



UT/TSU Extension—Blount County
1219 McArthur Road, Maryville TN 37804
Phone 865-982-6430
Office Hours M-F 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.

4-H Agents

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Upcoming Dates

For More information on any programs,
visit our website: <https://blount.tennessee.edu/>

- ❖ Jan 5: 4-H Honor Club Meeting 4:45p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Jan 8: 4-H Horse Meeting 6:30p.m. Blount County Library
- ❖ Jan 8: 4-H Sewing Club 4:00p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Jan 12: 4-H Chick Chain Meeting 4:30p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Jan 13: Demonstration & Table Top Exhibit Hybrid Workshop 4:30p.m. ask for Zoom link
- ❖ Jan 15: 4-H Sewing Club 4p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Jan 17: ER 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology contest—UT Knoxville
- ❖ Jan 19: 4-H Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ❖ Jan 20: Slingshot Challenge Workshop 5 p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Jan 22: 4-H Sewing Club 4p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Jan 23: Deadline for county 4-H Posters – absolute last day
- ❖ Jan 23: 4-H Portfolio deadline
- ❖ Jan 24: 4-H Shooting Sports Certification Training (TBD)
- ❖ Jan 29: 4-H Sewing Club 4p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Jan 27: Public Speaking Winner's Workshop 4:30p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Feb 2: 4-H Honor Club Meeting 4:45p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Feb 5: 4-H Sewing Club 4p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Feb 7: Sr High Regional 4-H Speaking contest @ Pellissippi, Hardin Valley campus
- ❖ Feb 9: 4-H Chick Chain Meeting 4:30p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Feb 12: 4-H Sewing Club 4p.m. @ 4-H Office
- ❖ Feb 16: 4-H Congress Readiness Day (No School)
- ❖ Feb 23: Big 9 Sub-Regional Speaking Contest, Sevierville 3:30p.m.

Blount County 4-H January 2026 Newsletter

4-H Project Demonstration

Communication Skills Building

4th and 5th grade 4-H members may prepare a demonstration related to a 4-H project and share it at the February club meeting. 6th - 8th grade members may prepare a table top exhibit. See below and on page 3 rules and guidelines. Attend the workshop for more!

Rules & Guidelines:

- ☐ No live animals may be used in presentations
- ☐ It must relate to one of the 4-H projects.
- ☐ Only individual exhibits advance to the next level.

Steps in Giving a Demonstration

◇ Planning

1. Choose a topic you know (keep it simple.)
 - . List the important steps in order.
 - . Outline an explanation of each step.
 - . List the materials/supplies needed.
 - . Plan visuals—posters, signs, labels on props, etc.
 - . Plan video shots, scenes and angles (optional)

◇ Preparation

1. Write an introduction — make it catchy & attention-getting.
 - . Write the body—this is the “show and tell” part.
 - . Write a summary to make sure the audience understands.
 - . Show a finished product when possible.

◇ Presentation

1. Always face the audience (camera). Use good posture.
 - . Speak clearly and loud enough for everyone to hear.
 - . Talk while you are working.
 - . Use posters and don't forget the title poster.
 - . Practice food safety in food demonstrations.
 - . Make sure the audience can see what you are doing.
 - . Ask for questions at the end after saying, “this concludes my demonstration”.



Just for Kicks and Giggles:

**ONLY DEAD FISH GO
WITH THE FLOW!**

4-H Honor Club!



If you are currently in the 6th grade get your 4-H Honor Club application and start to work on it. The next initiation is just around the corner. We want as many eligible members to be in the next group to be welcomed onto the rolls. It is free to become an honor club member, but priceless once accepted into the fold. We want to recognize you before your peers family and friends. Visit this site to learn more: <https://4h.tennessee.edu/leadership-opportunities/>

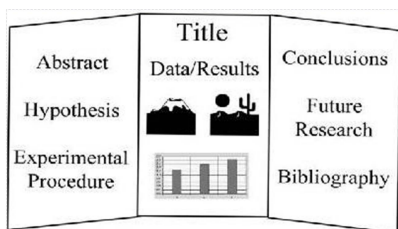
State 4-H Congress Coin Drive



The 2026 Tennessee 4-H Congress will be held March 7-11 at the Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro, TN and at the state capital in Nashville, TN. Congress is the premiere event for Tennessee 4-H. The 4-H Congress service project is raising money for the TN 4-H Camp scholarship program. Blount County 4-H members are collecting extra change and giving to the cause. The club giving the most coins during February will win an ice cream party from Mr. McMillion. Please plan to give what you can. All collected monies will be given to the TN 4-H Foundation for camp scholarships.

Exhibit Demonstration Workshop

Participate and learn from an old pro—how to give a blue ribbon demonstration or prepare for the perfect table top exhibit presentation. Topic choices, writing opening statements, props needed, talking points, poster making, viewing stances, etc. will be covered. This workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. This hybrid workshop may be attended via ZOOM or in person. Call or email the 4-H office for zoom link details. A recorded copy of the session will be made available and posted later on the UT Extension Blount County FaceBook page at (<https://www.facebook.com/utblountcounty>).



Public Speaking Workshop

There will be a workshop on January 27 at 4:30 for the county 4-H public speaking winners. Speakers will practice and tweak their speeches before the next level of competition at the Big 9 Sub-Region and Eastern Region contests. Call the 4-H office for more information and to RSVP 865-982-6430, ext 3 .

Bee Essay Contest

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, state and county levels. Pay close attention to all announcements to make sure you do not miss out on the opportunity to participate and maybe win big.



"Hot Hands" Service Project

A record setting number of donations were given during December's 4-H "Hot Hands" service project. Several schools donated through their SRO position so true numbers are even higher than reported here. Donations that came through the 4-H Office were 600+ packs including hand and toe warmers. Thank you all for making this a great success.

Some Camp and Conference Dates for Your Calendars!

- Spring All Star Conference (9th-12th grade)
March 20-22, 2026
- Angler Camp (6th-8th grade)
April 17-18, 2026
- State Target Smart Camp (5th-9th grade)
May 25-29, 2026
- Junior 4-H Camp (4th-6th grade)
June 1-5, 2026
- Fashion & Design Conf. (6th-12th grade)
June 1-4, 2026
- Jr Hi Academic Conference (6th-8th grade)
June 9-12, 2026
- ER Culinary Camp (6th-12th grade)
June 16-18, 2026
- Quilt Camp (6th-12th grade)
June 22-24, 2026
- State Electric Camp (6th-8th grade)
June 23-26, 2026
- Junior High Camp (6th-8th grade)
July 6-10, 2026
- State 4-H Roundup (9th-12th grade)
July 20-24, 2026
(Must Qualify to Attend)

Amy Berger

James McMillion

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Things turn out best for people who make the best out of the way things turn out."
~ Art Linkletter

BLOUNT COUNTY 2026 4-H SPEAKING AND ART RESULTS

ON DECEMBER 11 THE COUNTY PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST WAS HELD AT THE BROADWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN DOWNTOWN MARYVILLE. MEMBERS FROM SEVERAL SCHOOLS AND HOME SCHOOL WERE IN ATTENDANCE. LISTED BELOW ARE MEMBERS THAT QUALIFIED FOR THE COUNTY LEVEL CONTEST. WINNERS IN GRADES 4-8 ADVANCE TO THE BIG 9 SUB-REGIONALS AND HIGH SCHOOL MEMBERS TO THE EASTERN REGIONAL CONTEST. WINNERS FIRST THROUGH THIRD PLACE ARE AS FOLLOWS.

WINNERS:

4TH—Sebastian Carrizales 1ST / Madison Chiruck 2ND / Zion Love 3RD

5TH—Emma Richardson 1ST / Calvin Lail 2ND / Jack Strait 3RD

6TH—Davis Payne 1ST / Aiden Chiruck 2ND

7TH—Lily Gray 1ST / Dixie Buchanan 2ND

4TH GRADE SPEAKERS

Samantha Ballard
Levi Burton
Sebastian Carrizales
Madison Chiruck
Brooklyn Daugherty
Adrian Kulinski
Ayden Landrum
Zion Love
Brooklynn Pack
Brayden Patrikios
Aiden Releford
Lizz Tarwater
Jackson Williamson
Brantley Hannah

5TH GRADE SPEAKERS

William Agolia
Lily Brown
Mallory Cataline
Lucas Cockrell
Cruz Esquivel
Tucker Kalahar
Calvin Lail
Kyreeana Leonard
Ryker Peters-Farmer
Emma Richardson
Jack Strait
Gage Taylor
Kora Toledo
Sophia Weir

JR HIGH AND SR HIGH SPEAKERS

Aiden Chiruck
Davis Payne
Dixie Buchanan
Lily Gray

Art Coloring Winners Identified

WINNERS OF THE THANKSGIVING ART COLORING CONTEST WERE IDENTIFIED AFTER JUDGING TOOK PLACE IN EARLY DECEMBER. THERE WERE 10 YOUTH WINNING FIRST PLACE HONORS AND A NEAT PAIR OF GLASSES.

Top Ten Winners: follow the QR code to see them

Ryker Farmer-Peters
Mikia Strickland
Sophia Dershem
Katie Dirmeyer
Cierra Kittle



Emorie Boring
Paislee Dailey
Emma Richardson
William Agolia
Peyton Ford

Honorable Mentions:

Kyreeana Leonard
Cason Macklin

Ohlin Sineff
Kaden Russell

Madalynn Jones
Naunnally Boyles

Other Participants:

Eden Anderson
Colton Goldman
Meloney Lee
Renesmae Sommers

Dominic DiDonato
Savannah Jenkins
John Legg
Jazmine Underwood

Felix Fillion
Jason Johnson
Harmony Madison

Tips from the Tabletop Wizard



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- Can use the science tri-fold board.
- Can use photos, web captures, or even your own artwork to illustrate your exhibit.
- Can put loose items on table in front of board.
- May use all space from Table to floor.

Exhibit Construction



Rules


1. Includes a table top exhibit.
(4 feet wide x 2 feet deep)
2. Must be related to a 4-H project.
3. 4-H'ers will have a 2 minute talk to explain the exhibit.
4. 4-H'ers need to be prepared to answer questions.
5. No Live animals!

Tips




- Exhibit should be easy to read and understand.
- Exhibit should be attractive and neat.
- Exhibit should be able to stand alone and convey a complete message to audience.

Topics



- May show how to do something
(how to plant a tree)
- May explain more about something
(why we plant trees)
- May tell about what you have done in your project.
("Here are photos of me planting trees")

Presentation



- Be prepared to have an organized talk explaining your exhibit. The talk should last right at 2 minutes.
- Use proper speaking skills. good posture, proper grammar, and speak in complete sentences.
- Be well groomed and dressed appropriately.
- Be prepared to answer questions from judges concerning your exhibit.

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4-H Poster Contest

Blount County



State Contest Guidelines

- Posters should be made by individual 4-H members only.
- Posters must be designed horizontally.
- Posters must be 14 by 22 inches.
- Name, address, county and age of the 4-H member should be clearly written on the back of each poster.
- 4-H is to be the topic for the poster.
- Well known cartoon figures cannot be used because they are copyrighted – such as Marvel Super Heroes, Disney characters, Ninja Turtles, Lego characters, Pokémon characters etc.
- Three dimensional objects or materials which extend 1/8 inch or more above the surface of the poster may not be used.
- When using the 4-H Emblem on a poster -
 - Do not place text or other images over or on top of the 4-H Emblem. No photo, drawing, symbol, word or other figure or object may be placed on or obscure the 4-H Emblem. Use green and white for the clover colors. The clover stem should turn to the right only and the clover should not be slanted. For more information on the proper use of the 4-H Name and Emblem, visit the [4-H website](#).
- The poster design must be original. Copies from previous winning posters will be disqualified.

