



September 1, 2024



If you need a special accommodation for a 4-H program, event, or activity at the 4-H Extension Office in Derwood, MD, please call 301-590-3210 or e-mail [jshriver@umd.edu](mailto:jshriver@umd.edu).

If you need to reserve a room or need a special accommodation at the MoCo Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg, MD for a 4-H program, please contact the Event and Sponsorship Coordinator, Ms. Monica Monroe at [Monica@mcagfair.com](mailto:Monica@mcagfair.com).

The next issue of The Montgomery County 4-H News & Notes will be published on the first week of October 2024. Please submit your articles to Anna Hamann, [ahamann@umd.edu](mailto:ahamann@umd.edu) by September 26, 2024.

## **Maryland State Fair**

You still have time to attend the Maryland State Fair! Last weekend is September 7-8!

For detailed information about the 2024 Maryland State Fair, the Fair schedule, and 4-H/FFA Department information, visit the Maryland State Fair website on the Get Involved / Competitions / 4-H/FFA Competitions page at <https://marylandstatefair.com/4hffa/>.

## Cake Auction



The Annual Cake Auction fundraiser was a big success. We surpassed last year's donations and we raised \$44,000+! Thank you to the 33 4-H'ers who donated their beautiful cakes, and those who bid on the cakes.

The Annual 4-H Cake Auction, is the major source of income to support the many county 4-H activities.

- 40%- scholarships for youth and adults to participate in camp, state events, and national leadership training and conferences.
- 30%- recognition awards, merit ribbons, clover award pins, and other merit items.
- 15%- resource materials for leaders, including judging manuals, videos, and coaching materials.
- 10%- promotional items for exhibits, teaching/workshop materials, Close Encounters with Agriculture, club family nights, etc.
- 5%- Miscellaneous 4-H activities.

We would like to thank the 4-H Cake Auction Committee:

Meredith Smith, Co-Chairperson, Alganesh Piechocinski - Co-Chairperson, Catherine Savage - 4-H Agent Associate, Sheila Ford, Jeannine Shriver, Donna Shriver, Jennifer Loy, Susan Hilton, and Kai Huang.

A special thank you to Gary Hilton for the use of his truck, Steve Koster for assisting with the cakes, Ken Visser for photographing the event, and Roy Gregory and his assistants for their auctioneer services.

### **Cake trivia**

1. Icing used to be spread on cakes with a feather.

2. Before the whisk was invented, people used to whisk egg whites with a bundle of twigs or squeeze them through a sponge.
3. The earliest 'cakes' were flat compact discs of grain, squished together and dried (think rice cakes).
4. The first tiered wedding cake was made for the wedding of Queen Victoria's eldest daughter (also named Victoria) in 1858. Queen Victoria's own wedding cake, eighteen years earlier, was three yards wide and weighed 300 pounds but had only a single tier.
5. Christmas cake is a modern invention: it replaced the much older Twelfth Cake in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Twelfth Cake was eaten at the feast of Epiphany at the end of the Christmas season. All over Europe in the middle ages people celebrated by hiding a bean in a cake. The person who got the slice with the bean was King for the feast, and led the company in drinking games.
6. The global fashion for cupcakes started in the year 2000 after an episode of the TV show Sex and the City showed its characters queuing for them at New York's Magnolia Bakery.
7. For over a thousand years, the Chinese have celebrated the mid-Autumn festival with round mooncakes. Legend has it that during rebellions against the Mongol rulers in the fourteenth century, messages were hidden inside the cakes

Seven fascinating facts about cake,

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/jcMfdznZI8w6wgPBMxtV61/seven-fascinating-facts-about-cake>

In addition, did you know? Christina Tosi, the owner of Milk Bar, is credited with starting the naked cake trend in 2014. Tosi's cakes featured exposed layers, allowing customers to see the cake's filling, icing, and cookie bits. She believed that removing the frosting from the sides of the cake allowed the flavors of the cake and filling to shine through.

## **4-H'ers Thank You Notes**

Do not forget to handwrite your thank you notes and write the award you won on your thank you note. The name and address of your award sponsor is on the envelope you received.

A handwritten "Thank You" note shows that you took the time to stop and think about the person who sponsored the award. Some of the awards are given in the memory of someone that they loved and have passed on.

**Thank you all!**

The Montgomery County 4-H Staff wants to thank:

- The many amazing volunteers that came during workdays and those who helped take down the exhibits.
- The Chairpersons and Judges. Our Chairpersons and Judges are truly dedicated, and an important part of the fair success.
- The Indoor and the Outdoor Award Sponsors. The support and contributions of the sponsors help recognize the accomplishments and hard work of our 4-H members.
- The Club Leaders, parents, youth, and non-4-H persons that volunteered at the 4-H building and provided a warm welcome to the visitors to the 4-H Building during fair week.
- The Auction Cake buyers. The Annual 4-H Cake Auction is the major source of income to support the many county 4-H activities and scholarships.
- The Livestock Auction Buyers. Thank you so much to all that participated in the Auction.
- The Montgomery County Agricultural Center Staff for the support they provided to the 4-H members, volunteers, and staff.

## Level 5 Diamond Clover Plans & Reports

Diamond Clover Level 5 Plan and Reports must be submitted to MoCo 4-H County Office by October 15. Please mail your materials to the Montgomery County 4-H Office, Attn: Sheila Ford, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood, MD 20855 or email to [sheilaf@umd.edu](mailto:sheilaf@umd.edu).

Levels 1-4 reports are not due to the county 4-H office until January 2025.

## Level 6 Project Proposals

Level 6 project proposals must be submitted to the MoCo 4-H County Office by September 20. Diamond Clover Level 6 & Final Project reports are due in the portals on September 30.

Before you submit your proposal to the PORTAL, all NEW Diamond Clover – Level 6 proposals must be reviewed and approved by the County Educator, and the Diamond Clover Advisory Committee. Your Level 6 project proposal must be submitted to the MoCo 4-H County Office by September 20. Diamond Clover Level 6 & Final Project reports are due in the portal on September 30.

You can find a Word Document for Level Six Service Learning Project Proposal Form and more information at

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/youth-and-adult-leadership/diamond-clover-awards-and-scholarships>

You must upload ALL documents into the PORTAL to be considered submitted.

## National 4-H Leadership Opportunities

At the National 4-H Conference you can connect with other teens from across the nation. You will experience opportunities that will influence your community, the nation, and the world.

Youth are eligible for leadership trips opportunity by completing a SENIOR 4-H PORTFOLIO. Portfolios are due to the State Office by November 14.

To be considered for a Leadership Trip, you must complete a portfolio package that includes an application, 4-H resume, essay, and have an interview at the Montgomery County 4-H Office no later than October 11.

For more information visit the State website under National 4-H Leadership Opportunities at

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/4-h-youth-development/program-areas/youth-and-adult-leadership/>

For more information regarding MoCo's due date, please contact Sheila Ford at (301) 590-2824 or [sheilaf@umd.edu](mailto:sheilaf@umd.edu).

## 4-H Explores Careers @ the Maryland Zoo

Teens! Visit the Maryland Zoo to learn from professionals who have careers in animal care and conservation. It is going to be wild!

Date and time: Saturday, September 28, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. EDT

Location: The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, 1 Safari Place Baltimore, MD 21217

Refund Policy: Refunds up to 7 days before event. Eventbrite's fee is nonrefundable.

This event at the Maryland Zoo is for youth ages 12 thru 18 and, the event lasts 5 hours 30 minutes.

The event will feature workshops led by professionals in the animal caretaker, horticulture and conservation fields. Each session will have a career overview followed by related hands on activities. Cost for 4-H members to attend is \$14. Non-4-H youth may attend the workshops; the cost is \$48.

4-H family members who want to visit the zoo that day receive the group-discounted rate of \$18 per person. This is for Zoo admission only. Youth that are ONLY visiting the Zoo must be with an adult at all times. There will be no chaperones for the Zoo. We will have 4-H activities at the Liberty Pavilion in Druid Hill park so be sure to stop by!

Please note:

- All tickets must be purchased in advance. No "Walk Ups" allowed.

- Please, bring a lunch to enjoy at the zoo. (Lunch is not included)
- Dress for the day - Be prepared to be outside, and maybe a little messy!
- Only teen participants will be able to attend the Career Day event.

Zoo professionals workshops include:

- Animal Behavior Specialist - Studies animal behavior and try to determine what causes certain types of behavior and what factors can prompt behavior change, including training and enrichment.
- Horticulturist - Responsible for the botanical collection and its application to the animal collection, as well as daily maintenance of the institution's grounds.
- Water Quality Technician - Provides safe and healthy aquatic environments for terrestrial and non-terrestrial animals and maintains the physical integrity of zoo/aquarium facilities associated with aquatic animal habitats.
- Zoo Educator - Creates and delivers educational programs and messaging. This includes working with the Zoo's ambassador animals.
- Zookeeper - Provides daily care to the institution's animals, including diet preparation, cleaning, general exhibit maintenance, and record keeping.
- Veterinary Technician - Assists the veterinarian during procedures, provides care to the animals through examinations, treatments and routine checkups, and participates in animal training.

## **The 2024 Maryland 4-H Tech Engineering Day**

Registration closes October 13, 2024

The 2024 Maryland 4-H Tech Engineering Day is intended for 4-H youth and UME 4-H volunteers who are interested in learning about the different types of STEM projects and contests connected with Engineering and modern technologies.

Morning sessions will have youth participate in short activities related to each of the 3 main topic areas of focus: Robotics, Aerospace/Aviation, and Computer Science. Youth will choose one of the three topic areas for a more in-depth afternoon learning experience. Hands-on activities in each track emphasize the vital elements of STEM.

This event will run from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Some snacks and drinks will be provided during the day, but participants will need to bring their own lunch. Cost is \$30.00 for 4-H youth participants, limited to 30 registrations on a first-come/first-served basis. A waitlist will be established after the event is filled. There is no cost for or limit on the number of UME 4-H Volunteer registered participants.

## Annual Financial Reports

Due by email to Sheila Ford at sheilaf@umd.edu, no later than Monday, October 7, 2024.  
Charter Renewal Process and Documentation

- File your 990 postcard with the IRS. Once completed, save a copy for your records and email a copy to Sheila Ford at sheilaf@umd.edu. Please email a copy of the postcard that is filed as well as a copy of the confirmation page showing that the IRS accepted it.
- Annual Financial Summary Report - Please make sure your document is signed. Your beginning balance for 2024 should match your ending balance from last year, 2023; Fiscal year reporting July 1 - June 30.
- Property Inventory Report - Please make sure your document is signed. Every club needs to fill one out even if you have \$0 value.

## Club Corner

### Potomac Community 4-H Club

#### Potomac Community 2024 4-H Bake Sale

By Angie S.

The Potomac Community 4-H Club co-organized this year's 4-H bake sale event, as well as the training of the bake sale volunteers. The 4-H Bake Sale was on Sunday, August 11 next to the 4-H Home Arts building. The sale was a delightful event that brought the community together to support youth development programs.

The bake sale featured a wide array of homemade treats, from cookies and brownies, to cakes and pies, prepared by contestants of the 4-H baking contest. Categories included Best Cookie, Best Cake, and Most Creative Dessert. The judges, local chefs, and community leaders had a tough time deciding the winners, given the high level of talent and creativity on display.

This year's event saw an incredible turnout, with community members of all ages coming together to support 4-H. Attendees enjoyed the delicious baked goods, with many purchasing several items to take home or share with friends and family.

The success of this year's 4-H Bake Sale, made possible by a dedicated team of volunteers that worked tirelessly behind the scenes. From packaging goods, selling goods, and cleaning up, these volunteers were the heart and soul of the event, embodying the true spirit of community service.

The 4-H Bake Sale was a resounding success, and raised over \$1,500, raising more funds than ever before, and strengthening the bonds of the community.

## MoCo Sunny STEM 4-H Club

### **“Sparkling Lights” Project Serves Warm Meals and Spreads Joy in the Community**

By Wenqing G. and Caitlyn Y.

On August 15th, ten members and volunteers of the MoCo Sunny STEM 4-H club arrived at a temporary residential home in Rockville to serve a warm dinner to people in need.

Derek J. and Dr. Jiang brought a tray of crispy fried chicken, and club members worked together to setup and serve a hearty meal with the donated dinner from a charity organization, ensuring that residents at the county emergency shelter were well fed and cared for. However, the club’s efforts did not stop at dinner. Wenqing, Zoe, Tongling, and Caitlyn brought a large birthday cake, ice cream, fruit, and birthday cards, while Brian and Anna contributed a birthday banner and balloons, transforming the evening into a joyful birthday celebration. The club members and volunteers' efforts brought smiles and moments of happiness to the residents, many of whom are facing significant challenges in their lives.

Some people, who are homeless, rely on shelters for support and need ongoing assistance, including meal services. To help meet this need, the club started the “Sparkling Lights” project in 2023, where 4H members cook meals for the homeless in their community. This project also supports Montgomery County's homeless assistance program, which aims to prevent homelessness and provide support to those in need in their community.

Through these acts of kindness, the MOCO Sunny STEM 4H Club shows their commitment to making their community and neighborhood a better place to live. Their dedication to bringing hope and joy to those in need is a testament to the power of community service.

(If you or your club would like to assist residents at the temporary emergency housing facility/shelters, please reach out to club leader Amy Wang for more detailed information.)

### **Sunny STEM 4-H Club Shines Bright, Wins Second Place at the 75th Montgomery County Fair Parade**

By Brain D. and Caitlyn Y.

On the afternoon of August 11, the MoCo Sunny STEM 4-H Club made a memorable impression at the 75th Montgomery County Fair Parade, securing a remarkable second place.

Leading the parade with energy and enthusiasm was club's president Brian D., who set the tone for the team. Club members and volunteers Anna, Carlos, and Stuart contributed by creating posters that celebrated the 75th Montgomery County Agricultural Fair and aligned with the parade’s overarching theme, "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow."

Among the highlights, was a stunning banner designed and constructed by the club's co-founder, Caitlyn Y. The banner, a symbol of creativity and club pride, perfectly embodied the spirit of the parade. Caitlyn also scripted the club's enthusiastic shout-out message for the parade: "The MoCo Sunny STEM 4-H Club proudly participates in the 2024 County 75th



Fair Parade, celebrating "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" of the BEST fair. Please join us as we honor our past, showcase our present achievements, and inspire future innovation."

A group of 18 participants, including both parents and children, proudly represented the club. Despite some members being unable to attend due to illness or family commitments, the parade was a huge success. Participants enjoyed the experience, demonstrating teamwork, creativity, and a shared passion for STEM and community engagement. The Sunny STEM 4-H Club's participation not only earned them a second-place victory but also left a lasting impression on all who attended the 4-H parade.

Congratulations to the Sunny STEM 4-H Club for their outstanding performance at the Parade.

### **Sunny STEM 4-H Club Earns High Honors at the 2024 Montgomery County Fair**

By Caitlyn Y.

In August, members of the Sunny STEM 4-H Club worked collaboratively to achieve remarkable success at the 2024 Montgomery County Fair, earning multiple awards for their club group project entries. The club's dedication and teamwork was rewarded with championships in several categories, highlighting their creativity, organization, and commitment to the 4-H community.

Sunny STEM 4-H Club took home top honors for their Champion ribbon for their Open Themed Club Banner, and Third Place award for the 2024 MD State Fair Themed Club Banner, which captivated judges with its' innovative design and strong 4-H thematic representations, meeting the judging criteria. The club did an excellent job on the design and construction of the 4-H banners, leading to visually appealing and eye-catching results. They effectively demonstrated the impact of the 4-H program, aligning perfectly with the requirement for program appeal. The message was clear and illustrated the theme. Additionally, the creativity and quality of workmanship was evident, demonstrating the effort and skill the club members put into the project.

The club also secured Championships for both their Club Secretary Book and the Club Treasurer Book, reflecting Caitlyn's, the club's co-founder, meticulous record-keeping and organizational skills.

Another highlight of the fair was their First-Place victory in the Agriculture Education Display Contest. The club's display focused on the agricultural community within Montgomery County, providing insightful information about the local agricultural reserve and other agricultural initiatives. The County Agricultural Education Committee judged the display based on specific criteria such as, attractiveness, neatness, cleanliness, and accuracy of the information presented in the display. The display's quality and educational value left a lasting impression on the judges.

The club's successes did not stop there. Sunny STEM 4-H also won first place for their Citizenship Poster Design and their Citizenship Basket Entry, further demonstrating their commitment to promoting good citizenship values.

The members of Sunny STEM 4-H Club are incredibly proud of their collective accomplishments at the 2024 Montgomery County Fair. Club members also earned a wide

range of individual awards, including Championships, Reserve Championships, and Special Awards in categories such as Fine Arts, Horticulture, Main Dish and Salad, Science and Technology Presentations and Demonstrations. Additionally, members received numerous awards in Photography, Flower Specimens, Vegetables, and Crochet categories. Their hard work, creativity, and dedication have not only brought recognition to their club, but also contributed to raising awareness about the importance of agriculture, visual arts, science and technology, citizenship, and community involvement.

Congratulations to the Sunny STEM 4-H Club members for their outstanding achievements and for setting a shining example of teamwork and community spirit!

# Calendar

## **SEPTEMBER**

- 6 Maryland 4-H/FFA Dairy Goat Judging Contest at MD State Fairgrounds
- 7 Maryland 4-H State Dog Show
- 7 State 4-H Small Engine Event
- 16 National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest-All American Dairy Show, Harrisburg, PA
- 15 Diamond Clover Level 6 Proposals due to MoCo 4-H Office
- 30 Diamond Clover Level 6 Project Reports due to 4-H State Office, via Online Portal
- 27-10/6 Keystone International Livestock Exposition, Harrisburg, PA

## **OCTOBER**

- 1-4 World Dairy Expo Judging Contest, Madison, WI
- 7 Financial Report due by email to Sheila Ford at sheilaf@umd.edu
- 15 Diamond Clover Level 5 Report due to MoCo 4-H Office

## **NOVEMBER**

- 8 -10 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup, Louisville, KY
- 2 Southeastern Regional Livestock Judging Contest, Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex

2 Southeastern Regional 4-H Skillathon Contest, Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex

14-16 The 51st North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, KY

20-21 The National 4-H Poultry and Egg Conference, Louisville, KY

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