association Officers

Youth Officers

Lexi Strand, President
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



**Beyond
Ready**



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.