



UT/TSU Extension—Blount County
1219 McArthur Road, Maryville TN 37804
Phone 865-982-6430
Office Hours M-F 8am-4:30pm

4-H Agents

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Upcoming Dates! For More information on programs, visit our website:

<https://blount.tennessee.edu/>

- ❖ Mar 5 Horse Group Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Library
- ❖ Mar 5 Sewing Group 4:00 p.m. at the 4H Office
- ❖ Mar 6 Deadline to Register for Achievement Night & Shooting Jamboree
- ❖ Mar 7-11 State 4-H Congress, Murfreesboro/Nashville
- ❖ Mar 9 Tribute to Wild Turkey Reg. Due
- ❖ Mar 10 Bee Essay Due (james@utk.edu)
- ❖ Mar 12 County 4H Achievement Night 5:00 p.m. at 4H Office
- ❖ Mar 12 Deadline to Register Livestock Judging Teams
- ❖ Mar 14 Chicken Meeting at Heritage HS 10:00 a.m.
- ❖ Mar 14 Tribute to the Wild Turkey Event
- ❖ Mar 16 Poultry Chick Chain Meeting at 4H Office 4:30 p.m.
- ❖ Mar 16-20 County Spring Break
- ❖ Mar 19 Sewing Group 4:00 p.m. at the 4-H Office
- ❖ Mar 20-22 4-H All Star Conference Greenville Clyde Austin 4-H Center
- ❖ Mar 23 Honor Club meeting 4-H Office 4:45 p.m.
- ❖ Mar 23 Academic Conf. & Angler Camp Reg. Due
- ❖ Mar 26 Livestock Judging Contest Roane State CC
- ❖ Mar 26 Sewing Group 4:00 p.m. at the 4-H Office
- ❖ Mar 27-28 State 4H BB & Air Rifle Jamboree
- ❖ Mar 28 Friend of 4-H Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast @ AHS 7:30 a.m.
- ❖ Mar 30 Deadline for Fashion & Design Conf Registration
- ❖ Mar 31 Big 9 Achievement Day Corryton, TN
- ❖ Apr 1 Dairy Poster & Chairperson Materials Due in 4H Office
- ❖ Apr 2 ER Horse Judging Contest Roane State CC
- ❖ Apr 2 Deadline to Register for Clover Bowl, STEM Mini Camp & Quilt Camp
- ❖ Apr 2 Sewing Group 4:00 p.m. at the 4-H Office
- ❖ Apr 3 4H Office Closed for Good Friday Holiday

Blount County 4-H

March 2026 Newsletter

4-H Clover Bowl Championships

The Blount County 4-H Clover Bowl Championships will be conducted April 14 at 5:00 p.m. at the Blount County 4-H office (1219 McArthur Road, Maryville). We will be using a single elimination contest to select champion teams in grades 4-8. There will be an on-line test used to determine their seed rank. Each local team participating at the county level will be tested. The final four teams will vie for the top placings and awards.

Teachers/Leaders may put together a team or allow members to form their own teams to attend the county games. A team name and its members with emails identified, should be submitted to the 4H Office by April 2nd. Submit team information by email to aberger2@utk.edu or to james@utk.edu. Team members will then receive a confirmation email and a link to their on-line test. Team members will have a 7-day period to complete and submit tests. Based on responses answered correctly, registered teams will be ranked in order best to lease for the tournament.

Members may study for the tournament using questions found on the UT/TSU Extension Blount County website found here: <https://eastern.tennessee.edu/4-h-clover-bowl/>. Scroll down the page and click on your grade for sample questions.

2026 4-H June Dairy Contests

Just a reminder - the 2026 4-H June Dairy Month Contests has two parts.

Part one - the Dairy Poster contest, where the theme is “Milk’s Got Game”. Tell us what Milk’s Got Game means to you! Is it fueling you up for football? Is it driving your dance practice? Is it gearing up your gaming? Show us how you do dairy! You may make a virtual or traditional poster, but only one or the other. First place - \$550. Poster are due at your March club meeting or in the 4H office by April 1.

Part two – we are interviewing for the county June Dairy Month Chairperson. Do you have what it takes? Submit an application by April 1, 2026. Promote the dairy industry the month of June and submit a report on what you did by July 10 and possibly win some spending cash.

Awards: Best Use of Theme \$250, Best Use of Media \$250, Division Winner \$500.

Visit here for more info: <https://blount.tennessee.edu/4-h-youth-development/>



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, my world

MOTTO:
"To make the Best Better"

Just for Kicks and Giggles:

Someone said, “Nothing rhymes with orange.” I said, “No, it doesn’t.”

Next County Wide Service Project

We are asking each 4-H Member to commit 20 "Random Act of Kind-ness" during the next 30 days. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Pay it Backward: buy some-thing for the person behind you in line.
2. Compliment the first three people you talk to tomor-row.
3. Send a positive text message to five different people before 3pm.
4. Post inspiration-al sticky notes around your neighborhood, school, etc.
5. Tell someone they dropped a dollar (even though they didn't). Then give them the dollar.
6. Donate old towels or blankets to an animal shelter.
7. Say hi to the person next to you in the hall or on the elevator.
8. Surprise a neighbor with freshly baked treats!
9. Let someone who only has a few items go in front of you in line.
10. Leave a gas gift card at a gas pump.
11. Throw a party to celebrate someone just for being an awesome person.
10. Leave quar-ters at the laundromat.
13. Leave unused coupons next to corresponding products in the store.
14. Look and act gracious.
15. Smile at five strangers.
16. Ask siblings if you can help them with a chore.
17. Help Mr. McMillion correct an error in this article. Think of 3 more ideas!

4H County Poultry Project (Chick Chain)

Blount County 4-H Chick Chain birds arrive late April.

Participants meet monthly to learn about their project animals and to demonstrate best practices and proper care for their birds .



In addition to the meeting, the club is looking to start judging team practices. Members of the judging team will learn to judge live birds, grade dressed birds and eggs (inside and out) and identify chicken parts. If you would like to participate, contact Mr. McMillion at the 4-H office.

There will be a show and sale and a judging event in September at the Knoxville fair.

2026 4-H Academic Conference

Tennessee Junior High Academic Conference brings together 4-H members from across the state of Tennessee. The conference provides academic training related to the 4-H members' project areas, offers opportunities for career exploration in agriculture and family and consumer sciences, and allows 4-H members to meet other members with similar interests. There are more than 20 project areas, where 4-H'ers attend workshops and seminars to deepen their knowledge in their particular area of interest. The 4-H'ers also visit the Herbert College of Agriculture, the UT Gardens, and Neyland Stadium while exploring the University of Tennessee's Knoxville campus. To end the week, the 4-H'ers kick back at Main Event for bowling, arcade games, laser tag, and pool party. If you wish to be the next victim of such fun, complete an application and see if you get the job! Ask Ms. Berger or Mr. McMillion for an application.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Happy are those who dare
courageously to defend what they
love."
~ Ovid

Camps & Conferences for Your Calendars!

- Tribute to the Wild Turkey (general public) \$0.00
March 14, 2026
- Angler Camp (6th-8th grade) \$100
April 17-18, 2026
- Mathematical Modeling Camp (9th -12th grade) "FREE"
May 1-3, 2026
- Target Smart Camp (5th-9th grade) \$385
May 26-30, 2026
- Junior 4-H Camp (4th-6th grade) \$400
June 1-5, 2026
- Fashion and Design Conference (6th-12th grade) \$250
June 1-4, 2026
- Junior High Academic Conference (6th-8th grade) \$400
June 10-13, 2026
- ER Culinary Camp (6th-12th grade) \$250
June 16-18, 2026
- Quilt Camp (6th-12th grade) \$250
June 23-25, 2026
- State Electric Camp (6th-8th grade) \$340
June 23-26, 2026
- Destination Design (9th-12th grade) \$425
June 29-July 2, 2026
- Junior High Camp (6th-8th grade) \$400
July 6-10, 2026
- State 4-H Roundup (9th-12th grade)
July 20-24, 2026 (Must Qualify to Attend)

Use this QR code or link for a look at the camps listed above.



<https://blount.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/181/2026/03/2026-Camp-Fliers-Bound.pdf>



Amy Berger



James McMillion

Blount County 4H

Sewing Club News



Hi, my name is Paycen Clemence-Kimmel. I started sewing with the 4-H Yarn and Fabric group five months ago. We have learned sewing, macrame, and knitting. I loved sewing bookmarks for the “Meals on Wheels” Christmas gift bags. This service activity was so special to me. But I will have to say that macrame has been my favorite thing to do. Making the bottles more beautiful were so fun and easy to do. I made them for my grandparents for Christmas. I enjoy knitting it just takes a long time. If you have a lot of free time, you will love knitting!!! I’m so grateful for 4-H and the sewing group for providing the opportunities.



Macrame Bottles



Knitting

Beekeeping Essay Contest

Love bees? Enjoy writing? Here's your chance to do both—and maybe win prizes!

The 4-H Beekeeping Essay Contest invites youth to explore the fascinating world of bees through research and writing. This annual contest helps 4-H'ers build their communication, research, and critical thinking skills—all while learning more about the vital role of bees in our world.

Top essays at the **county, state and national levels** are eligible for **cash awards** and recognition.

2026 Topic: The Power of Pollen

Entry Deadline March 10, 2026

Submit Essay To james@utk.edu



For this essay, a 4-H student should answer these questions:

How is pollen important to bees?

Has pollen been changing in plants and in our landscapes?

If so, are those changes affecting bees?

When do you observe the most and least pollen in your colonies

And how does that impact their temperament and productivity?

Contest Rules

1. The contest is open only to active 4-H club members.
2. Winners who have previously placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at the **national level** are not eligible; all others are eligible to re-enter.
3. Failure to meet any one rule will result in the disqualification of the entry.
4. Write on the designated subject only.
5. All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a “sources” or “bibliography” list.
6. On a separate page, include a brief biographical statement for the writer, along with their mailing address, email address, and phone number.
7. The essay should address the assigned topic in 750 to 1,000 words, excluding sources, works cited, and the writer’s biography.
8. Essays must be typed, lines double-spaced, in a 12pt legible font.

9. Essays are judged as follows:

- (a) scope of research, 40%;
- (b) accuracy, 30%;
- (c) creativity, 10%;
- (d) conciseness, 10%;
- (e) logical progression, 10%.



10. Essays will not be returned. All submissions become the property of the sponsoring organizations and may be used or published at their discretion.

11. **NEW RULE for 2026: The statement “I verify that AI was not used to create this essay” must also be included at the bottom of the essay and signed.**

2026 Awards

- **2026 County Award** (sponsored by the Blount County Endowment Fund)
 - First place ONLY: \$50.00
- **2026 TN State Awards** (sponsored by the TN 4-H Foundation – undisclosed amounts)
 - First place: Second place: & Third place:
- **2026 National Awards** (sponsored by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees)
 - First place: \$750.00, Second place: \$500.00, Third place: \$250.00