



4-H AgVentures was a Blast!





350 4th graders from 5 County schools (Alpine Crest Elementary, Big Ridge

Elementary, Calvin Donaldson Elementary, North Hamilton County Elementary, and Soddy Elementary) came to the McDonald Farm in Sale Creek the day before the Hamilton County Fair opened in November to learn about agriculture and science. They also had the opportunity to try out the family-oriented Fair rides. Students reported that petting the animals and the rides were their favorite activities at the event. A big thank you to all of the 70 volunteers who made this fun 4-H event happen!

Little Debbie Hamilton County Fair

Special thanks to those who made the county fair a huge success by volunteering with 4-H tent, 4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club, 4-H Poultry show and tent, Master Gardeners and all the others supporting agriculture!





'Tis the Season for Giving



Toys for Tots: Master Gardeners, Hamilton County 4-H, and the UT-TSU Extension Office partnered to collect approximately 200 items for children this Christmas. Photo - Master Gardeners Hamilton County President Carlton Mathes with some of the donated toys. Skeeter Gallagher, MGHC Vice President, was the lead organizer for this effort. Thank you to Skeeter and to

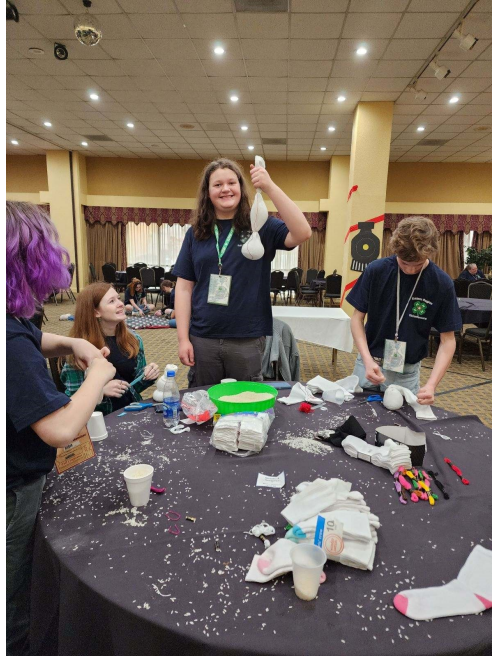
everyone who brought toys for this toy drive!



McKamey: The 4-H Citizenship Club collected donations for McKamey Animal Center in Chattanooga. Photo - Citizenship Club member Lillian Shank, Extension Agent Maria Sabin, Citizenship Club President DeMitrius Davis, and Club member Kaden Bing delivered the Shelter's requested supplies, as well as donated funds, to McKamey. Thank you to everyone who contributed! You can continue donating needed items for McKamey at [the McKamey website](#).

4-H All Star Conference





Youth attended the Fall 4-H All Star Conference in Gatlinburg, TN. Four Hamilton County youth, Beau Duvall, Carter Johnson, Nevaeh Lane and Darah Moreland, were initiated into Tennessee 4-H All Stars (the second level of recognition in Tennessee 4-H). The 4-H youth go on the 4-H Express for the conference and joined other 9th through 12th graders from the Eastern Region. During the conference they participated in region service projects, business meeting, toured Gatlinburg, attended the banquet, All Star initiation, games and evening fun. Special thanks to adult volunteer leaders Sandy Flippo and Mandi Johnson.

What's Going on with 4-H in December?

Hamilton County youth in grades 4th through 12th can participate in 4-H! Join 4-H at any time - there is no cost to join. To join, complete [the online 4-H enrollment form](#). Then, come to a 4-H meeting this month!



4-H Honor Club meets December 15 at 5:30

The December 4-H Honor Club meeting will be held Friday, December 15th, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. There will be pizza dinner and a holiday movie. Youth in 5th - 12th grade may attend. Call the office by December 13 (423-209-8560) if you plan to attend (so we know how much pizza to order). The Club 4-H public speaking contest will also be held at the meeting.

4-H Gardening Club meets December 18 at 4:30



Gardening Club Holiday Party December 18

The 4-H Gardening Club will meet December 18 for a holiday party. Crafts from nature, as well as making popcorn/cranberry strings for birds are the focus of the December meeting. A club public speaking contest will also be held at the meeting. Youth in Hamilton County in grades 4th-8th are welcome to participate in this club, and there is no cost. Meetings are held 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. Call the office with any questions 423-209-8560.

4-H Veterinary Science Club meets January 4 at 6:00



Interested in animals and veterinary science? Hamilton County youth in grades 4th-12th are invited to join the 4-H Veterinary Science Club, Chattanooga Chapter. The January meeting will focus on Military veterinarians. This club participates in the monthly Tennessee 4-H Virtual Vet Science Club, led by state 4-H Specialist Lynne Middleton. The club is a collaboration between Tennessee 4-H and the UTK College of Veterinary Medicine. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, on the 3rd floor of the Extension Office, 6183 Adamson Circle, at 6:00-7:30 p.m. Questions? Call the office 423-209-8560.

4-H Citizenship Club meets January 9 at 5:00

4-H Citizenship Club

Helping
students
become
involved
members of
their
community



The 4-H Citizenship Club meets January 9 at 5:00 p.m. This club is open to all youth in grades 4th-12th in Hamilton County. At the January meeting: Learn about 4-H Junior High Academic Conference, Chick Chain, and Tennessee 4-H Congress. Applications for all of these activities are due early in 2024. Don't forget to turn in entries for the 4-H Art Poster Contest at this meeting! Art Poster Contest rules are available at [the Extension Office website](#).

Citizenship Club meetings are held at the Extension Office, 5-6:30 p.m. 6183 Adamson Circle in Chattanooga, just off Bonny Oaks Drive. Questions? Call the office 423-209-8560.

4-H Horse Club will Compete in Regional Hippology and Horse Bowl



4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club members are meeting weekly to study and prepare for the Eastern Region Hippology and Horse Bowl contests, which are coming up in January. Interested in learning more about hippology? Check out the [Tennessee 4-H Horse Resources web page](#). The 4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

at Saddle Pals Riding Club in Soddy Daisy. Meetings focus on the study of horses, rather than horseback riding, and help members prepare for 4-H competitions that test knowledge of horses. Hamilton County youth in grades 4th-12th are welcome to participate. Interested in attending the next club meeting? Call the Extension Office 423-209-8560.



4-H Chick Chain

It is time to register for the 2024 Chick Chain. If you want to get 12 baby chicks, raise them, learn about poultry judging, and show your birds at the Hamilton County Fair then this animal science project is for you. The birds should arrive in the spring. If interested, call the Extension office and get on the interest list, 423-209-8560. The 2024 information should be posted on the website soon. Deadline is February 9, 2024.

Photo - Kaden Bing won 1st place at the 2023 4-H Chick Chain Poultry Show!



4-H Congress

The 2024 4-H Congress will be held in Nashville and Murfreesboro, March 10-13. This is the premier leadership and citizenship program for 9th and 10th graders. Those selected to attend must submit an essay and attend the 4-H Congress Readiness Day, February 19th. If you are interested in attending, contact Nancy Rucker now or by January 10th. There are limited spaces for this event.

Photo - At last year's 4-H Congress, Hamilton County delegates Sophie Cook and John Wood met Tennessee Senator Bo Watson at his offices in Nashville

2024 Japan Summer Outbound Exchange - Applications Open

Are you a 4-H member interested in traveling to Japan next summer? Tennessee 4-H offers members the opportunity to live with a Japanese host family and experience daily life in Japan through the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs. Exchange delegates immerse themselves in a world that most visitors rarely get to see while building friendships that will last a lifetime.



Two programs are offered, a four-week homestay and an eight-week homestay with the latter offering an intensive Japanese language class. Delegates must be between the ages of 15-18 for the eight-week program and between the ages of 12-18 for the four-week program.

The national application deadline is December 15. Based on past experience, applications are not accepted after the deadline. There is a minimum number of applicants accepted (20 for the eight-week program and 60 for the four-week program) so anyone interested should apply as early as possible.

Application instructions and additional materials can be found on the Tennessee 4-H website



4-H Gear Grinders Robotics Team Receives Grant from Enbridge

A big thank you to Enbridge! The Hamilton County 4-H Robotics Club received a \$2,500 grant from Enbridge, as part of the Enbridge Fueling Futures grants program. A recent Enbridge post about grants for robotics states that "supporting the education of youth is one of the ways we empower the next generation to become STEM innovators. The ingenuity of youth will help build vibrant, sustainable communities and allow us to continue to develop clean, renewable energy sources."

The grant funds are being used to purchase needed equipment for the Hamilton County 4-H Robotics Club team, the 4-H Gear Grinders, as the Club members prepare for competition in the FIRST Tech Challenge

robotics program.

Interested in robotics? Registration for the 4-H Robotics Club takes place each August. Hamilton County youth in grades 7th - 12th can participate.

Save the Date!



As the end of the year looms closer each day, it's time to begin thinking about activities for 2024! If you are a 4-H member in grades 6-8, as of January 1, keep reading for more information about participating in Academic Conference.

Academic Conference is a statewide event that brings junior high members together to learn more about 4-H, the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville, and in-depth project work in their chosen project area. The four-day conference enables youth to have fun while meeting new friends and immersing themselves in instruction by specialists and scientists on the UTK campus. More information will be coming soon but go ahead and save the date if this sounds like something fun for you!

If you would like to begin working on an application to attend Academic Conference, call the Extension Office 423-209-8560 to set up an appointment.

4-H Junior Camp

4-H Junior Camp is coming up June 10-14, 2024 at **Camp Clyde Austin** in Greeneville, TN! Grades 4th through 6th as of 1/1/2024 can attend this week of fun and learning. Make plans now to be there! Call the office (423-209-8560) to be added to the interest list for camp and to receive registration material by email when it becomes available. We are also looking for adult and teen (9th - 12th graders) leaders to attend.



4-H Horse Shows



The 2024 4-H Horse Show information will be available in late March or early April. There are region, state and national opportunities for youth to show. If you plan to show, make sure you are a registered 4-H member by completing the online form - <https://tiny.utk.edu/HC4H>

Photo – Tabor Simmons at the Tennessee State 4-H Horse Championships with her horse Teen Flo

Art Contest

The Tennessee Magazine is holding an art contest for youth ages 1 to 18. Check out the site for an opportunity to submit your art. Entry deadline is January 2, 2024. If you do enter, let us know at the Extension office.

Art Contest Info



UT-TSU Extension - Hamilton County
6183 Adamson Circle
Chattanooga, TN 37416
Phone: 423-209-8560

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Website: Hamilton.Tennessee.edu

4-H Staff:

Nancy Rucker, Extension Agent & County Director nrucker@tennessee.edu

Maria Sabin, Extension Agent msabin@tennessee.edu



Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

