

*McNairy County 4-H*



18 USC 707

*2025-2026 yearbook*

# Welcome to 4-H!

What is 4-H?

4-H is a **community** of **young people** across America who are learning **leadership, citizenship** and **life skills.**

*The 4-H Pledge:*

**4-H PLEDGE**

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,  
my **HEART** to greater loyalty,  
my **HANDS** to larger service,  
and my **HEALTH** to better living,  
for my club, my community,  
my country, and my world.



*The 4-H Motto:*

**TO MAKE  
THE BEST  
BETTER** 

*The 4-H Slogan:*



# 4-H Definitions

## 4-H Club

A 4-H Club is a group that meets monthly, participates in contests and activities.

## 4-H Projects

4-H Projects are programs that youth participate in outside of your in-school club meetings. These are typically a special interest club.

## 4-H Portfolios

4-H portfolios are digital records of events and activities that you have completed within your project area. 4-H portfolios include photos, a written narrative or resume about you. This information is put together within a WIX website.

If you are in 6th–8<sup>th</sup> grade you can use a portfolio to attend 4-H Academic Conference and compete in 4-H project showcase.

If you are in 9th–12<sup>th</sup> grade, you can use a portfolio to attend 4-H Congress, 4-H Round Up, and compete for prizes and scholarships. Students in 11th–12<sup>th</sup> grade have the opportunity to receive college credit through UT Knoxville in certain project areas.

## 4-H Judging Teams

4-H judging teams are educational contests that happen throughout the year. 4-Hers that are interested in participating in judging teams can attend practice and then compete in regional, state, and national contests.

Judging teams include Forestry, Wildlife, Horse, Livestock, Poultry, Land, Grill masters, FCS Skillathon, Consumer Decision Making, Horse Bowl, Hippology, and Meats Judging.

# 4-H Definitions

## 4-H Honor Club

4-H Honor Club is a group of students who have excelled in 4-H. These 4-Hers have gone above and beyond the 4-H classroom activities. 4-H Honor Club meet at least once a month and complete service projects, assist with county-wide events, and participate in fun events.

## 4-H All Stars

4-H All Starts is the 2<sup>nd</sup> level of recognition from Honor Club. These students are in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. They are invited to attend regional leadership retreats in the fall and spring each year and are the opportunity to attend 4-H Round Up. A 4-Her who is active through their Junior and Senior year can also achieve Tennessee 4-H's highest recognition, Vol State.

## 4-H Congress

4-H Congress is an event for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Students have the opportunity to learn about government and participate in legislative visits, tour the State Capital, and participate in mock sessions. This event is always in March. Students in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade can earn a spot to attend by competing in the leadership or citizenship portfolio competition or winning the regional public speaking competition.

## 4-H Round Up

4-H Round Up is a week-long event that rotates between UT Martin and UT Knoxville. Students in the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade can attend Round Up as completing delegate or as an All Star attendee. If you are a competing delegate, you have the opportunity to submit a portfolio to compete for scholarship and awards.

9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders – Level 1 Competition

11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders – Level 2 Competition and a chance to attend National 4-H Congress

Level 2 participants can earn course credits for UT Knoxville in several project areas without winning the state competition.

# 4-H Definitions

## 4-H Academic Conference

4-Hers in 6th–8<sup>th</sup> grade can submit portfolio forms in their chosen project areas for an opportunity to attend UT Academic Conference on the Knoxville campus. This is a great opportunity to see life as a college student and participate in educational sessions with sessions with professors and specialists.

## 4-H Camps

Summer camps are the highlight of a 4-Her's summer. 4-Hers in the 4th–12<sup>th</sup> grade can attend various 4-H camps and other specialty camps over the summer. Page 10 discusses all camping opportunities available for youth!

## 4-H Livestock and Horse Shows

4-H hosts regional and state livestock and horse shows. If you are interested in showing animals, this is a great opportunity for you to get involved.

# County Judging & Contest Advancement

## Project Showcase

All 4-Her's will have the opportunity to demonstrate something they have learned in their 4-H project within the last year. Project Showcase is similar to the Public Speaking Contest, but you may have a visual aid!





# County Judging & Contest Advancement

## Piggy Bank Pageant

The 4-H Piggy Bank competition is available to all 4-H members. Members create, build and design a piggy bank with a theme focused on saving money. Top 3 county piggy banks will advance to the online State Piggy Bank Pageant.



## Poster Art Contest

All 4-H'ers can create a poster which promotes 4-H to others. There is a digital and regular poster option. Top 3 posters in the county will advance to the regional competition.



# County Judging & Contest Advancement

## Photography Contest

The 4-H Photography Contest is available to all 4-Her's. Top 10 photographs overall from both of the Junior High and Senior High categories combined will advance to the State Competition.



## Public Speaking Contest

Open to all 4-H'ers, each grade will be their own division. There will be a school-wide contest. Winners will advance to the county-level competition. County winners in grades 4th–8th will move on to the sub-regional contest, while winners in grades 9th–12th will advance to the regional contest.

Rules and times vary based on grade. Contact the McNairy County 4-H Agent, Mikayla Gabbert, for more information at [mikgabb@utk.edu](mailto:mikgabb@utk.edu) or call 731-645-3598.





# County Events

## Chick Chain

4-H Chick Chain is a hands-on poultry project where 4-H members learn valuable life skills by raising baby chicks into healthy laying hens. Participants typically receive 1-2 day-old pullets (female chicks) and care for them over several months. Throughout the project, youth gain experience in animal care, responsibility, budgeting, and record-keeping.

The project finishes in a county show and auction, where participants exhibit their birds and may sell them to the public.





# 4-H Calendar

## August

Enrollment for 4-H Club Year  
Homeschool Meeting  
Regional 4-H Fall Judging Day  
FCS Skillathon & Consumer Decision  
Making

Regional Dairy Show  
State 4-H Goat Expo  
State Dairy Judging

## September

In-School Clubs  
Homeschool Meeting  
Regional Grill Masters  
Regional Forestry Judging  
Regional Sheep & Goat Expo  
State 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational

## October

In-School Clubs  
Homeschool Meeting  
Regional Land Judging  
National 4-H Week  
State 4-H Fall Judging Day  
State Dairy Expo  
State Sheep Expo

## November

In-School Clubs  
Homeschool Meeting  
County Poster Contest  
Regional Livestock Judging  
All Star Fall Retreat

## December

Holiday Break!  
Honor Club Applications Due

## January

In-School Clubs  
Homeschool Meeting  
Chick Chain Sign Up  
County Public Speaking  
Regional Horse Bowl & Hippology  
State Jr. Market Hog Show

## February

In-School Clubs  
Homeschool Meeting  
Multi-County Public Speaking  
Regional Public Speaking  
Regional Poster Contest  
Regional Meats Judging

## March

In-School Clubs  
Homeschool Meeting  
Regional History Bowl  
All Star Spring Retreat  
TN 4-H Congress  
Congress Readiness Day

## April

In-School Clubs  
Homeschool Meeting  
County Photo Contest  
Regional Horse Judging  
Regional Project Showcase  
Sr. High Portfolios Due

## May

Regional Poultry Judging  
Regional Wildlife Judging

## June & July

4-H Summer Camps  
Regional Beef Expo  
Regional & State Horse Show  
State Livestock & Meats Judging  
State Wildlife Judging  
4-H Academic Conference  
TN 4-H Round Up  
Round Up Readiness Day

# Judging Teams

## Consumer Decision Making

Grades: 9th–12th

Contest: August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Topics:

Best Shopping Practice  
Decision Making Skills

## FCS Skillathon

Grades: 6th–12th

Contest: August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Topics:

Sewing  
Food & Nutrition  
Interior Design

## Forestry

Grades: 4th–12th

Contest: August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Topics:

Tree Identification  
Insect/Disease Prevention  
Compass & Pacing  
Tree Measurement

## Grill Masters

Grades: 6th–12th

Contest: September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Topics:

Grill Safety & Techniques  
Safe Food Handling

## Horse Bowl and Hippology

Grades: 4th–12th

Contest: January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Topics:

Care & Management  
Horse Industry Topics  
Nutrition, Tack, & Breeds

## Horse Judging

Grades: 4th–12th

Contest: April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Topics:

Evaluate Conformation & Performance

## Land Judging

Grades: 6th–12th

Contest: September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Topics:

Evaluate Soil & Performance of Soil

## Livestock Judging

Grades: 4th–12th

Contest: November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Topics:

Evaluate Structural Correctness  
Evaluate EPD's  
Rank Traits of Importance

## Meat ID

Grades: 6th–12th

Contest: February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Topics:

Evaluate Meat Quality  
Evaluate Retail and Wholesale Cuts

## Poultry Judging

Grades: 4th–12th

Contest: April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Topics:

Judging Past Production Hens  
Chicken Parts ID  
Egg Grading  
Broken Out Egg Grading  
Processed Products  
Carcass Quality

## Wildlife Judging

Grades: 4th–12th

Contest: May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Topics:

Wildlife Identification  
Skulls, Hides, & Calls  
Wildlife Management Practices

# 4-H Camping Opportunities

## Jr. 4-H Camp

Grades: 4th-6th

June 22nd-26th

Lone Oaks Farm

Middleton, TN

Five-Day Resident Camp

Swimming, Shooting Sports, Hikes,  
Woodworking, Archery, Crafts, Etc.

## Jr. High 4-H Camp

Grades: 6th-8th

Lone Oaks

Middleton, TN

Five-Day Resident Camp

Swimming, Shooting Sports, Hikes,  
Woodworking, Archery, Survivor  
Challenges, Etc.

## Target Smart

Grades: 5th-9th

May 25th-29th

Clyde Austin 4-H Center

Greenville, TN

Archery, Riflery, Shotgun Use,  
Muzzleloading, & Outdoor Skills

## Electric Camp

Grades: 6th-8th

June 23rd-26th

University of Tennessee

Knoxville, TN

Energy, Energy Conservation, &  
Electrical Safety

## O.W.L.S. Camp

Grades: 6th-10th

May 26th-29th

Land Between the Lakes

Dover, TN

Hike, Swim, Fish, Canoe, Campfires

## Line & Design Camp

Grades: 6th-12th

July 6th-8th

UT Martin

Martin, TN

Discover Creativity, Develop Skills,  
Sewing, & Design

## Culinary U Camp

Grades: 8th-12th

July 8th-10th

UT Martin

Martin, TN

Knife Skills, Baking, Cooking, &  
Cooking with Competitions

## For More Information

Contact the McNairy County

UT Extension Office

731-645-3598





Junior 4-H  
Camp





# Junior 4-H Camp







## Tennessee 4-H Congress



## Regional Wildlife Judging



# Calleigh Phillips Junior Representative



# Initiation



Jenna McCullar  
Award Recipient 2025:  
Miller Roach

## *Dear Parents,*

Congratulations! You now have an official McNairy County 4-H member in your family! We are excited to welcome your child to one of the most rewarding and dynamic youth organizations in the world.

4-H gives young people the opportunity to explore new interests while building valuable life skills such as sportsmanship, citizenship, and leadership. As the world's largest youth development program, 4-H is not only educational—it's also a lot of fun!

Behind every successful 4-H member is a supportive adult—someone who encourages, guides, and invests time in their child's growth. Your involvement plays a key role in your child's 4-H experience, and we truly appreciate your support.

Here are just a few ways you can help support your child and the McNairy County 4-H program:

- Assist with monthly contests, such as poster projects and public speaking
- Encourage your child to always do their best
- Serve as a 4-H Volunteer Leader
- Attend 4-H Camp as an Adult Leader
- Help train a 4-H Judging Team
- Volunteer at local and county 4-H events

We're looking forward to a fun and successful year ahead. Thank you for being part of the McNairy County 4-H family and for playing an important role in your child's development through 4-H. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. You can call us at 731-645-3598, email Mikayla Gabbert at [mikgabb@utk.edu](mailto:mikgabb@utk.edu), or visit our office at 703 Industrial Park Drive, Selmer, TN 38375

*Sincerely,*

*Mikayla Gabbert*

*McNairy County 4-H Agent*