

February 4-H Newsletter



UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

tsu **COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

4-H is open to all youth in grades 4th through 12th, and there is no cost to join! [Enroll in 4-H](#) in February and start participating in activities that you will love this month!



4-H Art Poster Contest Winners

The 2026 Hamilton County 4-H Art Poster Contest results are in, and the top three posters in both the digital and the handmade categories have been sent on to the Regional contest. Congratulations to the first-place County winners, whose posters are shown below, and to all of the 4-H members who submitted their artwork for this annual contest!



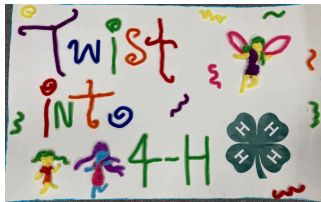
County 1st place
digital poster by
Caroline Laymon,
CSAS



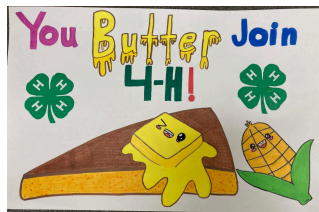
County 1st place
digital poster by Lillian
Shank, 4-H Honor
Club



County 1st place
digital poster by Kyler
Loynd, 4-H Robotics
Club



County 1st place
handmade poster by
Ayas Zeebaree,
Hixson Elementary



County 1st place
handmade poster by
Joyce Seo, CSLA/4-H
Veterinary Science
Club



County 1st place
handmade poster by
Melanie Portillo,
Hamilton County
Virtual School

Eastern Region 4-H Hippology and Horse Bowl Contests

Congratulations to the members of the Hamilton County Mane Attraction 4-H Club who participated in the Regional 4-H Hippology and Horse Bowl Contests, held in January at UTK! The Senior High Team and Junior High Team both won 4th place in their respective Hippology contests and qualified to



compete at the State contest!
Individual competitors from
Hamilton County include –
Lillian Shank, Ophelia
Peterson, Brooklynn Reynolds,
and Bella Creek.

Way to go – Alana Bourgo!
Alana received 10th place
individual honors in the Junior
High division.



Mane Attraction 4-H Horse Club
members at the Eastern Region
Hippology and Horse Bowl
contests with Club Volunteer
Leader Adam Presley



Junior High Team Alana Bourgo,
Emmy Dawkins, Lucy Longtin,
and Myla Holland won 4th in
Hippology



Senior High Team Kailee
Coulter, Beau Duvall, Sadie
Holland, and Evie Nazor won
4th in Hippology

4-H Public Speaking Contest

The Hamilton County 4-H Public Speaking Contest was held at Chattanooga State Community College on January 23. Congratulations to the participants, all of whom gave great speeches, and to the first-place winners, who advance to the Multi-County or Regional contests!



4th grade participants: Daniella D'Amore, Gideon Tucker, Lincoln Manning, 3rd place - Elizabeth Addison, 1st place - Cadence Duguay, Alana Mullikin, and 2nd place - Chloe Porter.



5th grade participants: 1st place - Joyce Seo, 2nd place - Melanie Portillo, 3rd place - Ryan Scott, Rhine Holzhauser (not pictured)



Middle School participants: 2nd place - Joe Longtin, 6th grade, 1st place - Atharva Kolappan, 7th grade, 1st place - Angelo D'Amore, 6th grade, 1st place - Dominic D'Amore, 8th grade.



Senior High participants: 2nd place - Darah Moreland, 11th grade, 1st place - Lillian Shank, 9th grade, 1st place - Noah Ham, 11th grade, 1st place - Liam Cook, 10th grade

Contests Coming Up in February!

Get ready for these contests in your 4-H club this month, or check with a 4-H Agent about participating in them.

- Club and Classroom 4-H Demonstrations Contests - 4th and 5th grade
 - Club and Classroom 4-H Interactive Exhibits Contests - 6th through 8th grade
 - Regional 4-H History Bowl - 9th and 10th grade youth attending Tennessee 4-H Congress Readiness Day
 - National - 4-H Cornbread Cookoff entries due Feb 27 - 4th through 6th grade
-

It's Chick Chain Time in Tennessee!

Register by February 20. Youth in grades 4th-12th in Hamilton County can learn how to raise poultry and take home 12 chicks to raise by participating in 4-H Chick Chain. The cost is \$60. Participants will bring three hens to the County Fair in November for the 4-H Chick Chain Show and Auction, with auction proceeds split between the 4-H'er and the program. Students who live in the city limits of Chattanooga will receive 8 chicks, to comply with city code.



The 4-H Chick Chain registration fee (\$60) can be [paid online](#), and the registration form can be [downloaded](#), completed, and then [emailed to HamiltonCounty4H@tennessee.edu](mailto:HamiltonCounty4H@tennessee.edu). The registration fee can also be paid at the Extension Office by cash, check (payable to University of Tennessee), or credit card during office hours (8:00-4:30, Monday through Friday). The UT-TSU Extension Hamilton County office is located at 6183 Adamson Circle, Chattanooga, TN 37416. Please call the office with any questions 423-209-8560.

[More Chick Chain Info](#)

Tennessee 4-H Congress



Congratulations to the delegates selected to attend the 79th Annual Tennessee 4-H Congress! Those attending from Hamilton County are Sadie Holland, Zander Mosley and Tim Ringheimer.

This event is one of the state's premier 4-H events, bringing together high school members to learn about government, citizenship, and leadership. Held at the State Capitol in Nashville, Congress gives youth the chance to step into the role of a legislator by debating bills, holding elections, and experiencing how government works firsthand.

What's Going on in 4-H Clubs This Month?

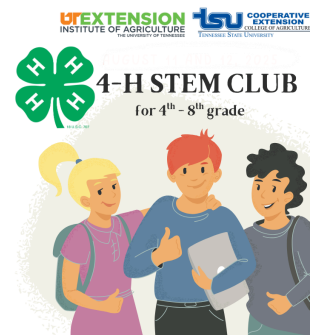


4-H Horse Club Meets Monday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Grades 4th-12th. The Mane Attraction 4-H Horse Club meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Saddle Pals Riding Club in Soddy Daisy. The focus of this club is preparing for contests on horse knowledge, not riding horses. For more information, or to attend the next meeting, contact Volunteer Leader Adam Presley by text (423) 595-5409.

4-H STEM Club Meets Monday, February 9 at 5:00 p.m.

Grades 4th-8th. The 4-H STEM Club meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Extension Office (6183 Adamson Circle in Chattanooga). Club members work in teams of two or three to learn coding and robotics using Sphero robots. A new engineering challenge at each meeting makes this a fun club! New club members are welcome at every meeting. For more information, [email 4-H Agent Maria Sabin](#)





4-H Vet Science Club Field Trip Monday, February 16 to the Tennessee Aquarium

Sign up by February 9. All Hamilton County 4-H'ers grades 4th-12th are welcome to join the 4-H Vet Science Club on a fun field trip to the Tennessee Aquarium on February 16 (President's Day), 2-5 p.m. The group price for tickets is \$10 per youth and \$32.50 per adult for any parents/guardians who would like to accompany their children on this trip. Tickets must be paid for by February 9. You can [pay for tickets online](#) or at the Extension Office by cash, check (payable to University of Tennessee), or credit card during office hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00-4:30). Grades 4th - 12th. There is a limit of 20 youth and 10 adult participants.



4-H Gardening Club Meets Monday, February 23 at 4:30 p.m.

The 4-H Gardening Club is open to all youth in 4th through 8th grade, and new members are always welcome. Meetings focus on planting, tending, and harvesting in the garden and on insects found in Tennessee. A craft related to gardening is included at each meeting. Meetings are held at the Extension Office (6183 Adamson Circle) on the last Monday of each month at 4:30-6:00 p.m. At the February meeting, club

members will learn about starting seeds indoors for transplanting later into the garden and will plant herb seeds to take home, for transplant into their own yards or gardens.



4-H Honor Club Meets Tuesday, February 24 at 5:30 p.m.

The 4-H Honor Club is open to all 5th through 12th grade youth in Hamilton County who have shown leadership and have been active members in their club and community. Those considering membership are welcome to attend meetings while they work on their membership applications.

The Honor Club focuses on both developing leadership skills and on providing service in the community. At each meeting, members will learn about opportunities for service. Meetings are held at the UT-TSU Extension Hamilton County office. The address is 6183 Adamson Circle.

Special thanks to Darah Moreland – she presented a program on Bees at the January Honor Club meeting. She has developed a fun Jeopardy-like game. All those who participated loved the questions and competition.



More Opportunities With

4-H!

4-H Academic Conference Grades 6th-8th at UTK June 9-12

Apply by March 30. Held on the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville, Academic Conference offers hands-on learning under the guidance of university scientists and specialists. Delegates will take part in activities in classrooms, laboratories, and outdoor settings, all designed to build skills in a project area of their choosing and spark curiosity. You don't have to be a top student to attend—this conference is open to anyone ready to learn, try new things, and grow through exciting experiences. The week also includes time for fun, friendship, and celebration, highlighted by a special Graduation Banquet.



You can apply to attend Academic Conference in one of the following project areas:

- Beef
- Citizenship
- Communication/Public Speaking
- Companion Animals
- Computers & Technology
- Consumer Education/Entrepreneurship
- Creative Arts and Design
- Dairy Cattle
- Food Science/Dairy Foods
- Forestry/Wildlife/Fisheries
- Goat
- Healthy Living
- Horse
- Outdoor Recreation/Shooting Sports
- Performing Arts
- Plant Sciences
- Poultry
- Sheep

- Swine
- Vet Science



For assistance with the Academic Conference application, please contact the Extension office (423-209-8560) and set up a time to meet with a 4-H Agent. Meetings are available in person or online.

Academic Conference info

4-H Summer Camps!

It's time to start signing up for 4-H camps for this coming summer! Tennessee 4-H offers summer camping experiences for youth in grades 4th through 12th. Find out about 4-H Junior Camp (grades 4-6), Junior High Camp (grades 6-8),

Fashion and Design Conference (grades 6-12), Target SMART Shooting Sports Camp (grades 5-9), Culinary Camp (grades 6-12), Quilting Camp (grades 6-12), Angler Adventures (grades 6-8, April 2026), Destination Design (grades 9-12), and more. Register for camp today and have a great summer at [4-H Summer Camps!](#)



4-H Summer Camp Info

**4-H Cornbread Cook-off
Entries due by February 27**

Grades 4th through 6th can participate in the 4-H Cornbread Cook-off! Send in your cornbread recipe by February 27 (see the entry form for instructions on sending it). Be

sure to use the entry form linked below and to include cooking your cornbread in a Lodge Cast Iron pan! The top 10 recipes will be chosen, and the 4-H'ers who sent in these recipes will compete in the 4-H Cornbread Cook-off at the National Cornbread Festival in South Pittsburgh, Tennessee on April 26, 2026. First prize is \$500, plus gifts from Lodge Cast Iron, the contest sponsor!



[Cornbread Cook-Off Entry Form](#)

Spring 4-H All Stars Conference March 20-22

Register by March 2. All 9th – 12th graders are invited to attend the 2026 Spring 4-H All Star Conference (you do not have to be an All Star to attend). If you have not attended an All Star Conference in the past the first four who register are eligible for \$50 off the fee of \$150. [See brochure for more information](#)

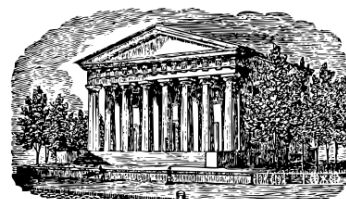
Transportation will be available if there are multiple youth planning to attend.

This year, the conference will be held at the Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville, TN, March 20-22 (earlier date). The theme is Go for the Greek! 4-H Olympics.

The registration deadline is March 2nd. The region officer elections will also be held. Click the button below for more information about All Stars and Elections.

[More about All Stars and Elections](#)

EASTERN REGION
4-H ALL-STARS
PRESENT



GO FOR THE
GREEK!
4-H OLYMPICS

MARCH 20-22
CLYDE AUSTIN 4-H CENTER

4-H Beekeeping Essay



Love bees? Enjoy writing? Here's your chance to do both—and win prizes! The theme for 2026 has not yet been released. You can go to the site to find out more information. The deadline to submit your essay is March 15th to beeessay@utk.edu

Top essays at both the state and national levels are eligible for cash awards and recognition.

<https://4h.tennessee.edu/state-regional-and-national-4-h-programs-and-events/beekeeping-essay-contest/>

4-H Scholarships



Seniors (12th graders) in 4-H may submit their application for 4-H Scholarships by May 1st. **The scholarship database will be open March 1st.** There are multiple scholarships available. Contact a 4-H Agent for the list of scholarships and more information.

Tennessee 4-H Newsletter

Stay connected with the 2026 Tennessee 4-H Newsletter, your quarterly source for the latest program updates and opportunities available that would be of interest to our members, families, volunteers, and staff. This is a state-wide newsletter.

<https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/2016475/1983979/>

Youth Ag Night
UT vs. Oklahoma
February 18 at 7 p.m. ET



**Youth
AG
night**

University of Tennessee vs. Oklahoma Sooners

Thompson-Bolling
Arena at Food City Center

**TICKETS
\$21⁰⁵**

FEBRUARY 18, 2026
Tip-Off @ 7:00 pm EST

Schedule (subject to change)
panel discussion: 4:00-5:30
pizza served: 5:30-6:30

TO PURCHASE
TICKETS
Order →



CO-OP

Farm Bureau
INSURANCE
Tennessee

Farm Bureau
HEALTH PLANS
Tennessee

Farm
Bureau
Tennessee

Questions?
Paige Bottoms,
Director of Marketing, Tennessee Farm Bureau
Paige.bottoms@tfbf.com

T HERBERT
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

Youth Ag Night is February 18, with tip-off at 7:00 p.m. ET. UT vs Oklahoma Sooners. Tickets are \$21.05 and [can be purchased online](#). Schedule is subject to change: Panel discussion 4-5:30; Pizza served 5:30-6. Questions? Contact Paige Bottoms, Director of Marketing for the Tennessee Farm Bureau, at Paige.bottoms@tfbf.com

Ag Night with the Nashville Preds
April 13 at 7 p.m. CT

**EDU
SERIES**

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The Farm Bureau Family

MONDAY, APRIL 13TH
@ 7:00 PM CT

Ticket Package Includes:
Panel - 1:00pmCT
Tour - 2:00pmCT
Game Ticket
Hat

TICKET PACKAGE
(HAT) : \$52

Ag Night with the Nashville Preds is April 13 at 7:00 p.m. Central Time. The ticket package is \$52 and includes a Panel at 1:00 p.m. CT, A Tour at 2:00 p.m. CT, game ticket, and a hat.

Hamilton County Young Farmers and Ranchers shirts for sale



T-Shirts for Sale!!

\$20 each

Come see Savannah in Rm 202 to get your shirt today!

6183 Adamson Circle Chattanooga TN 37416



Sign up to receive the 4-H email newsletter monthly in your email inbox

UT-TSU Extension Hamilton
County Newsletter Sign-Up



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

Lauren Tewalt, Extension Program Assistant II ltewalt@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.

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