



*Join 4-H! Enrollment is open year round for grades 4th through 12th in Hamilton County, and there is no cost to join 4-H!*

## 4-H CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!



Sign up now for 4-H camp! [Check out the Hamilton County Extension Office's 4-H camp page for more information](#) or call the Extension Office 423-209-8560. 4-H camps are available for grades 4th through 12th.

4-H Camp Information

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## 4-H Junior Camp

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

## Registration Open Now



4-H Junior Camp is June 8-12 at **Clyde Austin 4-H Center** in Greeneville, TN. Grades 4th through 6th will have a great week at camp with friends old and new!

**Campers have their choice of lots of activities, including** swimming (swim lessons available at no extra cost), waterslide, fishing (and fishing tournament), arts & crafts, archery and rifle ranges, wildlife, nature walks, tie dyeing, Ga Ga ball, robotics, drones, basketball, kickball, canoeing, kayaking, go-Karts, zipline, and more. Certified lifeguards are on duty at the pool. Campers stay in air-conditioned cabins (with adjoining bathrooms) by county and eat meals together in the air-conditioned dining hall.

Hamilton County 4-H Agents Nancy Rucker and Maria Sabin will be at camp the whole week to chaperone campers and to lead activities,

along with additional adult level 3 and teen volunteers. All volunteers have training in youth development and child protection, and adult volunteers pass background checks administered by the University of Tennessee.

Register now to secure a spot - space is limited. Online registration and fee payment is at [tiny.utk.edu/4HJrCamp](https://tiny.utk.edu/4HJrCamp), or visit the Extension Office (6183 Adamson Circle) to register for camp. Registration fee is \$400 - payable **online** or at the Extension Office by cash, money order, credit card, or check payable to "University of Tennessee."

The registration fee covers transportation to and from camp, as well as lodging, food, and activities. **Scholarships (partial or full) are available.** Scholarship applications are due by May 1. Questions? Please email [HamiltonCounty4H@tennessee.edu](mailto:HamiltonCounty4H@tennessee.edu) or call the Extension Office 423-209-8560.

4-H Junior Camp

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## Additional 4-H Camps with Registration Still Open:

- **Target SMART Camp** - shooting sports and outdoor skills camp (grades 5th-9th) – May 25-29 at York 4-H Center in Crossville, TN. Register by May 8.
- **Electric Camp** - STEM camp for middle school (grades 6th-8th) – June 23-26 at UT Knoxville campus. Register by May 15.
- **Junior High 4-H Camp** (grades 6th-8th) – July 6-10 at Clyde Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville, TN. Register by June 5.
- **Culinary Camp (NEW!)** (grades 6th-12th) – June 16-18 at Carson-Newman College. Register by April 15.
- **4-H Quilting Camp** (grades 6th-12th) – June 22-24 at Clyde Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville, TN. Register by April 10.
- **Destination Design** (grades 9th-12th) – June 29-July 1 in Asheville, NC and Charleston, SC. Apply by April 20.

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**4-H Club Meetings Coming Up!**

Don't miss these 4-H club meetings! Details on 4-H clubs are at the bottom of this newsletter. Questions? Email

[HamiltonCounty4H@tennessee.edu](mailto:HamiltonCounty4H@tennessee.edu)

- STEM Club April 13 at 5:00
- Veterinary Science Club April 20 at 6:00
- Gardening Club April 27 at 4:30
- Honor Club April 28 at 5:30
- Horse Club May 4 at 6:30

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## 4-H County Demonstration Contest

Congratulations to all of the participants in the 2026 Hamilton County 4-H Demonstration Contest, held March 27 at Chattanooga State! The Multi-County contest will be held on April 10 at McMinn Higher Education Center/Cleveland State Community College - Athens, and all first-place county contest winners are invited to participate in the multi-county contest!



4th grade Creative Arts winners - 1st - Chloe Porter, 2nd - Josiah Atkinson, 3rd - Alzay Stoker



4th grade Culinary Arts winners - 1st - Scarlett Hartline, 2nd - Caroline Laymon, 3rd - Austyn Beaty



4th grade Companion Animal winners - 1st - Joanna Sanders, 2nd - Elizabeth Addison, 3rd - Noah Clark.  
4th grade Recreation - 2nd - Will Rivers



4th grade Computers and Technology winner - 1st - Verity Marr



4th grade Mechanics winners - 1st - Cadence Duguay, 2nd - Roe Adams



4th grade Recreation winner - 1st -  
Aiden Pettway



4th grade Energy winner - 1st -  
Redding Robinson



4th grade Forestry,  
Wildlife and Fisheries  
winner - 1st - Walker  
Goodwin



4th grade Healthy Living  
winner - 1st - Hannah  
Kirstein



4th grade Performing  
Arts winner - 1st - Maeve  
McCrary, 2nd - Gideon  
Tucker (not pictured)



5th grade Companion  
Animal winner - 1st -  
Everett Aslinger

5th grade Culinary Arts  
winner - 1st - Zoey  
Coffman

5th grade Computers  
and Technology winner -  
1st - Drayton Smith



5th grade Creative Arts winners - 1st  
- Megan Aaron, 2nd - Ryan Scott,  
3rd - Lucia MacDonald

5th grade Plant Science winner - 1st  
- Marcel Lansden



4th grade Clothing and Textiles winners - 1st - Anna Wunderlich, 2nd -  
Alice Mae Freeman, 3rd - Lakelynn Ezell. 5th grade Clothing and  
Textiles winner - 1st - Julia Sherrod



5th grade Performing Arts winner - 1st  
- Emme Avelis



5th grade Healthy Living winner - 1st -  
Evie Szarka



6th-8th grade Interactive Exhibits - Ivy Ham, 1st place Performing Arts  
and Leo Velk, 1st place Computers and Technology

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## SEC Multi-County Public Speaking Contest

Congratulations to all of the competitors at the 2026 Multi-County Public Speaking Contest! Hamilton County participants included Dominic D'Amore (8th grade - Robotics Club), Atharva Kolappan (7th grade - Archery Club), Angelo D'Amore (6th grade - Archery Club),

Joyce Seo (5th grade, CSLA & Vet Science Club), and Cadence Duguay (4th grade, CSAS).



Congratulations to Atharva Kolappan, left, who won first place in the 7th grade Multi-County contest!



Congratulations to Joyce Seo, third from right, who won third place in the 5th grade Multi-County contest!

## 4-H Piggy Bank Pageant Winners!

Hamilton County 4-H'ers created some amazing piggy banks this year! The first-place banks will be posted online April 20-27 for voting in the "Vote for the Pig" state contest. You can vote once each day April 20-27 at <https://voteforthepig.tennessee.edu/>

### 1st place piggy banks



4th grade 1st place piggy bank by Charles Robinson, Hixson Elementary



5th grade 1st place piggy bank by Ryan Scott, Hixson Elementary



6th-8th grade 1st place piggy bank by Arlen Biktimirov,

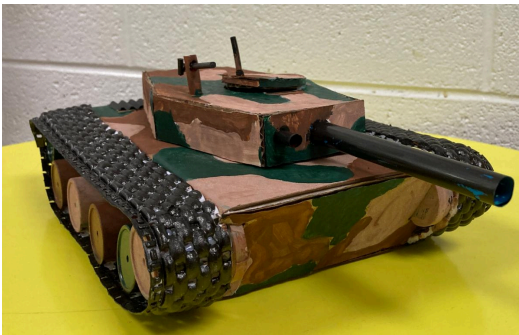




Pre-K - 1st grade 1st place piggy bank by Madison Wall

2nd-3rd grade 1st place piggy bank by Milena Dmitrievskaya

## 2nd place piggy banks



4th grade 2nd place piggy bank by Michael Carver, Hixson Elementary



5th grade 2nd place piggy bank by Talon Friddell, Snow Hill Elementary



6th-8th grade 2nd place piggy bank by Allison Wall, Archery Club



9th-12th grade 2nd place piggy bank by Kyler Loynd, Robotics Club

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## Tennessee 4-H Congress by Sadie Holland



Sadie Holland and Lillian Shank attended 2026 Tennessee 4-H Congress



Lillian Shank with other state finalists at 4-H Congress



Ryan King, Sadie Holland, Lillian Shank, and Andy Holt at 4-H Congress



Sadie Holland, State Senator Bo Watson, and Lillian Shank at 4-H Congress

*By Sadie Holland* - Recently I had the incredible opportunity to attend the 79th Tennessee 4-H Congress, which is the 4-H premier event of the year. For four days, about three hundred 9th and 10th graders learned how our state government works. We got to attend workshops, go to the Senate and House chambers to vote on bills, and even have our own elections. Every day was packed full of amazing experiences and fun with friends. The first day there was even a skit by The Up Guys, who mixed circus-worthy performances with talks about what it means to be a leader.

The student delegates even got to go to the Tennessee State Museum. We learned about Tennessee history, music, and so much more, and the staff was very kind and helpful. On the last day the 4-H'ers got a real treat - they got to go on the General Jackson Day Cruise. A few hours of cruising across the peaceful Cumberland River, listening to some live, classic, Nashville-style country music.

Not only was this experience a great way to educate the future leaders of our country, but it was also an amazing opportunity to meet our current legislators. Each delegate got the chance to meet with their county's Senators and Representatives. We heard the best senior high public speakers from across the state. Our own Lillian Shank competed in the 9th grade division. Another competition at Congress was the state 4-H History Bowl. Teams from each region competed and earned points by answering the questions.

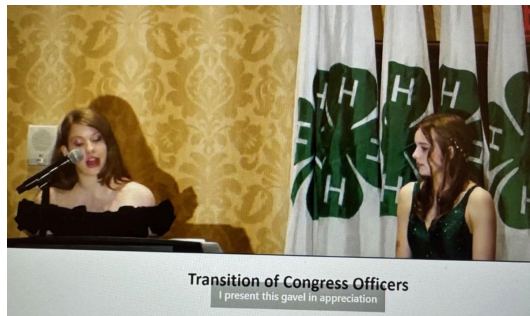
Nine students got the chance to run for office. I was one of the candidates for Speaker of the Senate that was nominated during the Region 4-H Congress Readiness Day. We campaigned for the first

three days, handing out buttons, stickers, bracelets, candy, anything that might make the student delegates remember us. Out of those nine, the 4-H delegates elected three to represent them as Speaker of the House, Speaker of the Senate, and Governor.

If I had not decided to run for office, I never would have had the courage to talk to all those people; but I am glad I did! I have made so many friends that will last for years to come, and I know others have done the same.

When I asked some of the 4-H'ers on the first day what they looked forward to the most, their answers were not disappointing: "I look forward to going to the Capitol and potentially meeting Bill Lee." – Ryleigh; "I look forward to the congressional meetings and committee meetings." – Camden; "I look forward to going to the Capitol and getting to know everyone." - Lillian.

4-H Congress was a life changing experience for me, and one that I'll never forget. Without 4-H, I never would have had the opportunity to meet all these amazing people. I hope that any 8th and 9th graders who read this article go to Congress next year and partake in this incredible program.



Transition of office for Sadie Holland at 4-H Congress



Lillian Shank and Sadie Holland with State Senator Todd Gardenhire at 4-H Congress



Sadie Holland and Lillian Shank  
with State Representative  
Michelle Reneau



Sadie Holland and Lillian Shank  
with State Representative Esther  
Helton Haynes

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## Adam Presley honored by Eastern Region Extension



Adam Presley has been named the 2026 Eastern Region Friend of 4-H by the University of Tennessee Extension. Adam attended the presentation ceremony at Tennessee 4-H Congress. Joining Adam was his wife Jennifer who also is a horse club volunteer. Adam was recognized for not only his thirty plus years of serving as the leader of the 4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club in Hamilton County; but also his involvement in horse programming in the Eastern Region. He is a member of the region horse advisory committee providing guidance and input for the program. Adam also volunteers to assist each year with the region 4-H Hippology and Horse Bowl contest day. During the Eastern Region 4-H Horse Show he works with hundreds of kids, parents and horses by organizing the stalls and assisting with various areas

throughout the three-day show. Congratulations for this well-deserved award!

## 4-H Ignite Conference



Noah Ham attended National 4-H Ignite! Conference in March:

Attending the 4-H Ignite Conference in Washington, D.C. was an unforgettable experience and easily one of the best trips I have ever taken. Alongside my fellow Healthy Living Ambassadors, I had the opportunity to meet 4-H members from all across the country, learn new skills, and explore the historic places in our nation's capital. One of the highlights of the conference was the wide variety of workshops available. I especially enjoyed the session on sublimation printing, which was led by delegates from our own state. Another memorable moment was meeting members of a FIRST Robotics Competition team from New Hampshire.

Our trip was made even better thanks to our chaperones, Ms. Erin and Mr. Wesley, who did an amazing job guiding us through the city and making sure we experienced as much as possible. We went to the National Zoo, the Air and Space Museum, the Capitol Building, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress (where I got my library card!). We also visited memorials, including the Vietnam War Memorial, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and the Franklin D.

Roosevelt Memorial. Touring Ford's Theatre gave us deeper insight into how Lincoln was assassinated, while seeing the Washington Monument up close was incredible. One of the most impactful and memorable parts of the trip was visiting the Holocaust Museum. Every last second was well spent!

Overall, the 4-H Ignite Conference was an amazing opportunity. I would highly recommend this conference to all Hamilton County 4-H members. I hope to see even more familiar faces at Ignite next year! - Noah Ham

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## 4-H All Star Conference



Sophie Cook, PJ Tolbert, Lillian Shank, Liam Cook, and Sadie Holland attended the Spring 4-H All-Star Conference at Camp Clyde Austin in Greeneville, Tennessee.

The Spring 4-H All Star Conference was held at Austin 4-H Center in Greeneville, TN. This year's theme was Go for Greek! The weekend was filled with fun with friends, service projects, camp activities, senior recognition, elections, dance and initiation. Five youth from Hamilton County were initiated into the Eastern Region 4-H All Stars.

Congratulation to our new initiates – Liam Cook, Sophie Cook, Sadie Holland, Lillian Shank and PJ Tolbert!

My favorite part of the 2026 4-H Spring All Star Conference were the games. This year's theme was "Go For Greek!" and all attendees participated in "Olympic" games. It was so much fun competing against the other teams and doing things with my friends. – Sadie Holland

My favorite part about All Star Conference was winning the archery competition – PJ Tolbert

My favorite part was the service project – making sock bunnies for the nursing home and making new friends – Binta Tolbert (Volunteer Leader)

All Stars is open to all 9th – 12th graders. The next conference will be held in the Fall in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

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## 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!

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

**4-H Honor Club meets  
April 28 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, April 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. Questions? Call the office 423-209-8560.

Initiation will be held at the April meeting. **Please RSVP by April 24th if you plan to attend.** Call the office 423-209-8560 to RSVP or with any questions.



The Honor Club members celebrated Extension Month during their March meeting. They enjoyed cake and a quiz about 4-H and Extension.

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## 4-H Gardening Club meets April 27 at 4:30



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 on the last Monday of each month. At the April 27 meeting, the club will plant the club garden. Outdoor games and crafts are included at each meeting (no outdoor games if it's raining). Call the office with any questions 423-209-8560 or [email 4-H Agent Maria Sabin](#).

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## **4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club meets May 4 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 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? Call the Extension Office 423-209-8560 or text the Club's volunteer leader, Adam Presley (423-595-5409).

### **4-H Horse Show Information**

Packets for the Eastern Region and State 4-H Horse Shows are ready. If you would like a packet, contact Nancy Rucker (423-209-8560). The Eastern Region Show will be held May 28-30, 2026. The State Show will be held June 23-27, 2026.

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## **4-H STEM Club meets April 13 at 5:00**

AUGUST 11 AND 12, 2025



# 4-H STEM CLUB

for 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade



The STEM Club is open to all Hamilton County youth in grades 4th through 8th who are interested in coding and robotics. There is no cost to participate. The April 13 meeting will be the final STEM Club meeting of this school year. STEM Club members (and all youth interested in STEM) are encouraged to register for 4-H camp, which will include lots of STEM activities! Don't miss the drones, robotics, and virtual reality special programs this year at **4-H Junior Camp** for grades 4th-6th, which will be held June 8-12 at Camp Clyde Austin.

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## 4-H Veterinary Science Club meets April 20 at 6:00



Feeling wise? Interested in learning about wild animals found in Tennessee (like this beautiful owl)? Hamilton County youth in grades 4th-12th are invited to join the 4-H Veterinary Science Club at the next meeting on April 20 as they prepare for the Regional 4-H Wildlife Competition, coming up in May!

At the 4-H wildlife competition, youth will identify animals and also choose wildlife management practices that would best make an area into habitat for a particular animal. Youth in 4th through 12th grade participate in this contest in teams of 3 or 4 (divided by age group), or individually. There is no cost to participate. This year, youth in 4th or 5th grade will use a simplified wildlife habitat management form in the contest.

The Veterinary Science Club meetings are held during the school year at the UT-TSU Extension Hamilton County Office, 6183 Adamson Circle, at 6:00-7:30 p.m. Questions? Call the office 423-209-8560.

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# More Opportunities With 4-H!

## Positive Youth Development Conference

May 11-13  
Grades 7-11



The NextGen program at Tennessee State University is excited to invite your students to participate in the Positive Youth Development (PYD) Conference. This three-day conference (May 11–13, 2026) is designed for students in grades 7–11 and will focus on leadership development, agriculture education, career exploration, and community engagement. Through hands-on learning, networking, and interactive sessions, students will gain valuable skills while exploring opportunities in agriculture and related fields.

The conference will be held at Camp Clements Leadership Training Center in Doyle, Tennessee, and all registration, meals, lodging, and

transportation costs will be covered for participating students. Each participating county or chapter may bring up to 20 students. One chaperone is required for each 10 students attending.

Please call the Extension office 423-209-8560 to register for this conference.

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## 4-H Scholarships



The application is now open for the Tennessee 4-H Scholarships. If you are a graduating senior, contact Nancy Rucker for the online information.

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**Applications being accepted for  
Tennessee 4-H Healthy Lifestyle  
Ambassadors**

**Applications due by May 18**

## **4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors**

Are you a 4-H'er who is passionate about health, wellness, and helping others? Then the Healthy Living Ambassador Program may be right for you.

Healthy Living Ambassadors are community health advocates. Students in this program will gain leadership, citizenship, and public speaking skills.

Applications are now open. Contact your local extension office for more information.



Are you a 4-H'er who is passionate about health, wellness, and helping others? Then the Healthy Living Ambassador Program may be right for you. Healthy Living Ambassadors are community health advocates. Students in this program will gain leadership, citizenship, and public speaking skills. Applications are now open. Contact your local extension office for more information.

Would you like to serve as a Healthy Living Ambassador for Hamilton County and Tennessee? Applications are due May 18th (online application submission). This is an application and selection process.

The program year for 2026-2027 is August 1st, 2026-July 31st, 2027. Current 4-H Healthy Living Ambassadors are welcome to reapply. Students are required to attend a yearly training.

The Tennessee 4-H Healthy Living Ambassador program is designed for students in 9th-12th grade (starting August 2026) who have a passion for healthy living. Each county can appoint up to six ambassadors for their county. Healthy Living Ambassadors are committed to advocating for health living and wellness practices within



Demo Days is a hands-on event at Tractor Supply where customers can visit their local store and test drive riding mowers around an obstacle course before making a purchase. The event gives people a chance to see the equipment in action, ask questions, and learn more about tools for their property.

At check out you can round up for 4-H. The funds support camp scholarships and leadership opportunities.

If you are a 4-H youth or volunteer leader, you can go to the store and volunteer a few hours to encourage shoppers to make a donation for 4-H contact Nancy Rucker. Each store will have a 4-H display. Special thanks to our stores in Hamilton County located in Chattanooga, Ooltewah and Soddy Daisy.

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## 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](#)

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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](http://Hamilton.Tennessee.edu)

4-H Staff:

Nancy Rucker, Extension Agent & County Director [nrucker@tennessee.edu](mailto:nrucker@tennessee.edu)

Maria Sabin, Extension Agent [msabin@tennessee.edu](mailto: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.

