



August begins a new year of 4-H! Click on the clover to join 4-H. There is no cost to join 4-H, and you can join at any time. All youth in Hamilton County in grades 4th through 12th are invited to join and participate in 4-H!

Hamilton County 4-H August Newsletter



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Hamilton County 4-H'ers Excel at 4-H Roundup!



Sophie Cook, Noah Ham, and Darah Moreland received the Vol State Award, the highest recognition awarded to Tennessee 4-H youth, at 4-H Roundup, held in July at UT Martin!



Hamilton County's group took time to pose for a photo at the 4-H Roundup Banquet - Darah Moreland, Sadie Holland, Sophie Cook, Noah Ham, and Kaden Bing



Noah Ham won first place in the state, level 2, in the 4-H Mechanics and Safety Science Project



Noah Ham accepts the Peggy Davis All Star recognition for Hamilton County. During this past year, 4-H in Hamilton County reported 3,500 4-H youth volunteer hours, 2,000 adult 4-H volunteer hours with a total value of \$92,000

Tennessee 4-H Roundup is a capstone experience for high school members, designed to recognize achievement and inspire future growth. Hamilton County youth had a successful Roundup this year at UT Martin. Noah Ham, State Council member, will continue to serve on state council as the Eastern Region Senior Representative. Joining him this year is Sadie Holland, State 4-H Congress Speaker of the Senate, who rotated onto state council at the conclusion of Roundup. We think this may be the first time two youth from Hamilton County have served at the same time.

Senior high youth attending from Hamilton County include Kaden Bing, Sophie Cook, Noah Ham, Sadie Holland, and Darah Moreland. Special thanks to Kristen Holland who attended as a volunteer leader.

Project finalists, Sophie Cook, Darah Moreland and Noah Ham, competed in their project areas, Sophie in Performing Arts and Recreation, Darah in Entomology and Beekeeping and Noah in Mechanics and Safety Science. Noah Ham was named the Tennessee 4-H Level II Winner and received a silver bowl, scholarship and trip to National 4-H Conference.

Being at the University of Tennessee Martin offered the opportunity for youth to take a campus tour, participate in a career fair, and hear great speakers. They also had fun at the luncheons, banquet and dances.

During the Vol State ceremony, Sophie Cook, Darah Moreland and Noah Ham were inducted into Vol State – the highest recognition for a Tennessee 4-H youth. These young people have achieved this honor through hard work and determination achieving the honors of Honor Club and All Stars. They each have given back to their community and county 4-H program and have been leaders for younger 4-H youth.

Darah said, "Roundup was unforgettable!" She shares her highlights here - Before I stepped foot onto the UT Martin campus, I was greeted eagerly by 4-H state council members cheering while holding signs as our bus drove in! As I got settled into my dorm room, I quickly noticed the unlimited supply of ice cream available in the common room, of which I think everyone took advantage. Participating in a project area is a definite highlight. I encourage anyone who is passionate to work on a portfolio and compete! Although the title "judges" may sound intimidating, my experience with them could not have been more positive. The food was excellent, especially during the Junior Luncheon, All-Star dinner, and Roundup banquet. Playing pickleball, eating free Icees, participating in a silent disco and karaoke, being selected for Vol State, and meeting Miss Tennessee were just a few of the other highlights. Most of all, getting to meet new friends and hang out with old ones is what makes the event special. Well, that "Rounds up" my whole experience! I couldn't recommend it more.

Sadie shared her highlights - My favorite part of 4-H Roundup was the career fair and the keynote speaker. I got to talk to Professors and other people who work at the many campuses of the University of Tennessee. I learned a lot about the University of Tennessee Martin and the courses offered. Eddie Speaks, the keynote speaker, was very inspirational and taught us a lot, but he kept it fun too (he is a better dancer than I am!)

Noah shared his highlights – 4-H Roundup at UT Martin was such a memorable week! Between campaigning, competing, and catching up with old friends while making new ones, it was truly an unforgettable experience. Competing in the project competition was one of my favorite parts. I was very happy with how my interview went, and even more thrilled when I heard my name called as the Level 2 winner of the Engineering and Safety Science project area!

The State Council elections were another highlight. I'm honored to have been re-elected and to serve again this year as a Senior Representative. By far the most surprising moment of the week was the Vol State Ceremony. I had no idea I would be initiated! It is an honor I will never forget. I'm so grateful for everything this experience has given me, and I'm already looking forward to next year's Roundup!

Upcoming Club Meetings Get Involved in 4-H!

4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club meets August 3 at 6:30 p.m.

4th-12th grade. Learn about horses with the 4-H Mane Attraction Horse Club! The 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 on 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? Call the Extension Office 423-209-8560 or text the Club's volunteer leader, Adam Presley (423-595-5409).





Hamilton County's senior high horse judging team (Sadie Holland, Beau Duvall, and Lillian Shank) competed at the State 4-H Horse Judging contest in June!

4-H Robotics Club meets August 13 at 5:30 p.m. Join the 4-H Gear Grinders



8th-12th grade. Design, build, and program a robot for competition in the 4-H Robotics Club! The first meeting of the 2026-2027 season is Thursday,

August 13 at 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. Potential new club members in grades 8th through 12th are welcome to attend.

The Robotics Club meets weekly on Thursdays or Saturdays, mid-August through early March (with adjustments for holidays), at the Extension Office in Chattanooga. Club members compete in FIRST Tech Challenge robotics competitions as the 4-H Gear Grinders team. Volunteer coaches and mentors from the community help club members get the team's robot ready to meet the challenges of the season's FTC game.

There is an annual registration fee (\$100) for the Robotics Club, [payable by September 5 online](#) or at the Extension Office, to help with robotics supplies. Club members also need to submit a completed [4-H medical form \(600A\)](#) to the Extension office by September 5.

Additional information about the 4-H Robotics Club is available at [the Extension office website](#). Please email any questions to [4-H Agent Maria Sabin](#).



2025-2026 4-H Robotics team members build the team robot

4-H Archery Preview Day is August 15.
[Sign up for Preview Day by Aug 7](#)



HAMILTON COUNTY



4th-12th grade. Try out a bow and find out about the Hamilton County 4-H Archery Club at 4-H Archery Preview Day! **All prospective new Hamilton County 4-H Archery Club members must attend Preview Day.**

Sign up for Archery Preview Day by August 7 by filling out the [Preview Day Sign-Up Form](#) and then turning in a [4-H Medical Form \(600A\)](#) to the Extension Office by August 7. There is no cost to participate in Archery Preview Day.

Registration for the 4-H Archery Club begins after Preview Day. The Archery Club practices once a month during the fall and two or three times a month in the spring to prepare for the State 4-H Archery Jamboree competition. Archery equipment is provided for club members at practices

and at the Jamboree. To join the 4-H Archery Club for the year, there is a registration fee of \$60, to help with archery supplies. Be sure to check out [Channel 9's coverage](#) of 4-H Archery Preview Day!



Hamilton County 4-H Archery Club members Gabriel Lennon, Lauren Bardoner, Allison Wall, Hudson Johns, and Liam Cook competed at the 4-H Archery Jamboree in April. Gabriel finished 10th in the state in the junior high Genesis division, and Lauren won first place in the state in the senior high Skillathon contest

[Archery Club Info](#)

**4-H Gardening and Crafts Club meets August 31
at 4:30 p.m.**



4-H Gardening & Crafts Club

4th-12th grade. Join this club if you enjoy growing plants, preparing food, doing arts and crafts, and learning about insects. Meetings are held on the last Monday of each month (with date changes to avoid holidays) at 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. There is no cost to participate.

At the August 31 meeting, learn how to preserve fresh vegetables and fruits by freezing, hear about the Master Gardeners Smart Yards program from Club member Jack Marden, and make an apron. No sewing experience required, but please RSVP for the craft (making an apron) by [completing the crafts RSVP form](#) by August 24, so we can have enough supplies on hand. Questions? [Email 4-H Agent Maria Sabin](#)



The new club garden sign, created by club members, is now in place in the 4-H Gardening and Crafts Club's raised bed garden outside the Extension Office!

4-H STEM Club meets September 14
4th & 5th grade meet at 5:00 p.m.
6th-8th grade meet at 6:30 p.m.



Learn robotics and other STEM topics with the 4-H STEM Club! First meeting of the year is September 14. New this year:

4th and 5th grade STEM club members will meet at 5:00-6:00 p.m. to learn coding and compete in the Sphero Bolt Missions competition in teams of two to five students. A parent is needed to help each team as a mentor - [contact 4-H Agent Maria Sabin](#) for more information about becoming a team mentor.

6th through 8th grade STEM club members will meet at 6:30-7:30 p.m. to learn about rocketry and build (and launch) model rockets, as well as learn

coding and robotics using Spheros.

4-H STEM Club meetings are held at the Extension office one Monday of each month. To participate in the 4-H STEM Club, Hamilton County youth in grades 4th through 8th [enroll in 4-H](#) and turn in a completed [4-H health/medical form \(600A\)](#) to the Extension office. There is a \$40 STEM club registration fee, to pay for supplies needed, [payable online](#) or at the Extension office during office hours (8:00-4:30). Please [email 4-H Agent Maria Sabin](#) with any questions.



Upcoming 4-H Contests and Conferences

4-H Poultry Judging
Contact us by August 10 to participate



The 4-H Poultry Judging Contest will be held **September 18th** at the UT Extension – Blount County office. This judging contest is open to those entering 4th – 12th grades. Learn to identify cuts of poultry, grade a broken-out egg, candle an egg, name parts of the bird and more. If you are interested in this judging team, [contact Nancy Rucker](#) by August 10th. We will have a few sessions face to face and others by Zoom.

Eastern Region Consumer Decision Making Contest

First study meeting is August 18

4th-12th grade. Learn critical thinking skills and how to be a smart shopper in this fun contest! Students participate by grade level in teams of three or four. The first study meeting will be held **August 18** at 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the Extension office. Attending this meeting is a good way to learn more about this fun 4-H program, and all interested students and parents/guardians are welcome.

The regional contest will be held **September 18** at Pellissippi State Community College - Blount county campus. Study meetings will be held once each week for the five weeks leading up to the regional contest - dates for study meetings are August 18 & 25, September 1, 8, and 15. 4-H Volunteer Leader Teresa Shank will coach the team again this year!



Hamilton County's 2025 Jr High Consumer Decision Making team, Natalie Mahoney, Emme Avelis, Lillian Shank, and Ivy Ham, won 3rd place in the eastern region at last year's CDM contest!

4-H All Star Conference November 20-22



The Fall All Star Conference will be held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, November 20-22, 2026. The conference is open to all 9th – 12th graders (you do not have to be a 4-H All Star to attend). There will be about 250 youth from the Eastern Region attending this conference. There will be service projects, fun with friends, team building, Ripley's experience in downtown Gatlinburg, banquet, dance and games. Bring your best red, white and blue to celebrate America's 250th!

Cost for the weekend is \$180. **The registration deadline is October 19th** at 5:00 p.m. You can learn more about the Eastern Region All Stars and the conference - <https://eastern.tennessee.edu/eastern-region-4-h-allstar/> (site should be updated soon for this conference).

Portfolios Due in early January



The creation of the 4-H portfolio can lead to awards, recognition, scholarships, conferences, national trips and more. Youth in 6th – 12th grade can create a portfolio in their selected project area and include both citizenship and leadership. If interested in working on a portfolio, [contact Nancy Rucker](#).

July 4-H Happenings!

4-H Chick Chain Update

The Little Debbie Hamilton County Fair and 4-H Chick Chain Auction will be held at the Hamilton County Fair, November 8th, 2:30 p.m. If you want to be on the buyer list, [contact Nancy Rucker](#) or call the Office, 423-209-8560.

For the next few months, you will learn more about the 4-H'ers participating in the 4-H Chick Chain. This month we feature three youth who are doing a great job taking care of their birds.

Jaden Moser noted that taking care of the birds is not easy. His Rhode Island Reds are in with other breeds of birds. He gives them mealworms, tomatoes, strawberries and oyster shells, which they devour. It is important to give the feed and water throughout the day. He is responsible for

feeding, watering and gathering the eggs. He shared that the birds are faster than he is while he was picking up one.

Wally Marden has multiple breeds of birds at this place. His birds enjoy frozen fruits, mealworms, tomatoes, Japanese beetles, and their favorite – bagels! He checks their food and water every day. He also adds water to the feed to make it softer and more easily digestible. He feeds the smaller birds first and then the larger birds.

Lincoln Manning shared that he has learned responsibility through his efforts caring for his birds and is having fun. He says his birds are outgoing and friendly. His coop is built from multiple recycled items. Through the 4-H Chick Chain experience he has learned more about chickens and caring for them. He gives them treats that include fruits and vegetables. He would encourage others to be part of the 4-H Chick Chain.



Jaden Moser next to his coop



A group of Jaden's birds in his coop



Lincoln Manning in front of his chicken coop



Some of Lincoln's birds in their coop



Wally Marden next to his chicken coop



Wally holding one of his chickens



Wally with some of his chickens

Junior High Survivor Camp

We had a great week at Junior High 4-H Camp at the Austin 4-H Center. Campers competed all week in various challenges to earn points as part of the Survivor theme. Campers went to see the Greenville Flyboys win their baseball game, participated in service projects and went to off site tours. Adventures include President Andrew Johnson National Historic Site Visitor Center, City Garage Car Museum, Dickson-Williams Mansion, Bristol Motor Speedway, canoe trip, Bright's Zoo and more. Older 4-H youth brought their exhibits showing their project work – Sophie Cook and Noah Ham were there to share their experiences. Youth also participated in a variety of service projects.

While at camp they played GaGa ball, 4-square, ping pong, kickball, and basketball. Stations included archery, rifle range, trap shooting, muzzleloader, ropes course, wood working, air brush, HealthRocks!, tie dye, games and more. The week's highlights included the slime wars and America's 250th celebration pool party and dance. This camp is open to 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Let us know if you are interested in attending next year.

Hamilton County campers – Rusalina Biktimirova, Hiram Day, Aubrey Fairley, Josie Hunter, Hoyt Mathis, Juliana Mendoza, Noah Milliard, Hunter Provence, Wyatt Taylor and Bentley Wilson. Special thanks to adult leader Mark Barnard.



The Hamilton County Junior High Camp group heads to Greeneville for camp!



Junior High Camp ballgame group Josie, Juliana, Rusalina, and Aubrey



Hoyt painting at Junior High Camp



Nancy with the Ace Flyboys mascot at Junior High Camp



Hiram and Mark enjoying UT creamery ice cream and the camp party



Hunter sewing a bag for the homeless at Junior High Camp



Hunter with the finished bag that he made



Fun Upcoming Activities With 4-H!

Ag Night at the Lookouts August 7



Take me out to the Ballgame! Join us for the Annual Agriculture Night at the Lookouts on **Friday, August 7**, at 7:00 p.m., sponsored by Kubota of Chattanooga. Don't miss the petting zoo! Fireworks are also planned. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the [Chattanooga Lookouts website](#).

If you would like to help at the Extension / 4-H Table **contact Nancy Rucker**. You will need to be at the new Erlanger ball park by 5:15 p.m. to be in place. Someone from the Extension office will be there by 4:30 p.m. We have four tickets (single general admission). Additional 4-H'ers would need to purchase their own tickets.

4-H Goat Club New Club Exploratory Meeting August 21 at 5:00

**HAVE YOU HERD?
4-H GOAT CLUB
EXPLORATORY MEETING
AUGUST 21 AT 5 PM!**



4th-12th grade. Would you like to be a member of a new 4-H Goat Club in Hamilton County? Come find out more at a goat club exploratory meeting on Friday, August 21 at 5:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. This club would include 4-H members who own goats and also those who are just interested in learning about goats and possibly traveling to see 4-H goat shows. The eastern region 4-H Goat Show is coming up on Sunday, September 20 in Knoxville! If you have questions - or are interested in being part of this club but cannot make it to the August 21 meeting - please [email 4-H Agent Maria Sabin](#)

2026 Hamilton County Fair



The Hamilton County Fair is November 6-8 at McDonald Farm in Sale Creek. Fair competition entries are due by October 21 (for mail-in entries) or October 28 (online entries). Mail-in entry forms for agricultural entries are available at the Extension office, and home-center entry forms will be available soon. Tickets to the Fair and information on entertainment are now [available online](#).

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