

4-H OPPORTUNITIES

Listed below are many of the 4-H sponsored educational events and activities held at the county, regional and state levels. Contact the Cecil County 4-H office for specific dates, locations, information, applications, and any related educational materials. State events information is listed on the Maryland 4-H website at www.maryland4h.org. Participants in 4-H competitive events must be enrolled and working in project areas related to the specific activity. Many competitive events require local and/or regional qualifying events. Pre-registration generally required.

GENERAL OPPORTUNITIES

-4-H Learning by Doing: The 4-H model is to learn by doing. There are many opportunities for youth to learn by doing whether it is attending the local club meeting, attending a county or state workshop or just by learning on your own.

-4-H Camping Programs: Held in various locations and dates 4-H. Offers a variety of camping opportunities for 4-H and other 4-H age youth. There are also special camping programs for families. A camping brochure is available each spring from your local 4-H Office. It lists all 4-H camping opportunities, with dates, locations and costs. Cecil County has a county 4-H Camp that is held annually at the Rocks 4-H Campsite in Harford County

-4-H Diamond Clover Award: The diamond clover award is a stepwise level program where youth can complete 6 levels of achievement by completing a selected number of different tasks. One level can be achieved annually. The highest level of achievement will be the "Diamond Clover" (similar to the Boy Scout Eagle and the Girl Scout Gold award)

-Public Speaking: 4-Hers give presentations in prepared, radio/public address announcements, interpretations, or extemporaneous contests. No props or visuals are permitted. Anyone can compete at the local level. County winners compete at the regional level; regional winners compete at the state level. Local and regional contest dates and locations vary. State contest held in June at College Park.

-Visual Presentations: 4-H'ers give presentations about a project or activity using props, posters, and other visual aids. Any member can compete at the county level. Local contest dates and locations are set by the local 4-H office. State contest is held during the State Fair, Timonium.

-Community Service: 4-H'ers can participate in a wide variety of community service projects through their club or individually. Youth who obtain a certain number of hours can apply for the national service awards. Youth can also apply for the spirit of community awards. Contact the local extension office for community service opportunities.

-4-H Project Workshops: 4-H'ers can participate in a wide variety of workshops that relate to their projects throughout the year.

-4-H Winterfest: Participate in a variety of project classes that interest you. Held Sunday afternoon of Achievement Night weekend.

-Egg "stravaganza": Participate in a wide variety of egg related events. Held in March or April

-Progressive Agriculture Safety Day: Participate in a variety of state related classes learning how to "Be Safe". Held in June.

-Animal Science Fundamentals: Learn a variety of Science information that relates to your animal projects. Participate in a variety of classes that interest you. Held in the Winter.

- Animal Science Showmanship: Learn how to fit and present your animal properly. Participate in a variety of animal showmanship classes that interest you. Held in April.
- Horse Hoopla: Participate in an exciting three day event to learn more about the horse project. Held in late June.
- Holiday Craft Workshop: Participate in making a wide variety of holiday crafts. Held in early December.
- Officers Training: If you are an elected officer this workshop is for you. Learn how to be an effective officer. Held in Late December or Early January.
- Record Books: It is a book compiled by 4-Hers explaining projects that they have done for the previous year. Information contained in record books varies depending on age level. Dates for local record book judging vary, but are usually due in late winter - contact your local 4-H Office.
- Cecil County Fair: 4-H members are encouraged to exhibit their project work at the fair. Catalogs and entry forms are available from your 4-H Office or on the fair website at www.cecilcountyfair.org. Entries are due July 1. The fair is the last week of July.
- Maryland State Fair: 4-H members are encouraged to exhibit their project work at the fair. Catalogs and entry forms are available from your 4-H Office in mid-May and are due July 1. The fair runs from the last full weekend in August through Labor Day.
- Eastern Shore Spring Show: 4-H members are encouraged to exhibit their animal projects in the district 4-H spring show, which is held at the Queen Anne's County 4-H Park in Centreville. The spring show is the second Saturday of May.
- Cecil County Breeders' Fair: 4-H members are encouraged to exhibit their animal projects in the regional 4-H show, which is held at the Cecil County Fairgrounds in Fair Hill. The breeders' fair show is the Saturday following Memorial Day.
- Cecil County 4-H Benefit Auction: 4-H members and clubs are encouraged to get donations that benefit both the County and Club programs. 50% of the proceeds benefit the county program and 50% of the donations go back to the club that got the donation. It is held in early December.
- 4-H Achievement Night: 4-H members and their families are encouraged to attend the annual 4-H achievement night where youth will be recognized for their project accomplishments, volunteers will be recognized for their service and clubs will be recognized for their achievements for the previous year of 4-H work. (Normally occurs in early March)
 - 4-H Family of the Year: Cecil County recognizes the county 4-H Family of the year and then submits the family for state name for state competition.
 - Spirit Awards: Clubs select a spirit award winner for the most 4-H spirited Junior, Intermediate, Senior and MCE Volunteer. The county recognizes older youth that are selected as the Head, Heart, Hand, Health and Spirit (two in each area)
 - Record Book Awards: Youth are recognized for project record completion
 - Top 4-H Story and Essay Awards: The top Junior, Intermediate and Senior 4-H Story and Senior 4-H Essay will receive an award presented by the Cecil County 4-H All-Stars.
 - Farm Credit Record Book Awards: Two youth that have been 4-H members for less than 3 years are selected for outstanding project records.

- Team Awards: Youth are recognized for participating on county team at state competition
- “I Dare You” Leadership Award: Two older youth are selected for their leadership capabilities.
- Fair Boy and Girl Award: Youth can earn points and be recognized for being the top boy and girl at the Cecil County Fair.
- Outstanding 4-H Club: An outstanding club is selected for the county for the previous years work

-4-H Academic Scholarships: State 4-H scholarships are currently offered for 4-H Members and Alumni. Scholarship application is due May 1.

-Cecil County 4-H All-Stars Book Scholarship: The Cecil County 4-H All-Stars are offering a book scholarship for current 4-Hers who are enrolled in a college or technical school to offset the cost of books. Scholarship application is due May 1.

ANIMAL SCIENCE PROJECTS

Educational programs for livestock project members related to production and competition or practice showing animals. Exact programs vary by region.

Beef, Sheep, and Swine

-Exhibiting animal projects at county fair, regional spring show and state fair in areas of showmanship and breeding and market animals (Sheep area also offers a sheep lead contest at the state fair). All market projects must be tagged and weighed on designated tagging and weigh in day (early January for market beef and mid May for market sheep and swine and feeder calves) and registrations on file in county office. Registered and commercial breeding animals must be owned by 7/1. Commercial breeding animals must be tagged with appropriate tag.

-Entering wool at state fair

-Completing a display about the beef or swine project for the county and state fair.

-Livestock Judging: Quality judging of beef, swine and sheep classes based on conformation and oral reasons given to support placing. Junior, intermediate and senior teams determined by county/city procedures, four individuals make up a team and four individuals can compete at the state contest. The state contest held during the State Fair in Timonium. High scoring individuals in the state senior division contest may be selected for a team that competes at the national contest.

-Livestock Skill-A-Thon: Youth take a written exam about their livestock knowledge, identify livestock equipment, identify meat cuts, and solve a team problem related to the livestock industry. The state contest is held during the Maryland Cattlemen’s Convention in early March. High scoring individuals/teams in the state senior division contest may be selected for a team that competes at the national contest.

Horse and Pony

-Exhibiting animal projects at breeders’ fair, county fair and state fair in English and Western divisions in classes of grooming and showmanship, conformation, equitation and performance. State 4-H Horse Shows held during State Fair in Timonium. Horse project animals must have an ID card on file with the county 4-H Office by 6/1. Horse leases must be on file at the county office by 6/1. Must pass horse 1 & 2 performance levels in order to compete in state fair.

-Dressage and Combined Test: State 4-H Dressage and Combined Test held in early September. The county dressage test is held the day after breeders’ fair.

-Horse Judging: Junior, intermediate and senior teams determined by county/city selection process. Judging of 4-6 conformation classes and 3-4 performance classes and presentation of oral reasons. The state contest is held in late spring. High scoring senior individuals may be selected to compete in the national contest.

-Horse Hippology: Includes written exam; identification of tack, tools, equipment, feeds, parasites; judging conformation and performance classes; problem solving. Junior, intermediate and senior individuals determined by county/city selection process. State contest held in June. High scoring senior individuals in the state contest may be selected to compete in national contest.

-Horse Bowl: Like "It's Academic", points are given or lost by quickness and accuracy of responses. Junior, intermediate and senior teams of four individuals and one alternate determined by county/city selection process. State contest is held in early spring. High scoring senior individuals in the state contest may be selected to compete in national contest.

-County Horse Hoopla: This three day program features workshops, fun activities, and competitive events in horse project area. A registration fee is charged to cover meals, lodging, and workshop expenses. Any 4-H member may participate. Held in late June.

Poultry

-Exhibiting fowl at county and state fair in areas of meat birds, egg production fowl, purebred large fowl, and bantam purebreds. Poultry must be owned by 6/1.

-Entering eggs at county and state fair.

-Poultry Judging: Judging quality of production, egg quality, dressed market poultry and presenting oral reasons. Junior, Intermediate & senior teams are determined by county/city procedures. State contest held during State Fair in Timonium. High scoring senior individuals in the state contest may be selected to compete in national contest.

-Completing a display about the poultry project for the county and state fair.

Rabbit

-Exhibiting rabbits at county, regional and state competitions in areas of showmanship, breed, and market rabbits. Rabbits must be owned by 6/1.

-Rabbit Judging: Open to any interested rabbit project members. Judge breed, meat or fur classes and complete a written exam. State contest held during State Fair in Timonium.

-Completing a display about the rabbit project for the county and state fair.

Dairy Cattle

-Exhibiting dairy cattle projects at county fair, regional spring show and state fair in areas of fitting and showmanship, breed classes, and market steers. Cattle can be owned or leased. Dairy steers must be tagged and registrations on file in county office on designated tagging and weigh in day (early January for market ready steers and mid-May for feeder calves) and registration on file in county office. Dairy cattle leases must be on file at the county office by 6/1. Dairy Cattle must be owned by 7/1.

-Dairy Judging: Judging of not less than ten classes of common dairy cattle breeds based on conformation and presentation of oral reasons. State contest held during State Fair in Timonium. High scoring senior individuals in state contest may be selected to compete in the national competition.

-Dairy Bowl: Like "It's Academic", except all of the questions relate to dairy cattle or dairy goats. Points are given or lost by quickness and accuracy of responses. Junior, intermediate and senior teams of four individuals and one alternate determined by county/city selection process. State contest held in the spring at the University of Maryland, College Park. High scoring senior individuals in state contest may be selected to compete in the national competition.

Goats

-Exhibiting goat projects (Dairy, Meat and Fiber) at county fair, regional spring show and state fair in areas of fitting and showmanship, breed classes, and market goats. Goats can be owned or leased. Meat goats must be tagged and weighed on designated tagging and weigh in day (mid May) and registrations on file in county office. Dairy goat leases must be on file at the county office by 6/1. Dairy goats must be owned by 7/1.

-Completing a display about the goat project for the county and state fair.

-Dairy Goat Judging: Judging of not less than ten classes of common dairy breeds based on conformation and presentation of oral reasons. State contest held during State Fair in Timonium.

-Dairy Bowl: Like "It's Academic", except all of these questions relate to dairy cattle or dairy goats. Points are given or lost by quickness and accuracy of responses. Junior, intermediate and senior teams of four individuals and one alternate determined by county/city selection process. State contest held in the spring at the University of Maryland, College Park. High scoring individuals in state contest may be selected to compete in the national competition.

Dog

-4-H Dog Shows at county, regional and state competition in areas of obedience and fitting and showmanship and educational exhibits. Dog project animals must have an ID card on file with the county 4-H Office by 6/1. In order to compete at the state level you must qualify at the county level.

-Dog Bowl: Like "It's Academic", except all of the questions relate to dogs. Points are given or lost by quickness and accuracy of responses. Junior, intermediate and senior teams of four individuals and one alternate determined by county/city selection process. State contest held in the fall.

-Completing a display about the dog project for the county and state fair.

Cat

-Completing a display about the cat project for the county fair

-Competing in the small pets contest at the county fair.

Small Pets

-Exhibiting cavy at county and state competitions in areas of showmanship and breed classes. Cavies must be owned by 7/1.

-Completing a display about the small pets project for the county fair.

-Competing in the small pets contest at the county fair.

Veterinary Science

-Completing a display about the veterinary science project for the county fair

-Participate in Dairy, Horse and Dog Quiz Bowl helps teach about veterinary science.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROJECTS

Aerospace

-Completing a display about the aerospace project for the county fair

ATV Safety

-Competing in the ATV contest at the county fair.

Automotive

-Automotive Care and Safety Event: Contestants must be licensed drivers who are without record of moving violations (convictions) or preventable accidents for the past 12 months. Contest includes written exam, parts identification, taking a maintenance safety inspection, and operating a car through a prescribed course. County contest held during county fair where two 4-H'ers are determined by county/city procedures to compete in state contest during State Fair, Timonium. High scoring senior individual at the state level may compete at the national 4-H engineering event.

Bicycle

-Bicycle Safety Event: 4-H'ers will be tested with a practical exam, written exam, skill riding event, and safety inspection. County contest held during county fair where one contestant in each age class can qualify for state contest during state fair. Contestants must bring their own bicycles. High scoring senior individual at the state level may compete at national 4-H engineering event.

-Completing a Bicycle Safety Poster for the county and state fair

Small Engines

-Small Engines Event: Contest includes written exam, parts identification, and a 5-10 minute visual presentation. County contest held during county fair where high scoring individuals can compete in the state competition held during the State Fair. High scoring senior may compete at national 4-H engineering event.

Learn and Earn (Lawn Tractor)

-Lawn Tractor Event: Includes written exam, compact tractor safety, and driving on a course. County contest held during county fair (intermediate and senior only) where high scoring individuals may compete in the state lawn tractor held during State Fair, Timonium. High scoring state senior individual may compete at national 4-H engineering event.

Computer

-Computer Event: Includes written exam, computer demonstration of original software developed by the contestant, and illustrated talk (for senior level only). Will have a county contest to select participants for state contest (if needed) State contest held during State Fair in Timonium. High scoring state senior individual may compete at national 4-H engineering event.

-Working with the state 4-H technology team.

Electricity

-Entering Electric project in county and state fair

-Electric/Energy Event: Includes written exam; identification of parts/electrical equipment/symbols; and a 5-10 minute visual presentation. State contest held during State Fair, Timonium
State senior winner may compete at national 4-H engineering event.

Woodworking

-Entering woodworking projects in county and state fair

Tractor

-Regional Tractor Operators Certification held in January somewhere on the Eastern Shore.

-State Tractor Operators Safety Event: Includes written exam, practical exam, and skill driving event. (Seniors only) County contest held during county fair where high scoring individual can compete in state contest held during State Fair in Timonium. High scoring senior individual in state contest may compete at national 4-H engineering event.

Gardening

-Entering numerous plant, flower, and vegetable exhibits at county and state fair

Agronomy

-Entering numerous agricultural product exhibits at county and state fair

Entomology

-Entering entomology collection and/or education entomology exhibit in county and state fair

Horticulture

-Horticulture Judging: Contest includes plant and plant product identification, horticulture pest identification, and quality judging and written exam. Junior, intermediate and senior teams determined by county/city procedures. County contest held during August. State senior winners may compete at the National Junior Horticulture Association contest.

-Horticulture Demonstration Contest: Held during State Fair in Timonium for youth senior age. High individual may compete at the National Junior Horticulture Association contest.

Beekeeping

-Entering bee and honey products at county fair.

Natural Resources Conservation

-Entering natural resources related collections in county and state fair

-Entering natural resource related educational displays at county and state fair

Wildlife

-Entering wildlife educational display at county and state fair

-Wildlife Judging: Includes wildlife management practices and their effects on habitat, wild habitat identification from an aerial photograph, and wildlife foods. High scoring individuals in state contest may be selected to compete in the national competition.

Forestry

-Entering a forestry education display at county and state fair

-Forestry Judging: Includes tree identification, forest evaluation, tree measurements, compass orienting, forestry bowl, insect and disease identification and a written exam. High scoring individuals in state contest may be selected to compete in the national competition.

Ecology

-Entering an ecology educational display at county and state fair

Outdoor Adventures

-Entering nature related items in county and state fair.

Composting

-Entering a composting educational display at county and state fair

Shooting Sports

- Learn at the county practices in the areas of air rifle, archery and shotgun.
- Entering a shooting sports educational display at county and state fair
- Archery competition: 4-H members enrolled in the archery project may compete in a state 4-H archery contest. Date and location to be determined
- Small bore rifle match: Counties may send teams or individuals to compete in the State 4-H Marksmanship Contest. Currently limited to small-bore competition. Contest in Early September
- Shooting Sports Volunteer Certification: Weekend training for MCE volunteers. 4-H certification is required to teach any 4-H shooting sports. Late Spring-Location Varies

Sport Fishing

- Entering a sports fishing educational display at county and state fair

HUMAN SCIENCE PROJECTS

Clothing

- Entering Clothing that you made at County and State Fair

Family Life

- Entering child care toys, games, scrapbook, display or other items that you made relating to babysitting in county and state fair

Fashion

- Fashion revue held on county level and outfits modeled at county fair. County Fashion senior winners compete in one of seven categories for state awards. A 13 year old representative is also selected that goes to the state contest but is not judged. A champion and reserve champion are awarded in each category; one person is selected from the group as State Fashion Revue Champion.

- Mannequin modeling at state fair.

- Mini-fashion show at state fair.

Craft and Hobbies

- Entering crafts or hobbies that youth have completed in county or state fair.

Consumer Education:

- Consumer Judging: County junior, intermediate and senior consumer judging teams compete for state awards. Held during the Maryland State Fair. Topics and resource materials are provided annually.

- State Lifeskills Competition: Includes many of the life skills that will benefit youth through life including health, finance, and other life learning skills. Held in Late Winter.

Home Environment

- Entering home environment projects at county and state fair.

Entrepreneurship

- Entering a learn and earn display as an individual or group where they may sell their products at state fair. Must pre-register and only have one show.

- Exhibiting individual projects, individual service, group projects, and group service displays in state fair

Money Management

-Entering a money management educational display at county fair.

Theatre Arts

-Entering a theatre arts educational display at county fair.

Photography

-Entering photography projects in county and state fair

-Photo challenge held during state fair where youth are given a disposable camera to take pictures at the fair.

Food and Nutrition

-Entering food products that you made at county and state fair

-Entering Healthy Lifestyle and Nutrition posters at county and state fair

-Entering food science display at state fair

-Entering menus at county and state fair

-Egg Cooking Contest: Each county can select one senior 4-H member to present a demonstration on the preparation of an egg dish during the Maryland State Fair. The state winner participates in the national contest in Kentucky. The county contest is held during the egg "stravaganza"

-Healthy Lifestyles Demonstration: Do a demonstration at county demonstration day and during state fair.

-Healthy Lifestyles Illustrated Talk: Do an illustrated talk at county demonstration day and during state fair.

Health

-Entering a health educational display at county fair

OLDER 4-H YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

-State 4-H Teen Council: Two youth from each county are selected to represent their county on the teen council where they work with other youth from across the state on youth issues and planning teen focus. Interested youth should contact their local extension office.

-Maryland 4-H Teen Focus "Leadership and Learning" Conference: 4-H members ages 13-18 participate in this three-day state program. The State Teen Council plans a variety of tracks, seminars and educational activities. A registration fee is charged for participation.

-Maryland Volunteer and Teen Forum: Cecil county s MCE 4-H can attend the State 4-H Volunteer and Teen Forum to get new ideas and programs to bring back to the local clubs.

-National 4-H Congress: Senior 4-H members are selected by a resume, essay and interview process to participate in 4-H Congress. Application and information available from your local 4-H Office. Congress is the flagship event of the 4-H program. For eighty years, youth have participated in this youth leadership development event. Youth get a quality, educational, and cross-cultural experience and meet other youth from the United States and its territories. Congress is designed to address the needs and issues of youth while helping to develop capable, competent, and caring citizens. Trip takes place in late November normally beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving in Atlanta, Georgia.

-Camp Miniwanca: Senior 4-H members are selected by a resume, essay and interview process to participate in Camp Miniwanca. Application and information available from your local 4-H Office. Camp Miniwanca is a leadership development camp that offers a week-long program aimed at developing character, leadership skills, personal and group effectiveness, and nurturing balance within your life. Trip takes place in August in Shelby, Michigan.

-National 4-H Conference: Senior 4-H members are selected by a resume, essay and interview to participate in National 4-H Conference. Application and information available from your local 4-H Office. At National 4-H Conference, teen delegates take the lead by serving on consulting groups to make recommendations for future directions for 4-H and by accepting responsibility on one of the operations committees to help conduct the events and functions of the Conference. Activities include a visit to Capitol Hill and a meeting with your senator or representative. Trip takes place in late March or early April at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase.

- Virginia 4-H Congress- Senior 4-H members are selected by a resume, essay and interview process to participate in an exchange with Virginia 4-H Congress. Application and information available from your local 4-H Office. Virginia 4-H Congress mission is to provide competitive and non-competitive educational experiences to Virginia teens and the adults who work with them, helping them to develop life skills and leadership abilities to become contributing citizens in their communities. Encouraged commitment to serve as an at-large delegate to Maryland 4-H Teen Council for a year following the trip. Trip takes place in June on the campus of Virginia Tech.

-West Virginia Older 4-H Members Conference: Senior 4-H members are selected by a resume, essay and interview process to participate in an exchange with West Virginia. Application and information available from your local 4-H Office. West Virginia Older Members Conference mission is to develop leadership among older 4-H members by giving them an opportunity to participate in discussion of timely issues and problems and teach new skills which can be used in their local clubs and communities. Encouraged commitment to serve as an at-large delegate to Maryland 4-H Teen Council for a year following the trip. Trip takes place in mid-June, normally the third week of June at West Virginia University Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp.

-Citizenship Washington Focus: Summer at National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, 4-H members ages 15-19 may participate at this national citizenship program. The six day program includes field trips to cultural and historical sites in the metropolitan area, visits with Maryland legislators and many other interesting activities. A registration fee is charged; scholarships are available.

CLUB

Banner: Completing a banner for county and state fair.

Booth: Completing a booth for county fair. Top three can go on to state fair.

Float Parade and walking unit: Competing in the float parade and/or walking unit at county fair.

Scrapbook: Completing a scrapbook for county fair.

Decorated Trashcan: Completing a decorated trashcan for county fair.

MCE 4-H VOLUNTEERS

-Years of Service: Volunteers are recognized for their first year of service and every five years they work with the 4-H program.

-Special Awards: Cecil county selects and recognizes a MCE 4-H volunteer annually for lifetime volunteer, volunteer of the year, service, leadership, and citizenship annually. The names are then submitted for state recognition.

-Maryland Volunteer and Teen Forum: Cecil county s MCE 4-H can attend the State 4-H Volunteer and Teen Forum to get new ideas and programs to bring back to the local clubs.

-Maryland 4-H Program In-Services: Cecil county s MCE 4-H can attend State program area in-services to get the latest of what is going on in Maryland 4-H.

