



February 5, 2024

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



The next issue of The Montgomery County 4-H Newsletter will be published on the first week of March 2024. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, ahamann@umd.edu by February 23, 2024.



What will you make to improve life on this planet?

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

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

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

The future is up to you.

The program

- Work with other 6-8th grade girls on a team invention (10-15 girls)
- Bi-monthly meetings to learn new skills and work with other girls on your inventions (**starting January 30, 2024**)
- Day long field trips to KID Museum (**February 18, 2024**)
- A showcase event to meet other groups participating in the program and showcase your work

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

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

2024 Inbound Opportunities!

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

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



Maryland 4-H Dog Skillathon Fun Day

February 24. UMD Animal Science Building, College Park. Registration due by February 15, 2024 on 4-H Online.

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

NOTE: Breeds Station AKC Focus Group: Non-Sporting Group. Focus Group accounts for 50% of Breeds questions.

Maryland 4-H Livestock Skillathon

March 2, at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Registration due by February 26, 2024 on 4-H Online.

The Maryland 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of animal science and management. No prior knowledge of livestock is required.

For more information, please contact Catherine Savage, 4-H Educator, 301-590-2813, csavage9@umd.edu

Maryland 4-H Horse Bowl Contest

March 9, UMD Plant Science Building, College Park.

- Start Time: Registration begins at 9:00am and the contest begins at 10:00am
- Location: Plant Sciences Building, room 1140, Regents Drive, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- Registration Closes: February 19, 2024

Eligibility: Youth contestants and teen or adult coaches must have an approved enrollment in 4-H Online for the 2024 4-H program year. Youth Contestants must not have previously competed in the Horse Bowl contest at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup (Louisville, KY) or Western National 4-H Horse Roundup.

Complete information and rules can be found on the Maryland 4-H website, <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/animal-sciences/4-h-horse-program/>.

Registration for this event is through 4-H Online. To access the registration log in to your 4-H Online family profile and click on the Events tab. You can find an Event Registration "how to" guide on the Maryland 4-H website. All event registrations must be submitted by 11:59 pm on February 19, 2024. Registrations will be verified and approved by local 4-H Educators and the State 4-H Event Manager. If you need information please contact Catharine Savage, csavage9@umd.edu, or visit the [Maryland 4-H website](#) for more information.

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

Central Public Speaking Contest

March 9, Bushy Park Elementary School, 14601 Carrs Mill Rd, Glendwood, MD.

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

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

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

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

MoCo 4-H Award Ceremony

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

Maryland 4-H Dairy Skillathon

March 23, Carroll County Extension Office.

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

Maryland 4-Horse Communication Contest

April 13, Maryland 4-H Center, College Park

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

Dairy Bowl Contest

April 20, Carroll County Extension Office.

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

Maryland 4-H Public Speaking Contest

April 27, UMD, College Park

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



Camp Tawasentha

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

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

If you have any questions, please contact Anne Clagett, clagettmom@gmail.com



Copyright Montgomery County Agricultural Center

191 Days to the 75th Montgomery County Fair

We encourage all our 4-H members to participate and enter many exhibits at the 75th Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, August 9–17, 2024. In addition to the Exhibitor classes you are familiar with, we are introducing new Exhibitor classes. The following classes and information are new to the 2024 MoCo Fair Catalog.

DIVISION 4 DESIGNER CRAFTS

Bleach Art

Other, not listed in any other classes

DIVISION 5 CREATIVE CRAFTS

Duct Tape, any

Ceramics: glazed—Ready-To-Paint

Ceramics: painted—Ready-to-Paint

Ceramics:—original—pinch pot, coiled, or slab fire glazed or painted

Friendship bracelets

Soap carving

Other, not listed in any other classes

DIVISION 7 EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS AND COLLECTIONS

No item larger than 36" w x 24" d x 24" h will be accepted.

Lego®/K'Nex®, original design: single item

Bionicle, Kit

Bionicle, original design

DIVISION 8: AEROSPACE AND ROBOTICS

Robot of original design by individual. May include toy construction kits such as Lego® or Erector sets, etc.

DIVISION 10: WOODWORKING

Article made by group with photos to show what each member contributed

Refurnished article

Repurposed wood item

DIVISION 11: COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

There is no internet connection in the 4-H Building. If you are entering any internet or mobile applications, you must bring a laptop, the device, or detailed screen shots.

DIVISION 13: VEGETABLES AND FRUITS

Please note: As growing conditions affect when vegetables and fruits are at their prime, online pre-registration should include all vegetables and fruits you anticipate being ready by Fair entry day.

Berries (one pint)
Watermelons (one), any weight
Cantaloupes (one)
Stone fruit (five)
DIVISION 14: FLOWER SPECIMENS
Daisy (Shasta, Gerbera, Gaillardia, etc.)
DIVISION 16: CAKES
Devil's Food or Chocolate, iced (layered)

DIVISION 16A: DECORATED DELIGHTS
Decorated graham cracker house
Social Media themed cake

FOOD PRESERVATION
Jellies, jams, and marmalades should have 1/8"–1/4" of headspace.
Jar lids must be rust-free.

DIVISION 27: CLOTHING
Pajama pants
Repurposed item

DIVISION 32: ROOM ACCESSORIES
Home Accessories (hot pads, appliances covers, doorstop, lunch bags, book covers, table runners, etc.)
Machine sewn blanket

DIVISION 33: BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY
Selfies
Digital altered image—8"x10"
Picture with filters

DIVISION 34: COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY
Selfies
Digital altered image—8"x10"
Picture with filters

DIVISION 36: CITIZENSHIP and PROMOTION
Hand-made toy, doll, stuffed animal
Christmas ornaments (6)

College Credits for High School Students

Terp Young Scholars invites high school students (rising grade 10 to graduating grade 12) to a pre-college experience at the University of Maryland. From July 8-26, 2024, highly qualified students pursue academic interests, earn three university credits, and learn about the University of Maryland.

The program offers two learning options: in person or online. Students can commute from home or participate virtually. Both options deliver an academic experience that is at the forefront of theory, thought, and technology, with challenging courses and dynamic activities that provide a glimpse of UMD's rich campus life.

2024 Program Package Fees:

- Commuter: \$2,500
- Online: \$1,500

For more information, contact:
Howard Ly, Program Coordinator
University of Maryland
Extended Studies
Email: tys@umd.edu

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CLUB CORNER

4-H Kids N Dogs Club

By Grace D.

In November 2023, the Montgomery County Kids N' Dogs 4-H club participated in the annual Gaithersburg Leashes 'n' Lights event. Leashes 'n' Lights is an event where dogs and their owners can walk a path of either 1-Mile, or the full 3-mile trail filled with holiday lights. As a team, the club worked to set up a table inside the tent for vendors/organizations. This is where the club was promoted through ornaments and magnets made the week before during their November meeting. The ornaments and magnets, alongside pencils, bookmarks, treats, and tug toys, were available as prizes through the club's trivia wheel. Many people came to spin the wheel and stayed to listen to the 4-H'ers talk about their dogs, the club, why they love 4H, and what they do during the fair. Overall, the club had a positive experience at the event and hope to be back next year to promote the club!





Damascus Community 4-H Club

By Jason W.

In January 2024, the Damascus Community 4-H Club had a meeting with an icebreaker game to get to know everyone. During the meeting, the club members voted on community projects and fun activities for the year ahead. Later in January, the club held a spaced themed banquet to celebrate the past excellent year of 4-H. At the banquet, families brought treats to share and watched a slideshow made by the historian.



Photo by Chace B.

Clarksburg Helping Hands Club

By: Sonika K.

In last year's November meeting, the Club elected new officers for the year 2024. Candidates presented speeches and members casted their votes for the positions of President, first and second Vice-President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.

In December, the club celebrated the early festivities of Christmas with a holiday party, hosting a potluck dinner, with everyone bringing in delicious dishes. Additionally, the club members spread some holiday cheer by donating and making over 150 Christmas cards for seniors, as well as making some snowman ornaments. Lastly, members randomly traded out gifts under \$5 in a gift exchange. With this small gathering, the club ended the year with a holiday spirit and togetherness as a club.

Lastly, at the January meeting, the club welcomed the newly elected 2024 officers, as they stepped forth in their new positions. The members also expressed their generosity by creating and donating Valentine's Day themed Altoid boxes for seniors in the community.



Image: New Officers for 2024

Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 18 Maryland 4-H State Achievement Program
- 24 Maryland 4-H Dog Skillathon or Fun Day

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

MAY

- 4-5 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, Howard County Fairgrounds
- 5 Goat, Sheep & Wool Skillathon, Howard County Fairgrounds
- 11 Eastern Shore 4-H Spring Show, Queen Anne's County 4-H Park
- 11 Western Maryland District Show, Garrett County Fairgrounds
- TBD Horse Bowl Buzz-Off, MD 4-H Center, 9:30 am

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Anna Hamann, Administrative Assistance (part-time), Newsletter Editor, ahamann@umd.edu

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