



UT/TSU Extension—Blount County
1219 McArthur Road, Maryville, TN 37804
Phone: 865-982-6430 (ext. 3)
Office Hours: M-F 8am-4:30pm

4-H Agents

Amy Berger <aberger2@utk.edu>

James McMillion <jmcmilli@utk.edu>

Blount County 4-H September Newsletter '26

What You Can Expect From Your 4-H Experience?

*Loads of **FUN!**

*A ton of new **friends**—that's 20 if they average 100 pounds per friend,

*Discovering new things about **yourself**,

*Becoming more familiar with your **environment**,

*And finally, gaining a boatload of confidence.

I pledge my head to Clearer **THINKING!**

"I pledge my Head to clearer thinking," is a **way of saying that 4-H members will dispel all the thoughts and ideas that will only hold them back as an individual growing up in today's society. ...**



Leadership Opportunities

Club officer elections will be held in **October**. Some roles are symbolic, others hands-on. Talk with your teacher, parent, or friend to decide if you should run for an office. Officer training will be held in **November**. We do it virtually and by video now.

Speech Contests More on speeches to come next month. Start thinking of what to talk about. Also watch for the training video.

4-H Summer **CAMP** in 2027

We have started to promote 4-H camp for 2027. We have the dates and have started to make plans. Please mark your calendars for June 7-11, 2027. It is the same week as last year, which proved to be most fun. More details to come soon.



Upcoming Dates

For More information on any programs, visit our website or call the 4-H office

- Sep 3: Horse Project Group meeting 6:30pm County Library
- Sep 5: New Gavel Club for 9-12 grd. 8:30am Vienna Coffee Company
- Sep 11-20: TN Valley Fair Knoxville
- Sep 14: County Honor Club Mtg @ 4-H Office
- Sep 17-18: Farm Bureau Farm Day
- Sep 19: Gavel Club (see above)
- Sep 26: Blue Ribbon Country Fair @ Townsend Heritage Center & County Poultry Show and Sale
- Sep 28: Multi-County Portfolio Workshop - Knoxville
- Oct 3: Gavel Club (see above)
- Oct 4-10: National 4-H Week "Beyond Ready"
- Oct 5-12: County School Fall Break
- Oct 12: Honor Club Meeting
- Oct 31: Public Speaking Training Video available
- Nov 1: Officer/Leadership Training video available



Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

The 4-H Honor Club!



The Tennessee 4-H Honor Club is a program designed to provide recognition and leadership development for Jr. High and Sr. High 4-H members. Traditionally it has been a very important service organization. Members must be 6th-12th grade as of the date of their initiation. They must have completed at least 2 years of 4-H work. They need to be serving as local leaders in their club and/or community.

Ask for a brochure if interested in joining.

WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS?

SEPTEMBER: 4-H enrollment; there will be a parent workshop Zoom designed to help new and/or seasoned guardians with new program changes and for everyone to have a successful year.

OCTOBER: 4-H enrollment continued; Election of club officers - Talk it over with your teacher, parent or friend and determine if you should run or not. There will be a training video provided to help officers with their responsibilities (November). There will also be a public speaking training video to help members develop head turning and award winning speeches (check calendar date).

NOVEMBER: Poultry Chick Chain applications will be available for members (Nov 1). There will be an opportunity for you to give a speech at your local club.

DECEMBER: There will be a 4-H Project Portfolio training to assist members with record keeping ideas and how to assemble the portfolio (Date TBD). There will be a large service project that we want as many members to participate in as possible.

I pledge my hands to Larger SERVICE!

"I pledge my Hands to larger service"...I'm thankful that the community service projects that are carried out in each club entitles you to make someone's life a little brighter .



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
READING CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR IGNORANCE
~ Unknown

Join a Project Group

Consider participating in one or more of the following project groups. They assist 4-H members in completing project work.

Bee Keeping & Honey - TBD

Culinary/Cooking - TBD

Garden/Horticulture/Plant Science - TBD

Horse - meets the 1st Thursday

Livestock - TBD - Poultry; Swine; Cattle; Goats; Sheep

Sewing Club - meet Thursdays

Shooting Sports - TBD (archery, shotgun, rifle, BB)

Small Engines - TBD (repair and general maintenance)

Other groups - will be organized as interest grows.

I pledge my heart to Greater LOYALTY!

"I pledge my Heart to greater loyalty"...I'm grateful that continual 4-H club involvement provides youth an opportunity to build caring relationships with members of the club as well as the adult volunteer leaders.



2027 Virtual 4-H Project Groups by Zoom!

If there's enough interest, some project group meetings may be held as a virtual project group on-line. There will be no need for transportation, just a wifi/internet connection.

At the STATE level, there are two groups that have been formed already.

Virtual Creative Arts & Design Project Group –

Led by Dr. Lori Gallimore

- Open to Tennessee 4-H youth in 6th-8th grades (as of January 1, 2026)
- Meets the third Thursday of each month (except in January – this meeting will be held the second Tuesday of the month)
- First meeting will be held Tuesday, October 20
- Meetings will be held between 7-8 p.m.
- Register through Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/r8u479qHhQRTfuty9>
- The deadline to register is October 30.

Virtual Entomology & Beekeeping Project Group –

Led by Lynne Middleton

- Open to Tennessee 4-H youth in 4th-12th grades (as of January 1, 2026)
- Meets the first Thursday of each month (except in October – this meeting will be held the second Thursday of the month)
- First meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8
- Meetings will be held between 7-8 p.m.
- Register through Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/vDfhccPZi4BKkP29>
- The deadline to register is October 30.

Once registered, you will receive more information and the links for the meetings.

Amy Berger

James McMillion