



Ready for a New Year with 4-H!

The new year is full of possibilities to participate in fun 4-H activities! Create a poster for the annual 4-H Art Poster contest, apply for Tennessee 4-H Congress, register for 4-H Chick Chain, start an application for Junior High Academic Conference at UTK, work on completing your 4-H portfolio, learn about animals with the Vet Science club, learn about garden design with the Gardening Club, learn about horses with the Mane Attraction Horse Club, or join the 4-H Honor Club and Citizenship Club!

Hamilton County youth in grades 4th through 12th can participate in 4-H by joining 4-H at any time (complete [the online 4-H enrollment form](#)) and then coming to a 4-H meeting. There is no cost to join 4-H.

4-H Art Poster Contest

Entries due this month!

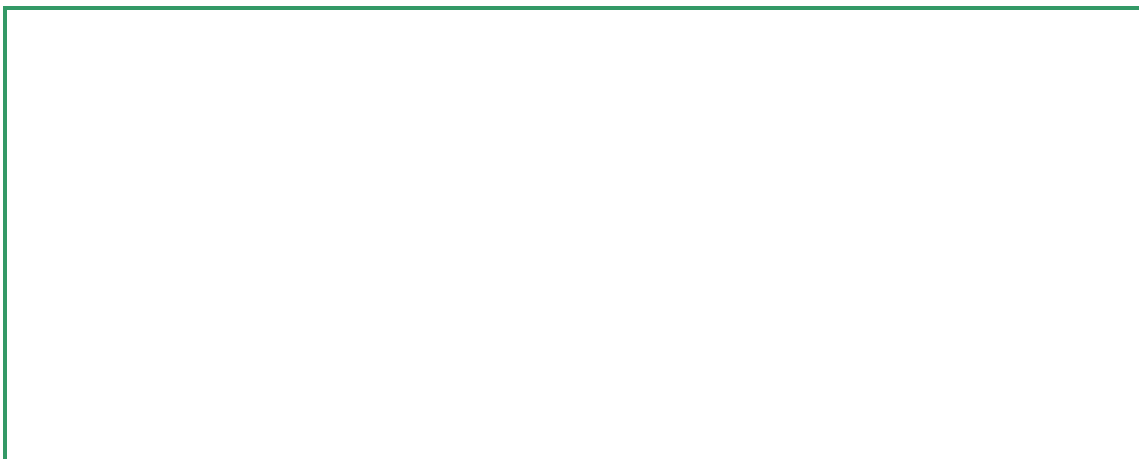


2024 State Winner - Digital Poster by Edith Provence, Hamilton County 4-H Honor Club

The annual 4-H Art Poster Contest lets youth in grades 4th-12th learn about visual communications and show off their artistic abilities! Two contests are available - a digital poster contest and a regular poster contest - and youth can enter a poster in one or both of these competitions. Turn in your poster this month in a 4-H club meeting. If you do not have a 4-H club, bring your regular poster to the Extension Office or email your digital poster to **Extension Director and 4-H Agent Nancy Rucker by January 27, 2025**

**Poster Contest
Guidelines**

4-H Congress
9th & 10th grade - Apply Now!





Hamilton County's 2024 delegation to Tennessee 4-H Congress with Representative Esther Helton-Haynes in her office in Nashville. Left to right - Carter Johnson, Carolina Shank, Beau Duvall, Rep. Helton-Haynes, Heidi Provence, Darah Moreland, Edith Provence, Nevaeh Lane, and Sandy Flippo (Adult Volunteer Leader & Congress chaperone)

The 2025 Tennessee 4-H Congress will be held in Nashville and Murfreesboro, March 9-12, 2025. This is the premier leadership and citizenship program for 9th and 10th graders. Those selected to attend must complete an online program on laws and the legislative system and also must attend the 4-H Congress Readiness Day, February 17th. If you are interested in participating in this year's 4-H Congress, contact Nancy Rucker now or **by January 15th** 423-209-8560. There are limited spaces for this event.

**4-H Congress
Information**

4-H Chick Chain

Registration now open through February 18!



Alex Ervin, 2024 4-H Chick Chain member, with one of his best hens at the Hamilton County Fair Chick Chain tent in November.

Youth in grades 4th-12th can learn how to raise poultry and can then participate in poultry judging and showing through 4-H Chick Chain! Register now through **February 18** - \$60 for 12 chicks. A required orientation will be held in March. Youth will pick up 12 day-old chicks in late April or early May, raise them through the spring and summer, and bring 3 hens to the Hamilton County Fair in the Fall for the 4-H Chick Chain Show and Sale. Learn more at the website of the Extension Office or by calling or visiting the Extension Office during business hours (8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday) 423-209-8560.

**Chick Chain
Information**

4-H Junior High Academic Conference

**Grades 6th - 8th
June 10-13 at UTK
Applications due March 28 - Get Started Today!**



4-H members in grades 6th through 8th (as of 1/1/25) can apply for 4-H Academic Conference, to be held at UTK June 10-13, 2025. Youth who are chosen as delegates for this Conference will receive extensive, hands-on training in project areas under the supervision of university scientists and specialists at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. They will stay on campus in the UTK dorms with other 4-H youth from across the state and will be chaperoned by adult 4-H volunteer leaders. The application process includes a summary (on a Section A or Section C form) of the youth's activities to date in a particular project area.

Available project areas are Beef, Citizenship, Communication/Public Speaking, Companion Animals, Computers & Technology, Consumer Education, Creative Arts and Design, Dairy Cattle, Food Science/Dairy Foods, Forestry/Wildlife/Fisheries, Goat, Horticulture/Gardening, Horse, Nutrition/Health/Fitness, Outdoor Recreation/Shooting Sports, Performing Arts, Poultry, Sheep, or Swine.

Get started on your Section A (or, for Citizenship, Section C) now - these are due to the Extension office by **March 28**, for review by the County 4-H Agents. Contact the Extension Office with questions, or for assistance in filling out the Section A or Section C- 423-209-8560

Download Section A to start an application

4-H Portfolios

Win Awards, Trips and Scholarships for your Project Work!



All 6th – 12th graders can submit a 4-H Portfolio for competition for either region or state (senior high) competition. At the Senior High level there are scholarships and trips as part of the awards. To start a portfolio, download the Section A, B, and C forms. For help in creating or completing your portfolio, contact the Extension Office to speak with a 4-H Agent 423-209-8560. Portfolios are due to the Extension Office by the dates below, for review by the County 4-H Agents.

Senior High (9th - 12th grades) Citizenship and Leadership portfolios are due for review by January 15

Junior High (6th – 8th grades) Portfolios are due for review by March 24.

Senior High (9th – 12th grades) Project portfolios are due for review by March 21.

**Portfolio Forms and
Information**

What's Going on with 4-H Clubs in January?

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!

Join 4-H!

4-H Honor Club and Citizenship Club January 14 at 5:00



Noah Ham and Liam Cook making dog toys as part of the club service project at the December 4-H Honor Club and Citizenship Club meeting

The 4-H Honor Club and 4-H Citizenship Club meet at the Extension Office once a month on the 2nd Tuesday. 4-H Honor club is open to grades 5th-12th in Hamilton County. Youth can attend meetings while working on a 4-H Honor Club application! The next meeting is Tuesday, January 14 at 5:00 p.m. at the Extension Office.

At the December meeting, Honor Club and Citizenship Club members participated in a club service project organized by Honor Club Officer Darah Moreland. Club members made toys for dogs in local shelters and also collected donations of food and other items for the shelters.



4-H Honor Club members Ellie Avelis, Edith Provence, and Heidi Provence work on dog toys as part of the Honor Club service project



4-H Honor club Officer Darah Moreland organized the club's service project in December

4-H Veterinary Science Club

January 9 at 6:00



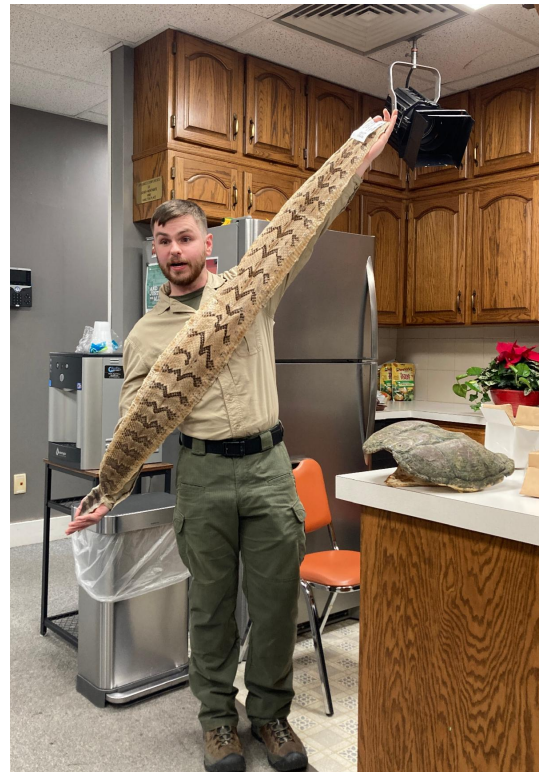
Can you name a species whose young can eat only one plant (a plant which is toxic to cattle and horses)? Do you know which species can fly more than 200 miles per hour? How about which member of the canine species can climb trees? Come learn about the fascinating wild animals found in Tennessee and prepare for the 4-H Wildlife Contest in the 4-H Veterinary Science Club!

The 4-H Veterinary Science club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Extension Office. Grades 4th through 12th are welcome. There is no cost to participate in this club, and new members are always welcome. The next meeting is Thursday, January 9 at 6:00-7:30 p.m. Questions? Email HamiltonCounty4H@tennessee.edu.

At last month's Veterinary Science Club meeting, club members heard from Park Rangers Leigh Gardner and Lukas Barber about the comparative anatomy of different animals. A big thank you to Leigh and Lukas for this wonderful presentation!



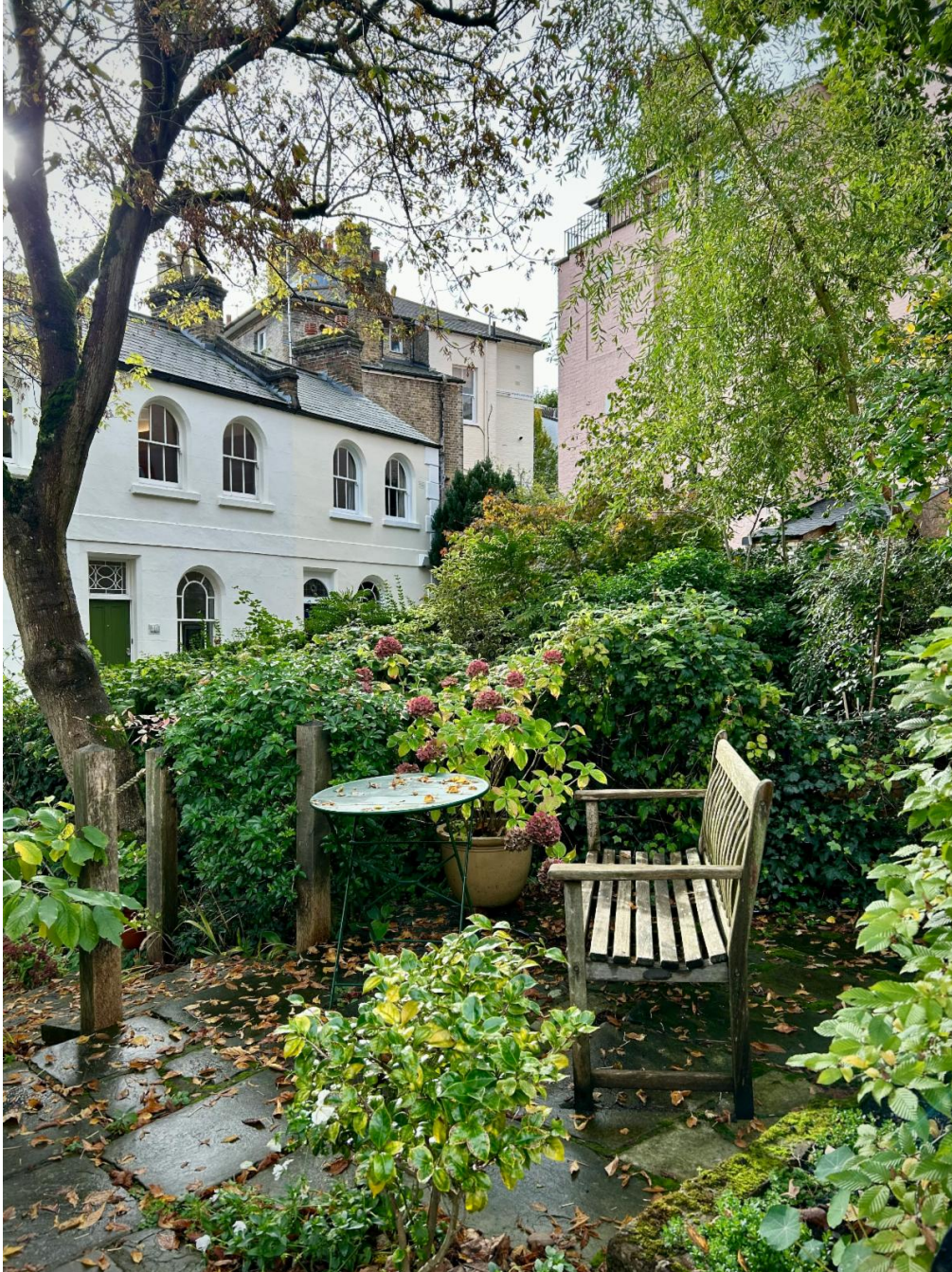
Tennessee Park Rangers Lukas Barber and Leigh Gardner talked with 4-H Veterinary Science Club members about the comparative sizes of animal brains.



Park Ranger Lukas Barber showed the Vet Science Club members a timber rattlesnake pelt.

4-H Gardening Club

January 27 at 4:30



The 4-H Gardening Club will learn some of the principles of landscape design at the January meeting. Youth in Hamilton County in grades 4th-8th are welcome to participate in this club by attending the next meeting. Meetings are held 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. Call the office with any questions 423-209-8560 or email 4-H Agent Maria Sabin. There is no cost to participate in this club, and new members are always welcome.

4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club

February 3 at 6:30



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 competitions through 4-H that test knowledge of horses. The next competition is the 4-H Hippology and Horse Bowl Contest at UTK on January 18!

Hamilton County youth in grades 4th-12th are welcome to participate. There is no cost to participate in this club, and you do not need to own a horse. Interested in attending the next club meeting? Text the 4-H Horse Club Volunteer Leader, Adam Presley, for additional information (423-595-5409)

4-H Archery Club update

4-H Archery club members participated in the annual Candy Cane Shoot at the December club practice. Club members who shot their arrow closest to the center of the target won a box of candy canes.

Interested in joining the 4-H Archery Club next year? The Archery Club holds a preview day each August (required for new members) and practices September through April. Call the Extension Office (423-209-8560) to be added to the list for information about the next Archery Preview Day when it is available. There is an annual registration fee for this activity. Grades 4th-12th.



Senior high 4-H Archery Club Candy Cane Shoot winners Lauren Bardoner, Jonathan Waian, and Sophie Cook



4-H Agent Maria Sabin with



4-H Juniors Candy Cane

4-H Robotics Club update

4-H Robotics Club members are preparing for three upcoming scrimmages and the state FTC robotics championship in the next two months. January is a very busy time for this group!

The 4-H Robotics Club is for youth in grades 7th-12th with an interest in robotics, coding, and STEM. Club members come from across the county and from multiple schools or home schools and are part of the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Team #18689, the 4-H Gear Grinders. Students brainstorm, build, and program a team robot to compete in FTC scrimmages and championships, with help from adult volunteers who serve as team mentors.

The Club season is September through February or March. There is an annual registration fee for this activity. To be added to the interest list for next year, call the Extension Office (423-209-8560).



Robotics team members Ellie Avelis, Heidi Provence, Anay Srivastava, and Noah Ham working on the team robot



Team members Logan Payne, Robby Hanson, John Wood, Noah Ham, Heidi Provence, and Anay Srivastava work with team mentor Jerry McClanahan on getting the robot ready for competition.

4-H Honor Club Tours the Governor's Residence



The 4-H Honor Club toured the Tennessee Governor's Residence in December. The Governor's Residence was beautifully decorated for Christmas, and the Club members enjoyed seeing the decorations and learning more about this historic mansion.



4-H Honor Club members DeMitrius Davis, Liam Cook, and Joel Seo with a silver bowl from the USS Tennessee at the Governor's Residence. This punch bowl was aboard the USS Tennessee when the battleship was badly damaged in the attack at Pearl Harbor. These club members have relatives who served in the U.S. military.



4-H Honor Club members Kaden Bing and Joel Seo with a gingerbread replica of the Governor's residence. The gingerbread house was created by the Peabody Hotel pastry chef.

4-H Paper Clover Campaign

The 4-H Paper Clover campaign was successful at each of the TSC stores in Hamilton County – Soddy Daisy, Chattanooga, and Ooltewah. Youth were at a TSC store and encouraged shoppers to donate to 4-H to support camp scholarships and leadership opportunities for youth and volunteers.



Heidi and Hunter Provence encouraged shoppers to support the Tractor Supply Company's 4-H paper clover campaign.



Avery and Abby at the Soddy Daisy Tractor Supply Store



Ellie Avelis talked about 4-H with shoppers at the Tractor Supply Store



John Wood, Noah Ham, Heidi Provence, and Edith Provence at the Ooltewah Tractor Supply Store

4-H SEC Holiday Party



Youth from eight counties celebrated the holidays as part of the 4-H SEC Party held at the Bradley County Extension office. Youth enjoyed holiday snacks, made crafts, participated in a service project writing notes to adult seniors, teamed up for holiday and 4-H trivia and enjoyed holiday group games and stocking swap. Those attending from Hamilton County included: Ellie Avelis, Kaden Bing, Liam Cook, Sophie Cook, Beau Duvall, Robby Hanson, Nevaeh Lane, Kevin Lawrence, Edith Provence, Heidi Provence, John Wood.



Kevin, Nevaeh, and Heidi creating crafts at the SEC Holiday party



Ellie and Edith enjoying snacks at the party



Nevaeh with the holiday craft she created at the party



Sophie writing a note to a senior adult as part of the service project at the SEC Holiday party

More Opportunities with 4-H!

Host a student from Japan with 4-H International Exchange Program!

Interested in a global experience without ever leaving your home? Tennessee 4-H is partnering with States' 4-H International Exchange Programs to give families the unique opportunity to host a Japanese student for a 4-week cultural immersion experience this summer.

Dates for the 2025 exchange are July 21 through August 16. No special activities need to be planned as these youth are looking to experience life in the United States, make new friends, and improve their English ability by staying with an American family.

Host families provide a supportive home environment and receive an orientation prior to the delegates' arrival conducted by



UT Extension professionals. Families should have a young person of the same gender and age range as the Japanese delegate.

The deadline to apply to host a Japanese youth in your home this summer is **April 1**. This will be the fourth year for Tennessee to host international students. 45 families from 23 counties have participated over the past three years!

Learn More about the Exchange Program!

4-H Junior Camp

June 9-13

4-H Junior Camp is coming up June 9-13, 2025 at **Camp Clyde Austin** in Greeneville, TN! Grades 4th through 6th as of 1/1/2025 can attend this week of fun and learning. Make plans now to be there! Call the Extension office today (423-209-8560) to be added to the interest list for camp and to receive registration material by email when it becomes available. Camp registration fee is \$400, which includes all expenses (transportation to and from camp, food, lodging, activities, and a camp t-shirt). Scholarships are available. We are also looking for adult and teen (9th - 12th graders) leaders to attend.



4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest January 18



Grades 4th through 12th can participate in the Eastern Region 4-H Hippology and Horse Bowl Contests at UTK on January 18! You are not required to be a member of the 4-H Horse Club to participate (although it is a good way to study for the contest). If you are interested in competing at this event, contact the Extension Office (423-209-8560) by **January 10**, so that we can register you. Contest check-in is 9:30-10 a.m. in the lobby of the Brehm Animal Science Building at UTK.

**4-H Hippology & Horse Bowl
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.

