

April 1, 2026

Trailblazer Weekly

Leading boldly. Growing daily. Ready for anything.



PRINCE WILLIAM



UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 5 - VA 4-H Lumber Cup

Apr 6 - PW 4-H Tour of Renwick Museum

Apr 10-11 - VA 4-H Equismartz

Apr 10-15 - Nat 4-H Conf

Apr 11-12 - VA 4-H Shooting Ed New Instructor Certification

Apr 14 - PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Prof Dev

Apr 15-17 - VA 4-H Beef Challenge, Beef Roundup, Tractor Skillathon

Apr 18 - PW 4-H Tree Planting

Apr 18 - VA 4-H NE Dist Contest Day



No Foolin'! A Fresh New Look for the PW 4-H Newsletter

PW 4-H Embraces New Technology to Boost Accessibility

This April, Prince William 4-H is rolling out exciting updates across our newsletter, social media, and website. With support from Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Tech, we're working hard to make sure every family can easily access 4-H news - including those using screen readers and other accessibility tools.

What This Means for You: You'll notice a cleaner, more modern look, but the heart of our communication stays the same. We're still here to keep you connected to the incredible youth leadership, STEM, agriculture, and community-building opportunities that help PW 4-H'ers grow into BEYOND READY leaders.

Thank You for Your Patience: As we learn and implement new technologies, we appreciate your support. These improvements help ensure that all members of our 4-H community can stay informed and engaged.

PW 4-H ASSOCIATION BINGO

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Prince William 4-H Association BINGO Fundraiser such a fantastic success. Whether you volunteered, played bingo, enjoyed supper from the concessions stand, or tried your luck with our raffle prizes, your support helped create a memorable evening for the entire 4-H community.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the local businesses and PW 4-H clubs that donated raffle items and crafted the wonderful baskets. We're also grateful to the 4-H Association Board and Junior Board for their dedication and hard work. Special thanks go to Shawn Clinger for serving as our official Bingo caller, to Tim Hirshey and Simon Grahn for their assistance throughout the night, to Rebecca Grant for leading the concessions team, and to Jaime Parker for bringing the decorations to life with her green thumb.

The Church of the Brethren was transformed into a sea of 4-H green in record time thanks to our amazing volunteers. Families and friends of all ages—from babies to grandparents—filled the room with excitement. Guests enjoyed delicious pizza, snacks, and homemade desserts, including a special 4-H cake baked by Jocely Hanly for our hardworking volunteers. The evening was topped off with prize-worthy bingo baskets and truly impressive raffle prizes that kept the energy high from start to finish.

Thank you for supporting Prince William 4-H and helping us continue to grow opportunities for youth across our community.



PW 4-H Succulent SPIN Project Inspires Young Growers

On March 28, ten PW 4-H'ers gathered for a hands-on deep dive into the fascinating world of succulents. Master Gardener, succulent expert, and longtime 4-H'er Linda Bresler introduced participants to the history, care, and unique qualities of these hardy plants. Youth explored propagation techniques, watering tips, and soil and lighting needs before planting their own succulent creations.

Ms. Linda shared why succulents make an excellent first plant: many varieties can go weeks—or even months—without water, making them perfect for new plant parents. She encouraged families to look for affordable succulents at local garden centers, grocery stores, or even thrift shops where fun planters are easy to find.

If you loved propagating succulents, consider turning that passion into a business idea for the upcoming PW 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Project. And PW 4-H'ers—don't forget to complete your project record to capture all the skills you're growing along the way. The 4-H office is always happy to help youth start their own plant projects and keep their green thumbs thriving.



Nokesville 4-H Club Report

By Michael DeRoche, Nokesville 4-H Club President

March 2026. This March, Nokesville 4-H focused on giving back to our community in ways that made a real difference, helping local families, caring for our environment, and showing how small actions can lead to a big impact.

From March 2-28, our club ran a food drive to help local kids during spring break, when many students do not have access to school meals. I led the drive with help from other 4-H members, and we set up collection tables at Giant on Dumfries Road in Manassas on March 21 and March 28.

In addition to the Giant collections, 4-H members also contributed through county drop-offs at the 4-H office and donations collected during 4-H Bingo Night. While every contribution mattered, the largest impact came from the Giant drive, where community members showed incredible generosity.

Together, we collected:

- 1,475 lbs of food
- \$333.75 in cash donations
- \$170 in gift cards

It was inspiring to see how many people were willing to stop, ask questions, and give what they could. This food drive would not have been possible without the 4-H members who showed up to help, Katie Cook, Ashley and Hendrix Rodman, Kaitlynn Rolls, Jasmine Balderston, Matt and Hailey Henry, along with support from other Prince William 4-H clubs. Every donation added up to something that will truly help families in our area.

On March 26, our club participated in Nokesville School's STEAM Night. Our members shared what 4-H is all about, talked with families about our projects, and invited new youth to get involved in hands-on learning and community service. Hendrix, Jax, Joie and Charlotte led a pollinator activity where visitors planted milkweed seeds in recycled egg cartons to take home and support monarch butterflies and other pollinators. It was great to see our members leading the table, teaching younger students, and confidently talking with families, teachers, and kids.

(continued on next page)



Nokesville 4-H Club Report (*continued*)

On March 28, along with the food drive, I led a cleanup at Point of Woods stream with support from the City of Manassas, Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District, and Keep Virginia Beautiful. This cleanup is part of a larger effort I am leading through 4-H, including my project with the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute (YCLI) and my role as a SAVE Ambassador.

Volunteers came out and, in just a few hours, we removed 475 lbs of litter from the area. Some of the items we found included tires, a shopping cart, a ladder, a drone, and an old tube TV, along with large amounts of plastic, glass, and cans. Seeing how much trash we removed made it clear how quickly litter can build up when it is left behind.

Over time, these materials begin to break down and create contamination. Tires and plastics release chemicals and petroleum-based compounds into the soil and water. Electronics such as old TVs can release heavy metals like lead and other toxic substances. When it rains, these pollutants do not stay in one place. They get carried into storm drains and local streams and then move through the watershed, affecting water quality, harming wildlife, and reaching larger waterways over time. Cleanups like this help stop some of that litter before it reaches the water.

We made real progress, but the area is still heavily littered. This is the kind of problem that does not get solved in one day. It takes people continuing to show up. If more people come out next time, we can make a much bigger impact, faster.

Thank you to everyone who supported these efforts, including our 4-H members, volunteers, community partners, and local residents. Together, we showed how a club can use our heads to plan, our hearts to care about others, our hands to serve, and our health to protect our community and environment. Every person who helped made our corner of the world a little better, which is what 4-H is all about.

We will be back out on April 20 from 9-11 AM, and we would really appreciate more help. Even a couple of hours can make a visible difference.

Keep Up the Good Work!

PW 4-H Club Reports

Don't let spring fever keep you from documenting your club's 4-H Story! We're so impressed by all you do and want to support your club and promote your efforts to the community. Help your club shine by keeping up with your monthly club report to PW 4-H. by submitting reports and photos to chelmlinger@pwcva.gov and CC your adult club leader

PW 4-H Clubs are Crushing It!



PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H Club Report Due Dates

1st Monday (Apr 6)

Nokesville Equest. 4-H Club
Patriot High School 4-H Club

2nd Monday (Apr 13)

Kettle Run 4-H Club
Benton Middle School Club

3rd Monday (Apr 20)

Trigger Time 4-H Club

4th Monday (Apr 27)

Nokesville 4-H Club
Linton Hall 4-H Club



PW 4-H Embryology Program Wraps Up a Record-Breaking Season

The Prince William 4-H Embryology Program wrapped up another incredible year with 104 additional chicks hatched last week, bringing our grand total to 587 chicks returned to 4-H and delivered to a local farm where they'll continue to grow and flourish. This year's program reached 28 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 5 high schools, plus 4-H clubs, homeschool groups, and libraries across the county. Through this hands-on experience, youth explored the full journey of embryonic development—from preparing eggs for incubation to caring for newly hatched chicks using 4-H's step-by-step educational materials. We hope you enjoyed being part of this popular county-wide learning adventure, and we look forward to hatching with you again next year!

PW 4-H Junior Camp Counselors

Required Prince William-Stafford 4-H Junior Camp Counselor Training

Date: April 11th

Time: 10 AM - 2 PM

Location: PWC Development Services Building, 5 County Complex Ct., Suite 120, Prince William, VA 22192



PW 4-H Fair Camp Counselors

Required PW 4-H Fair Camp Counselor Training

- Part 1: June 23, 10 AM - Noon - or - July 9, 6-8 PM (choose 1 date)
- Part 2: June 25, 6-8 PM - or - July 7, 10 AM - Noon

Workday Wednesdays

June 24, 10 AM - 2 PM · July 1, 10 AM - 2 PM · July 9 (Thursday), 10 AM - 2 PM

July 15, 10 AM - PM (painting at the barn) · July 29, 10 AM - 2 PM (painting at the barn)



PW 4-H Graduating Seniors

[Click here to register.](#)

Virginia 4-H is excited to announce the return of our Beyond Ready graduation kits through the statewide Beyond Ready: 4-H Graduates Step Into Tomorrow campaign.

This initiative honors the accomplishments, leadership, and growth of our graduating 4-H seniors. Members of the Class of 2026 are invited to share their post-high school plans whether that includes college, the workforce, military service, or a trade program.

The first 200 graduates who complete the brief form will receive a 4-H Graduate Celebration Kit, which includes: a certificate of achievement, a 4-H graduation cord, and a 4-H "Graduate" yard sign.

Beyond Ready

CALLING 4-H
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Register today to receive your Virginia 4-H Graduate Celebration Kit!

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://aimsbis.vt.edu/4-H2026GradKit>

Virginia Cooperative Extension



**Beyond
Ready**

Save the Dates for PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H Summer Camps!

✓ Outdoor Exploration

✓ Creative Arts & Crafts

✓ Sports & Games

✓ Campfire Nights



4-H SUMMER CAMPS

JUNIOR CAMP: AGES 9-14

FAIR CAMP: AGES 5-12

Explore 4-H at summer camp!

PRINCE WILLIAM-STAFFORD 4-H JUNIOR CAMP

Ages 9-14 July 19 - 23

Camp Fee: \$395

Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center

Preference is given to residents of Prince William and Stafford Counties and the cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, and Fredericksburg, for Prince William-Stafford Junior Camp.

PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H FAIR CAMP

Ages 5-12 August 3-7, 9 AM-12:30 PM

Camp Fee: \$60

Prince William County Fairgrounds

All greater Prince William area youth are encouraged to attend an unforgettable week of summer camp. More details coming soon!



CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER!



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech. • Virginia State University



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



PW 4-H Tree Planting

Cloverbuds, friends, families, neighbors...

Date: Saturday, April 10th

Time: 9 AM - noon

Location: Woodlawn, 7074 Currie Farm Dr., Haymarket

Who Should Participate: Everyone in the community is welcome to join us!

[Click here to register.](#) Registration is free but required.

Join Prince William 4-H to celebrate Arbor Day by planting trees in Haymarket! Be ready to get your hands dirty for a good cause with PWC Arborist Will Shoup. We're planting 250 trees - including indigo bush, apple trees, and northern red oaks - to help reforest our community.

This is your chance to give back, earn something cool, and have fun outdoors. Let's make Prince William greener - one tree at a time!

PW 4-H High Schoolers - Virtual Career Night

Explore Your Future & Grow a Career!

Date: April 19

Time: 7 PM

Location: Zoom. [Click here formore info and to register.](#)

Have you ever dreamed of becoming a veterinarian, equine specialist, fire science lieutenant, chef, electrician—or even a zookeeper? Curious about unique careers like designing wardrobes for Cirque du Soleil? No matter your interests, this FREE online event is for YOU!

Join us for Virtual Career Night on April 19, 2026 at 7 PM (EST) via Zoom. Connect with industry professionals, ask questions, and explore exciting career paths in an engaging and interactive environment. Whether you already have a dream job in mind or are still exploring options, this event will help guide your next steps. Door prizes and fun activities throughout the evening!



PW 4-H Clubs - Claim Your Spot for TSC Paper Clover!

TSC Paper Clover Shopping Dates: April 17-May 3

[Click here for Club Signup for Table Space.](#)

Prince William 4-H clubs are invited to sign up for a day to host a table at TSC. It's a great chance to share what your club does, meet new people, and show off what 4-H is all about. Clubs can also run bake sales or similar activities to raise extra money directly for their group. Campaign funds support camp, scholarships & leadership activities.

Virginia 4-H Northeast District Contest Day

Date: April 18

NEW Location: Pole Green Elementary, 8993 Pole Green Park Ln. Mechanicsville

Time: 8:30 AM – 1 PM

Who Should Participate: All PW 4-H'ers that participated in PW 4-H Contest Day - this is your opportunity to move on to States!

Click here to register. Register by April 3rd.

[Click here for the VA 4-H Northeast District Contest Website.](#)

Judges Needed: please contact Bridgitte Groome at bridg93@vt.edu

Spark & Shine! Level up your confidence, experience, and 4-H resume by participating in Districts! All PW 4-H'ers that participate in PW 4-H Contest Day on February 14th are invited to continue to improve their skills at Northeast District Contest Day. Top scores will have the opportunity to present at Virginia 4-H State competitions this spring!



Point of Woods Stream Project **CLEAN UP DAY** One morning. One stream. Real impact.

Join a group of volunteers to pick up plastic, bottles, tires and other litter that can leach dangerous chemicals, harm wildlife and contaminate water. Small actions in local streams help the whole watershed, all the way to the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay. Sign up to volunteer: <https://tinyurl.com/PointOfWoods>

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026
9 - 11 AM

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026
9 - 11 AM

8500 Public Works Drive
Manassas, VA 20110



This youth-led event is organized by SAVE Ambassador Michael DeRoche as part of the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute, with support from:



Stream Clean Up Day Organized by PW 4-H'er Michael DeRoche

Date: Monday, April 20th

Time: 9-11 AM

Location: 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas

[Click here for signup.](#)

Point of Woods Stream Project Clean Up Day
Join a group of volunteers to pick up trash that can leach dangerous chemicals, harm wild life, and contaminate water. Small actions in local streams help the whole watershed, all the way to the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay.



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.

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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.

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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.

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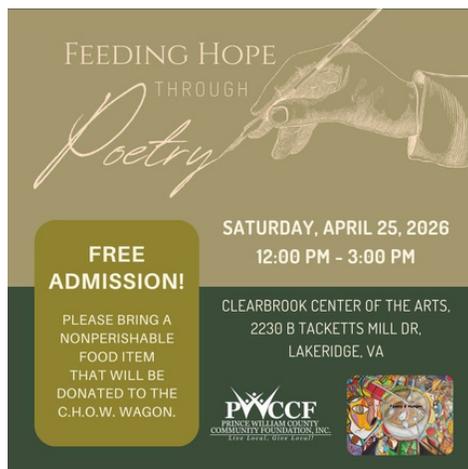


Youth Problem Solving

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.

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Calling All PW 4-H Poets

Feeding Hope Through Poetry

Date: Saturday, April 25th

Time: 12 - 3 PM

Location: Clearbrook Center of the Arts, 2230 B Tacketts Mill Dr., Lake Ridge

Who Should Participate: PW 4-H'ers in grades 4-12

[Click here to register.](#) Registration is free but required.

Prince William 4-H'ers are invited to share their voice for a great cause by writing and performing an original poem or haiku to help raise awareness about hunger and food insecurity at the "Feeding Hope Through Poetry" event.

Students must register using the provided link, and parental consent is required. We'd love to hear from any young poets interested in getting involved - please feel free to share this opportunity with others who may want to participate.

This program is curated by Poetry X Hunger, Prince William County Community Foundation (PWCCF).

2026 VA 4-H State Congress - Notes for PW 4-H'ers!

4-H Growing with Purpose

Dates: June 16-19

Location: Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA

Who Should Attend: PW 4-H'ers ages 14-18

Cost: \$310/person (Note for PW 4-H'ers: The registration fee is not due at the time of registration.

Once registered, you will be invoiced for the amount due. The Prince William 4-H Association generously supports this event by supplementing a portion of the overall cost.)

PW 4-H Info Session: There will be a Congress attendees meeting via Zoom for all registered members on May 19th at 7 PM. Please reach out to [Mrs. Lerch](#) for any questions.

[Click here for information packet.](#) [Click here for registration information.](#) **Register by May 15.**

Virginia 4-H State Congress is the ultimate teen leadership experience - four unforgettable days packed with hands-on workshops, statewide competitions, campus adventures, dances, games, and opportunities to meet 4-H'ers from every corner of Virginia. Delegates ages 14-18 get to build real-world skills, explore careers, celebrate diversity, and grow as leaders while enjoying activities they can't find at the local level, from the high-energy Welcome Mixer and Color Run to the inspiring All-Star tapping ceremony and closing awards celebration. Whether you're competing, learning, making new friends, or discovering your next big opportunity, Congress empowers you to step up, stand out, and shape your future - don't miss your chance to be part of it in 2026!





VA 4-H State Congress Elections

PW 4-H'ers are encouraged to apply!

[Click here for 2026-2027 State Cabinet Election Information.](#) **Apply by May 8.**

Serving as a State 4-H Officer is an incredible opportunity for youth to grow as leaders, represent their district, and make a meaningful impact across Virginia 4-H. Youth will develop skills in public speaking, teamwork, decision-making, and civic engagement while serving as ambassadors for the program.

What to Know:

- Members will elect four (4) Ambassadors from each of the five VCE districts during 4-H Congress.

Candidates will have the opportunity to share their platform, engage with peers, and represent their communities at the state level.

Please review the online 2026–2027 State 4-H Cabinet Elections Packet for full details, including: eligibility requirements, application guidelines, responsibilities of State Officers, and important election information.

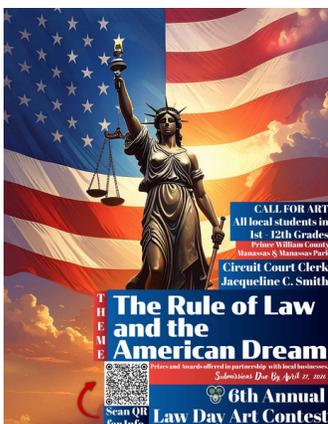
This is a powerful leadership opportunity for teens who are ready to step up, use their voice, and represent Virginia 4-H at the highest level.

Prince William-Fairfax Farm Bureau Scholarship



[Click here for application.](#) **Applications due by 4 PM on May 1.**

The Prince William-Fairfax Farm Bureau is offering two \$1500 scholarships! The scholarship supports high school seniors or enrolled college students pursuing studies in agriculture, forestry, or natural resources, with selection based on academic performance, involvement in outside activities, and work experience—especially agriculturally related jobs. Applicants must submit a completed application, transcript, recommendation letter, and a statement explaining financial need, along with details about the school they plan to attend, their chosen field of study, and their long-term career goals such as becoming an agriculture teacher, researcher, veterinarian, or other agricultural professional.



PW 4-H'ers: Citizenship Opportunity

PWC Circuit Court 6th Annual Law Day Art Contest

[Click here for contest details and to enter.](#) **Entries due April 24th.**

Who Should Participate: all PW 4-H'ers grades 1-12 enrolled in private, home, or public schools in Prince William County, and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.

PW 4-H'ers have a personal invitation to be a part of this community-wide even with a focus on “The Rule of Law and the American Dream.” The contest offers an exciting and educational opportunity for students to celebrate Law Day (May 1) and expand their understanding of justice within the framework of the Constitution.



**FOUNDATION FOR
THE PRESERVATION
OF HONEY BEES, INC.**

2026 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest

PW 4-H'ers are encouraged to apply!

Submit entries to Sam Fisher at safishe3@vt.edu with subject line "VA 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest." **Entries due April 18th.** State winners announced May 1st.

Who Can Enter: Virginia 4-H youth

Awards: State: \$100 (1st), \$50 (2nd), \$25 (3rd) National: \$750 (1st), \$500 (2nd), \$250 (3rd)

Virginia 4-H members are invited to participate in the **2026 Honey Bee Essay Contest**, sponsored by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. This year's theme is "**The Power of Pollen.**" Students will explore questions about pollen's role in honey bee health, how changing landscapes may be affecting pollen sources, and how pollen availability influences colony behavior and productivity.

Air Force 4-H Military Camp Scholarships



Email MaryBeth Lerch to apply.

The Air Force 4-H Military Partnership Grant for Virginia 4-H is providing a limited number of 4-H camp scholarships for youth ages 5 - 18 of Air Force Military-Connected families living in Virginia. These scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligible youth may live on or near an installation or live in communities across the state. Scholarships awarded can be used to assist with cost to participate in Virginia 4-H Center camping opportunities.

***New for 2026!** Youth are only eligible to receive a scholarship if they have not been previously enrolled in 4-H.*

CAMP LOUD & CLEAR Holiday Lake

JULY 17-19, 2026
HOLIDAY LAKE 4-H CENTER
Camp Loud & Clear is an overnight camping experience for youth ages 9-18 who are Deaf or hard of hearing.



Activities include: swimming, fishing, canoeing, archery, nature studies, crafts, teambuilding, fun, and adventure!

Camp Loud & Clear is a partnership between Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center and Longwood University Speech, Hearing, and Learning Services.



REGISTER NOW!
holidaylake4h.com/camp-loud-clear
The \$155 registration fee covers programming, supervision, lodging, meals, and ASL interpreters.

Questions? Contact the 4-H Center at 434-248-5444 or email Jennifer.Bowen@jebowen@vt.edu.

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Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and land-grant universities, and is an equal opportunity provider for the full and unrestricted employment, access and participation of all.

Camp Loud & Clear

Dates: July 17-19

Location: Holiday Lake 4-H Center

Camp Fee: \$155 - covers programming, lodging, supervision, and ASL interpreters

[Click here to register.](#)

Camp Loud & Clear is an overnight camp for deaf and hard of hearing youth ages 9 - 18. Activities include: swimming, fishing, canoeing, archery, nature studies, crafts, teambuilding, fun, and adventure! The camp is offered through a partnership between Holiday Lake 4-H Center and Longwood University's Speech, Hearing, and Learning Services.



Camp SPARK

Dates: July 31 – August 2, 2026

Location: Jamestown 4-H Educational Center

Cost: \$250 (*Limited spots available - register early! Limited scholarships available.*)

[Click here to register.](#)

Camp SPARK is a unique overnight camp experience designed to support and celebrate neurodivergent youth. This camp provides a welcoming and inclusive environment where participants can build confidence, develop life skills, and form meaningful friendships - all while having fun. This camp is led by [Bridgitte Groome](#), Hanover County 4-H Agent, and Cayla Walker, Goochland County 4-H Agent. We can't wait to SPARK something amazing this summer!

States 4-H Exchange

Inbound Exchange Dates: July 22 - August 15

[Click here for the 2026 Hosting Application.](#)



Hosting Details:

- Host a youth age 12-18 or an adult chaperone. Host families must have a child of the same gender who is within 4 years of the hosted youth. Families without children of the appropriate age may host an adult chaperone.
- Youth have a range of English language abilities, so host families should be prepared to communicate imaginatively.
- This is a voluntary program; no stipends will be provided.
- No special activities need to be planned. Youth want to experience American culture, make new friends, and improve their English by staying with your family.

National 4-H Updates



NATIONAL 4-H YOUTH IN ACTION APPLICATION

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

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.

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS

[Click here to submit application and resume.](#) **Apply by May 10th.**

For more than 100 years, National 4-H Congress has served as the premiere educational and recognition event for senior 4-H members. National 4-H Congress is held in Atlanta, Georgia, November 27 – December 1, 2026. National Congress provides participants an exciting opportunity to explore careers, engage in a variety of quality learning experiences, and have great fun by getting to know other 4-H members from across the country. Outstanding 4-H members will be selected to represent Virginia at National 4-H Congress. Candidates for selection must be senior 4-H members in the current 4-H year who are able to demonstrate outstanding achievement as a 4-H member in the areas of leadership, citizenship, and personal development.

VA 4-H Horse Program Updates

2026 VIRGINIA 4-H STATE HORSE BOWL & COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST

Date: April 25th

Location: Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, VA

Entry Fee: \$15/contestant entered

Entry Link Communications: <https://tinyurl.com/26Communications>

Entry Link Horse Bowl: <https://tinyurl.com/26HorseBowl>

Enter by 5 PM on Monday, April 13th.

[Click here for local competitive opportunities to prepare.](#)

The 2026 VA 4-H State Horse Bowl and Communications Contests serve as the State events - the Champion Senior Horse Bowl Team and Champion Seniors in the Communications contests will be eligible to represent Virginia at the Eastern National 4-H Round Up in Louisville, KY in the fall.



2026 SOUTHERN REGIONAL 4-H CHAMPIONSHIP HORSE SHOW

Date: August 2nd

Location: Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry, GA.

[Click here to apply.](#) **Applications due by 5 PM on May 25.**

The Southern Regional Championship horse show is the only multi-state 4-H Horse Show in the country, inviting youth from 13 states to show their horses in 6 different disciplines. Historically, Virginia has been well-represented by our riders at the Southern Regional Show and we hope to continue this tradition in 2026! The show is a favorite of attendees who have had the opportunity to network with youth from across VA and across the country and show in the Air Conditioning at the excellent facility in Perry.

The 2026 Official schedule will not be released until early May. Acceptance lists will be posted on the VA 4-H Horse Program website and emailed to those accepted no later than June 1, 2026.

VIRGINIA 4-H STATE HORSE SHOW

Dates: September 3rd - 6th

Location: Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA

Declarations in 4HOnline open on May 1st.

It is important for parents, youth, agents, and volunteers to once again familiarize themselves with information regarding the Requirements, Rules, and Qualifying Options for the State Horse Show. There have been numerous updates to the Rulebook and Schedule outlined below - please review them in detail.

[Click here for the 2026 VA 4-H State Horse Show Rulebook, Rule Changes, and Schedule](#)

[Click here for the 2026 Qualifying Requirements.](#)

[Click here for qualifying Horsemanship Skills shows.](#)

[Click here for skills testing events.](#)

2026 SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW

Items Accepted: April 10-11th (*Hippology and Horse Judging*) and April 25th (*Communications and Horse Bowl*)

Donation Ideas: Horse items and show clothes, outdoor play, camping, fishing, lawn and garden, home decor, kitchen and cooking, beauty, jewelry, themed baskets, seasonal decor, wreaths, woodworking, pottery, toys for all ages, Breyer Horses, pampered chef, baskets, gift certificates, and so much more.

Please contact [Hunter Liles](#) for donation letter and form.

VA 4-H Youth Animal Science Updates



VIRGINIA 4-H AND FFA BEEF FOOD CHALLENGE

April 16th | 4:15 PM Check-in (*school early dismissal letter available*) | Virginia Beef Expo, Rockingham
[Click here to register your team](#), **Entries due April 9th**. [Click here for contest information](#).

We are pleased to once again offer the Virginia Beef Challenge for 4-H and FFA youth! Similar to the 4-H Food Challenge, Beef Challenge allows youth to showcase beef as part of a healthy diet. This combination cooking and communications contest is sponsored by the Virginia Beef Council and, therefore, is no cost to teams.



THE VIRGINIA JUNIOR BEEF ROUNDUP CATTLE SHOWS

April 17th - 18th | Virginia Beef Expo

[Click here to enter cattle](#). **Enter by 5 PM on April 9th**.

Entry Fee: \$35/head

[Click here for event details](#), including schedules and contests rules. [Click here for Expo info](#).

Everyone is automatically entered in Showmanship – Showmanship is an “opt out” and you must do so prior to Friday, April 17th at 10 AM.

- Youth Beef Challenge - Thursday, April 16th. [Click here to register](#). Register by April 9th.
- VA State Tractor Driving Contest - Thursday, April 16th
- Youth Cattle Fitting Contest - Friday, April 17th at 11 AM. [Click here to register](#). Register by April 17th, 9AM.
- VA State Cattle Working Contest - Wednesday, April 15th



2026 VIRGINIA 4-H/FFA POULTRY EVALUATION CONTEST

April 24th | Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, VA | 8 AM Check-in

[Click here to enter](#). **Enter by 5 PM on April 14th**. [Click here for contest details](#).



JUDGE LIKE A CHAMPION LIVESTOCK JUDGING CAMP

Friday, May 29 | Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, VA

Cost: \$175 - does not include lodging

[Click here to register](#). **Register by May 15th**. *Camp limited to 75 participants.*

2026 Lead Coach: Jacob Klaudt, North Dakota State University

For questions, contact Shirley at sjkaufman@augusta.k12.va.us.

Don't miss this opportunity to work with outstanding coaches from across the country as you learn evaluation skills, develop efficient note-taking abilities, obtain new terminology, and become proficient and accurate in your reasons delivery.



JUDGE LIKE A CHAMPION COACHES CLINIC

Saturday, May 30 | Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, VA

Cost: \$75 - includes lunch, dinner, and manual

[Click here to register](#). **Register by May 15th**. *Clinic is limited to 50 participants.*

For questions, contact Shirley at sjkaufman@augusta.k12.va.us.

Led by: Matt Claeys, Indiana – Judging Coach and Cattle Breeder

Providing the opportunity to work with successful coaches and further develop evaluation skills, tips and techniques for coaching youth of all ages and experience levels, update your knowledge of current selection preferences and reasons terminology.



Please visit our websites to view all current opportunities!

<https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock.html> | <https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/horse.html>

<https://www.youth.dasc.vt.edu/>



Prince William 4-H

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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



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.