



Congratulations to Hamilton County's 4-H Public Speaking Regional Winner, Lillian Shank!



Congratulations to Lillian Shank, who won first place in 9th grade prepared speech in the Regional 4-H Public Speaking Contest held on February 7! Wish her good luck as she advances to the State contest in Nashville in March!

Congratulations to Hamilton County's 4-H Art Poster Contest Regional Winners!

Four posters from Hamilton County won first place in the Eastern Region and are now in the state contest! See all of the regional winners at the [website of the UT Extension Eastern Region](#). Stay tuned for updates on this contest. . .



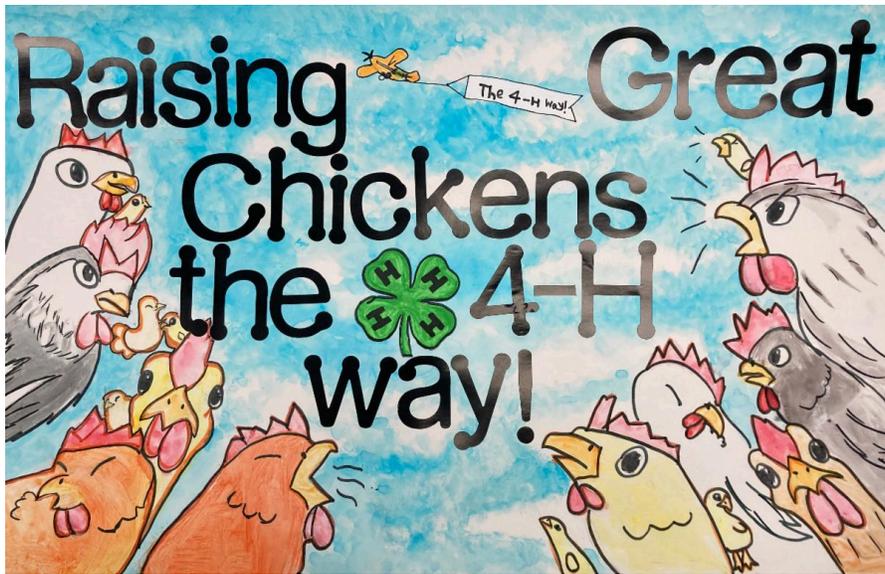
Digital poster by Lillian Shank, 4-H Honor Club/4-H Horse Club



Digital poster by Caroline Laymon, Chattanooga School for Arts and Sciences



Digital poster by Kyler Loynd, 4-H Robotics Club



Handmade poster by Melanie Portillo, Hamilton County Virtual School

4-H Congress Readiness Day



Congratulations to Sadie Holland, who was elected the Eastern Region candidate for Tennessee 4-H Congress Speaker of the Senate. She will be serving as a senator at this event. Make the Senate Shine! Vote for Sadie Holland. Good luck on your election, Sadie!

March is Extension Month!

TENNESSEE 4-H

PROUDLY SERVES

154,486

YOUTH ACROSS THE STATE



MARCH IS EXTENSION MONTH!

VISIT 4H.TENNESSEE.EDU FOR MORE INFORMATION

What is Extension? Extension is an outreach branch of the University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University, providing research-based information and education programs to the citizens of Tennessee. There is an Extension office in all 95 counties in Tennessee! Programs include 4-H for grades 4th-12th, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Horticulture, Animal Science), and Family and Consumer Sciences (Nutrition, Wellness, Financial Literacy). The UT-TSU Extension Hamilton County Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Find out more about Extension at [the Extension website](#)

Get Involved in a 4-H Competition this Month!

March Extension Month Photo Contest Entries due by March 28



"Horse in Barn" - 2025 Contest entry by Sadie Holland. 1st place in "Animals" category, and 1st place in Viewers' Choice.

Enter the Extension Month Photo Contest by sending in your best photos to the Extension Office **by March 28!** Both youth and adult competitions are available. Find out how to enter this contest (**entries must follow contest rules**) at the [Extension Office website](#).

[Photo Contest Rules](#)

2026 4-H Piggy Bank Pageant Contest Entries due by March 26

Turn in a photo of the piggy bank you create at a March 4-H club meeting or to the Extension office **by March 26** to enter this fun contest! Use items you have at home, and be sure you can put money in and take it out without damaging the bank. Size limit is 12" x 12" x 12". Email photos to HamiltonCounty4H@tennessee.edu to enter this contest! The contest includes separate categories for youth in Pre-K through 12th grade. Photos of winning piggy banks from each county will be placed on the state's Vote for the Pig website in April,

and Tennesseans across the state will vote for their favorite piggy bank!



2025 Hamilton County 9th-12th grade Piggy Bank Pageant winning bank by Lauren Bardoner, 4-H Archery club

[Piggy Bank Pageant Guidelines](#)

County 4-H Demonstration & Interactive Exhibit Contest - RSVP by March 23!

The Hamilton County 4-H Countywide Demonstration Contest for grades 4th and 5th, and the Interactive Exhibits Contest for grades 6th-8th, will take place Friday, March 27 at Chattanooga State Community College in the Gerald McCormick Engineering Center. 4th and 5th grade students who won first place in their classroom or club demonstration contests, as well as all Hamilton County 6th-8th grade students who created an interactive exhibit this year, are welcome to participate. Let us know you will be at this contest **by March 23** - call the Extension Office at 423-209-8560 or email HamiltonCounty4H@tennessee.edu.

4-H Honeybee Essay Contest Entries due by March 16



Enter the Beekeeping Essay Contest! All information on the Honey Bee Essay Contest is found at <https://tiny.utk.edu/BeeEssay..>

All essays are to be submitted to beeessay@utk.edu. The **submission deadline is March 16.**

The Beekeeping Essay Contest allows 4-H'ers to use their writing and research skills in developing an essay on a beekeeping-related topic. Cash awards are available to winners on the national and state level.

2026 Topic: The Power of Pollen

Honeybee Essay Contest Info

Sign Up for a 4-H Camp or Conference Today!

4-H offers camping opportunities for juniors (grades 4th and 5th), junior high/middle school (grades 6th through 8th), and senior high (grades 9th through 12th). Registration is open now. [Check out the Hamilton County Extension Office's 4-H camp page for more information](#) or call the Extension Office 423-209-8560.

Get Info on 4-H Camps!

4-H Junior Camp

**June 8-12 at Clyde Austin 4-H Center
Grades 4th - 6th**

Registration deadline is May 21

4-H Junior Camp is June 8-12, 2026 at [Clyde Austin 4-H Center](#) in Greeneville, TN. Grades 4th through 6th have a fun week in the

Tennessee mountains! **Registration is open through May 21 or until full** (space is limited). Online registration and fee payment (\$400) is available at tiny.utk.edu/4HJrCamp .

Registration fee can be paid **online** or at the Extension Office by cash, money order, credit card, or check payable to "University of Tennessee." **Scholarships are available**. Transportation to and from camp, as well as lodging, food, and activities, are covered by the registration fee.

Activities at camp include swimming in an Olympic-size pool with waterslide, fishing, fishing tournament, archery and rifle ranges, woodworking, wildlife and fossil centers, nature walks, tie dyeing or airbrushing t-shirts, Ga Ga ball, basketball, kickball, canoeing, kayaking, and more. Campers stay in air-conditioned lodges and eat great home-cooked meals in the air-conditioned dining hall.



Hamilton County's 2026 Junior Camp is coming up at Clyde Austin 4-H center in the Tennessee mountains. The camp's Olympic size pool offers a waterslide, diving boards, and fun for all swimming abilities!

[Get Junior Camp Information](#)

4-H Academic Conference

June 9-12 at UTK

Grades 6th - 8th

**Applications due to the Extension Office by
March 27**



4-H members in grades 6th through 8th (as of 1/1/26) can apply for the [4-H Academic Conference](#), to be held at UTK June 9-12, 2026. 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 asks youth to make a summary of activities from the past year in a particular project area.

Available project areas are 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 and Shooting Sports, Performing Arts, Plant Sciences, Poultry, Sheep, Swine, and Veterinary Science.

Applications are due by March 27 to the Extension Office. Contact the Extension Office with questions, or for assistance in filling out the application - 423-209-8560 or HamiltonCounty4H@tennessee.edu

Get Academic Conference Info & Application Form

4-H Fashion & Design Conference

June 1-4 at Ramsey Hotel in Pigeon Forge
Grades 6th - 12th
Application deadline is April 1

EASTERN REGION

4-H FASHION & DESIGN CONFERENCE

\$250

June 1-4, 2026

The Ramsey Hotel Pigeon Forge

6th-12th Grade

(must have completed 6th grade)



The Fashion & Design conference will be held June 1-4 in Pigeon Forge. The cost is \$250. The conference is open to 6th – 12th graders. There will be a sewing project, design workshops, offsite adventure at the Dolly Parton Stampede, a dance party and fashion show, and more. Deadline to turn in payment and registration is April 1. Space is limited.

Fashion & Design
Conference Info

Join 4-H!

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!

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

4-H STEM Club Monday, March 9 at 5:00



The 4-H STEM Club is for grades 4th - 8th who enjoy robotics, coding, and tech. The club meets once a month at the Extension office to do fun coding activities using Spheros and Block coding. The March 9 meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m., and new Hamilton County youth are always welcome!

4-H Veterinary Science Club Monday, March 23 at 6:00



Interested in animals and veterinary science? Hamilton County youth in grades 4th-12th are invited to come to a meeting of the 4-H Veterinary Science Club. The March 23 meeting will focus on members of the weasel family, as well as on preparing to participate in the 4-H Wildlife Judging competition (see photo of a past competition, above), which is coming up on May 15. Meetings are held on the 1st floor of the Extension Office, 6183 Adamson Circle, at 6:00-7:30 p.m. There is no cost to participate, and no advance registration is needed. Questions? Call the office 423-209-8560.



4-H Veterinary Science Club members and friends took a field trip to the Tennessee Aquarium in February! Club members were able to see some of the fish and invertebrates included in the 4-H Wildlife Competition at the Aquarium.

4-H Honor Club
Tuesday, March 24 at 5:30



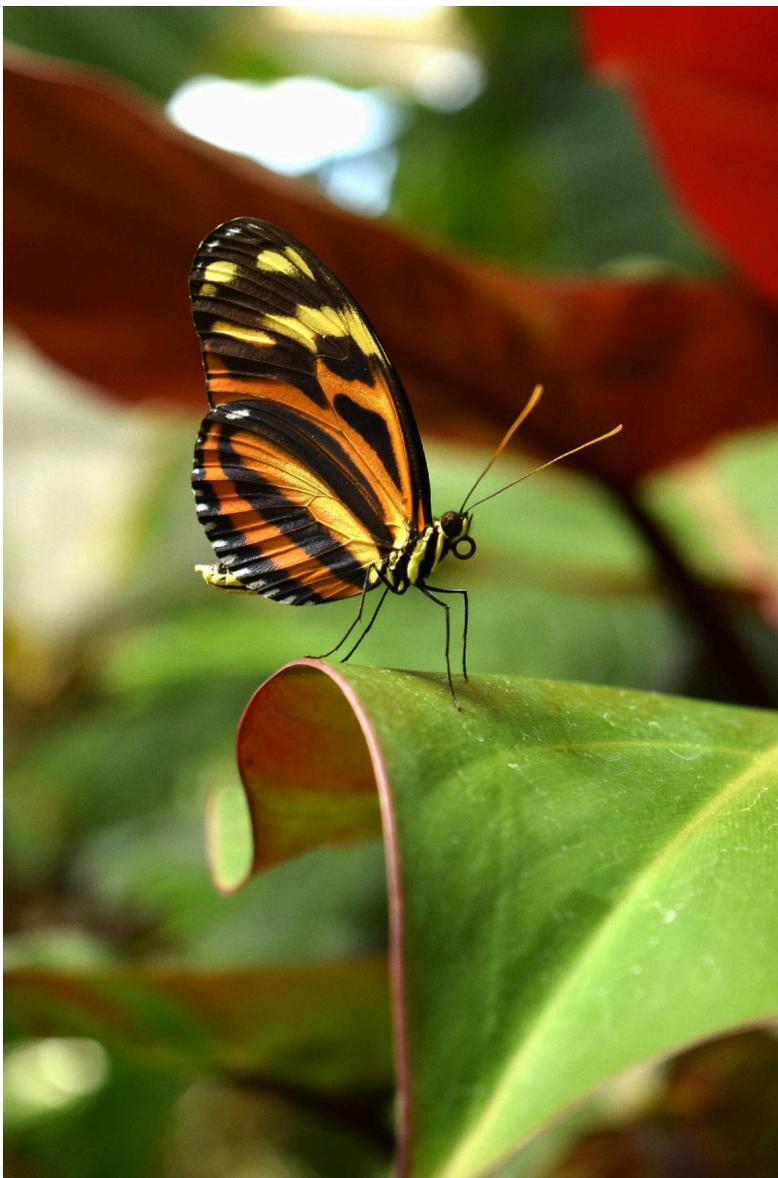
This club for grades 5th - 12th is open to all 4-H club members - we will work with you to get the points necessary to join the 4-H Honor Club. The Honor Club meets Tuesday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the Extension Office. Questions? Call the office 423-209-8560.

State 4-H Council Presentation at Honor Club



Noah Ham, Hamilton County 4-H youth and Tennessee State 4-H Council member, presented at the February 4-H Honor Club meeting. He shared information about Tennessee 4-H and encouraged youth to be more involved in their community and to take on leadership roles.

4-H Gardening Club meets Monday, March 30 at 4:30



The 4-H Gardening Club will learn about pollinator gardens with Darah Moreland at the March 30 meeting. Club members will vote on adding plants to the 4-H garden bed to attract pollinators. Youth in Hamilton County in grades 4th-8th are welcome to participate in this club, and there is no cost. New members are welcome at every 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](mailto:4-H Agent Maria Sabin).

4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club Monday, April 6 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. Hamilton County youth in grades 4th-12th are welcome to participate in the 4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club. Interested in attending the next club meeting? Text the Club's volunteer leader, Adam Presley (423-595-5409).

4-H Hippology and Horse Bowl Contests



These youth competed at the 2026 State 4-H Hippology and Horse Bowl contests held on the Ag Campus of the University of Tennessee. They represented the Eastern Region and competed against the top teams from the Central and Western regions. Senior high team members are Kailee Coulter, Beau Duvall, Sadie Holland and Evie Nazor. The Junior High team members include Alana Bourgo, Emmy Dawkins, Myla Holland and Lucy Longtin. Jr High member Lucy Longtin placed as the 11th high individual.

4-H Portfolios

Congratulations to these 4-H youth who have submitted a 4-H Portfolio. The senior high youth are competing to be a finalist for

Tennessee 4-H Roundup, competing for trips and scholarships.
Sophie Cook – Performing Arts
Noah Ham – Mechanics & Safety Science
Darah Moreland – Entomology & Beekeeping

These junior high youth are competing to receive the honor of Premier Exhibitor

Ivy Ham – Performing Arts
Alex Hanning – Outdoor Recreation

4-H Robotics Club Competes in the State FTC Championship



Members of the Hamilton County 4-H Robotics Club competed in the State FIRST Tech Challenge championship held at MTSU in February! The Club members, who compete as the 4-H Gear Grinders team, designed, built, and programmed the team robot to perform tasks in this season's FTC game. The Club will be on hiatus for the summer and begin meeting again in August.

June Dairy Month Chairperson



2025 Hamilton County June Dairy Month Chairperson Darah Moreland at a Dairy Month Event.

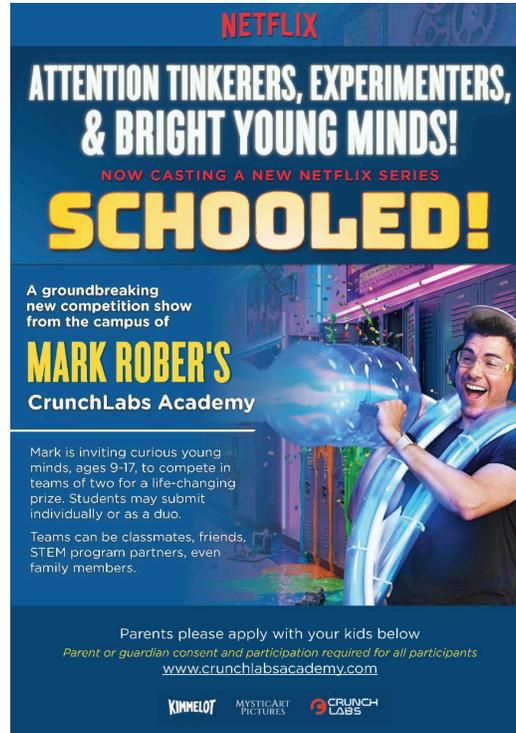
We are looking for someone to serve as the Hamilton County June Dairy Month Chairperson for 2026. You will have the opportunity to market June Dairy Month in social media, on TV and in the community. This opportunity is open to 7th – 12th graders. If you are interested, [contact Nancy Rucker](#) by April 15th.

4-H Scholarships



For 12th graders there are 4-H Scholarships available. They range from \$500 to \$5,000. The 4-H youth have until May 1st to submit an application. For more information, [contact Nancy Rucker](#). You can access the 4-H Interactive Scholarship Application Worksheet

Casting for new Show!



Youth ages 9–17 who love to build, invent, experiment, and solve real-world problems might want to discuss this opportunity with their parents! Find out more about this new show at <https://www.netflix.com/tudum/articles/schooled-mark-rober-series-casting>.

Sign up for the 4-H newsletter!

Did you receive this newsletter from a friend, or read it online? Sign up to have a copy emailed to you each month: [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

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
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UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.



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