

MONTGOMERY COUNTY 4-H

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



**A look at the projects that are currently active in Montgomery County 4-H.
For more information on any of the projects listed, please contact the
Montgomery County 4-H Office.
(936) 539-7823**

FASHION (CLOTHING & TEXTILES) PROJECT



It is a misconception that the Clothing project consists of only sewing. Clothing & Textiles project activities include textiles and garments, clothing construction, design, career exploration, and more. Clothing & Textiles Project experiences include Fashion Show, Natural Fiber Competition, Narrator Contest, Stage Design Contest, Fabric and Fashion Design Contest, Fashion Story Board, Clothing and Textiles Advisory Board. The competitive experiences are all optional.

The Fashion Show is the contest in which Clothing and Textiles Project members are able to compete. They also should have completed a series of learning sessions with their project leader. County Fashion show is held in March and District is late May. Seniors may qualify to advance to the State competition in June.

There are different sections of the competition. The two divisions that you may choose from are buying or construction. Construction is judged on the quality of the material and sewing involved. Buying is judged on the savings as well as quality of garment, or getting the most out of your selection for the least amount of money. In either class it must fit you and the category you enter. There are 4 categories in each division: Casual, Dressy, Formal and Specialty. At the county level, first place in each category advances to district. At the district level, each first place senior advances to state.

An interview is also a part of the contest. The information that you are interviewed on is learned in your project meetings. An exciting part of the Fashion Show is the runway. You will have to model your garment on the runway and you will be judged on poise and ease as well as the garment itself.

Fashion Story Board is a new event for 2010-2011! Members design a creative storyboard reflecting a determined theme. The storyboard "tells the story" of the designer's idea. The board includes original illustrations and flats, as well as additional materials, such as swatches, patterns, etc. that have influenced the unique design.

FOOD & NUTRITION PROJECT

Food & Nutrition Project activities include exploring food groups, nutrition information, career exploration, healthy lifestyles, and more. Food & Nutrition project experiences include the Food Show, Food Challenge, Food & Nutrition Quiz Bowl, Food & Nutrition Educational Presentation, & Healthy Lifestyles Advisory Board. The competitive experiences are all optional.

The Food Show is the contest that Food & Nutrition Project members compete in. The Food Show provides for educational and personal development and recognizes youth who excel in the 4-H Food and Nutrition program. The state level competition is open to senior 4-H members and is held during 4-H Round Up. Scholarships are awarded to top placings. There are similar processes at county and district levels. There are 4 categories to choose from: Fruits and Vegetables, Main Dish, Nutritious Snacks and Breads and Cereals.

A new contest this year, the 4-H Food Challenge! was modeled after such competitions as the Food Network's Iron Chef. In this contest, teams of 4-H members create a dish using only a predetermined amount of ingredients. From these ingredients, 4-H members must identify, prepare and then present information related to the serving size, nutritional value and cost of the dish. Throughout this energized process, the 4-H members are demonstrating their culinary and food safety skills to judges and on-lookers.

The Food & Nutrition Quiz bowl is a team activity that helps participants learn core concepts of nutrition, food preparation and food safety. Clubs can use this "game show" activity as an effective and fun teaching method any time during the 4-H year. Reference materials include the "4-H Quiz Bowl Guide" and the "Food and Nutrition Quiz Bowl Supplement."

County 4-H Food Show and Food Challenge! will be held in November while the district competition is held in December and the State competition occurs in June at Round Up. Senior 4-H members are eligible to advance to State.

SPORTFISHING



Sportfishing is a relatively new project in Texas. Here is your chance to get involved with the wet side of the conservation education process and perhaps recruit some additional kids and adults into your program. Four disciplines are covered during the training – Angling skills, aquatic ecology, people and fish, and tackle crafting. Coordinating training will be incorporated, so experience is not necessary, but aggressive learning attitude is essential.

When you put all of these topics together in a hands-on setting, of course you have to go fishing to practice your new skills. The only dam on this water project is that we need leaders to attend training to instruct the project on a county-wide basis. If you know of anyone who would be interested please encourage them to call.

SHOOTING SPORTS

We have a great shooting sports program here in Montgomery County. Anyone currently enrolled in 4-H is eligible to participate after they have taken a four hour 4-H Home Firearm Safety Class. These Safety classes are scheduled and listed in the newsletter. After that, they shoot at project meetings and have monthly organizational meetings. We currently have shotgun and rifle disciplines. Additional disciplines will be added as we get certified instructors.

DOG PROJECT



Small yard? Want a 4-H project involving animals? Try the Montgomery County 4-H Dog Project! In the Dog Project, participants learn about Dog Care and Training. Beginners work on obedience and showmanship/conformation while advanced handlers work on

obedience, showmanship, agility and drill team or rally. Even though not all of the participants take their dogs to shows, everybody trains and practices like they are preparing to show. So what if your dog is a mixed breed? That's okay! The Dog Project group welcomes dogs of all breeds and ages. This project offers you and your dog training *and* fun.

VET SCIENCE PROJECT

The Veterinary Science Project is a 5 year curriculum based project that gives youth interested in veterinary medicine an opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge it takes to become a veterinary assistant. Upon completion of the program, members may take an exam to become a Certified Veterinary Assistant. You can visit <http://aevm.tamu.edu/> to take a look at the lessons that will be taught.

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER

Do you like to collect insects? How about watching wildlife? Earthworms, anyone? What about creating your own garden? How about recycling? Rainwater harvesting? If you have an interest in any of these areas, the Junior Master Gardener program is the one for you! JMG helps grow good kids by igniting a passion for learning, success and service through a unique gardening education. JMG involves meaningful horticultural and environmental science activities that encourage leadership development, personal pride, responsibility and community involvement. Research has shown that students that participated in JMG scored 'significantly higher on achievement tests' than those who did not. For more information, visit www.jmgkids.us.



The Montgomery County Junior Master Gardener program has earned several awards in past years. The Adopt-a-Spot Program in specific has been recognized for its involvement in community beautification projects and fostering awareness for environmental stewardship. Congratulations!

-2009 Texas Junior Master Gardener County Program of the Year

-2008-2009 Keep Texas Beautiful Ruthe Jackson Youth Leadership Award 2nd Place Winner.

TECH TEAM

The Tech Team is a group of 4-H members with an interest in computers and information technology. Project ideas include GPS/GIS systems, web-cam meetings, digital photography, robotics, web page graphics and design, aviation, and much more. The sky is the limit! There are technology competitions and the new S.E.T. 'Discovering the Scientific Method' Poster Competition at Round Up.

If you are interested in exploring an exciting new realm of possibilities within 4-H, please contact the 4-H office. The County Tech Team is also seeking **adult volunteers** and **project leaders**. You do not need to be a computer genius to join or

volunteer with the Tech Team! Open to all members including new or not yet enrolled 4-H members.



4-H Afterschool is a vibrant nationwide initiative raising awareness of the need for positive youth development during after-school hours. It increases the quality and availability of after-school programs in urban, suburban and rural communities by:

- Creating learning opportunities suitable for any after-school setting
- Delivering enriching, hands on curriculum
- Training staff and volunteers to work more effectively with youth

AfterSchool programs typically run on a semester basis and are taught once to twice per week for 1-2 hours.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS & CONTESTS

4-H offers a wide variety of judging contests that are available to any 4-H member who is interested. Judging develops critical thinking, verbal and written communication, observation, decision making and public speaking skills as well as self-confidence. These are just a few of the skills they will build along with knowledge of the area they are judging.

All judging areas usually compare 4 items and to place from most to least desirable based on your knowledge of the ideal. You will learn the ideal and how to judge in project meetings and practices. Some of the areas offer a number of contests hosted by various organizations throughout the year that culminate in the District Judging. Senior 4-H members (14 and up) are eligible to advance to State. Others may only have the District and State contest.

Contests that are currently available include:

Livestock Judging - Species including beef cattle, swine, and sheep. Market and breeding animals evaluated on conformation and production ability.

Horse Judging - You will judge 4 halter classes based on conformation of the horse. You will also judge 2-4 performance classes based on the skill of the horse and rider. This is conducted at the county level with regular practice meetings and begins also in Aug. or Sept.

Consumer Decision Making - You will judge classes of 4 items based on your knowledge and the situation you are given for the items. Classes include used cars, compact fluorescent bulbs and credit cards among others. County contest is held in March, if needed and District is in April.

Dairy Judging - judge dairy cattle based on conformation, structure and production ability.

Entomology - Contest includes written examination and insect identification. Insects are common to Texas.

Meat judging and Identification - Part one is judging classes of common retail cuts of beef, pork and lamb. Part 2 is identification of retail cuts of the same species.

Land Judging - Evaluation of a soil profile based on soil texture, depth, moisture, slope, and agricultural use.

Grass Identification - ID contest consisting of species common to Texas and important to range management. This leads into Range Evaluation contest.

Record Books

These are due to the county 4-H Office in June. Activities that make a quality record book also make quality scholarship applications. Everybody who places first in their category advances to the District Competition, usually held in July. First place seniors advance to State. (Everybody who completes and turns in a record book is invited to the county awards banquet in August.)

Record books help youth develop leadership skills, build character and assume citizenship responsibilities; explore career, job and productive leisure opportunities; and develop skills, knowledge and attitudes for life-long use. They also provide a record of accomplishments and failures and are a reference when scholarship applications are due. There are two record book trainings in the spring. These are normally divided into Beginner and Advanced levels.

ROUNDUP

Roundup has 4 levels; County, District, State and in some contests National. Each level has additional contests added to it.

County Roundup - in February or March

District Roundup – in April

State Roundup – in June

Educational presentations are planned up to 12 minute presentations by individuals or teams of up to 5 4-H members that teach information related to a project or activity through illustrated talk, method demonstration, or speech, using props and visual aides.

Share-the-Fun is a performance, similar to a talent show. The categories include:

Poetry/Prose, Vocal, Musical, Band, Choreographed Routine, and Celebrate 4-H for individuals or teams up to 9 members. Your imagination is the limit.

Public Speaking is a 5 to 7 minute talk suitable as a platform speech or radio broadcast. Props and visual aids are not permitted. Topics are open to anything such as the meaning of the 4-H pledge, Gun Control and Prayer in Schools. Topic should be age appropriate.

Beef Bowl, Horse Bowl and Food & Nutrition are quiz bowl contests at the district and state levels covering information within the subject area. Teams of four compete against each other in a two round contest with buzzers. First round is individual questions for each member. Second round is toss up questions and any of the 8 contestants can buzz in.

State Roundup

Only Senior 4-H members can advance to State. It is a week long event on the A&M University campus which includes the following: Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Awards, Fashion Show, Photography, Rifle, Fabric and Fashion Design, Judging Contests and Food Show, in addition to those described above. They also have Spirit Rallies and Community Service projects.

District and State 4-H Horse Show - (District in June. State the last week in July in Abilene.) Members must participate in county practice shows and the County 4-H Horse Show. Refer to the Practice Horse Show Criteria for more information. This can be obtained from the County Extension Office.

CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES

Many summer programs are limited to older 4-H'ers because they require 2 or more nights away from home. However, some activities have an equivalent activity modified for younger members. All have some cost involved, but the County program will assist to a certain degree. We will start publicizing summer camps and workshops in the spring newsletters and chief sheets. Here are a few of the camps that take place every summer.

Horsemanship Schools

Texas State Youth Shooting Sports Camp encourages understanding of natural resource concepts through participant's interest in shooting and hunting. It also promotes safe and responsible use of firearms and archers equipment, including sound decision making, self discipline, concentration, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.

Water Camp is hands-on educational program for older youth held each summer. The program is designed to help youth understand key issues relating to water use and conservation and to become aware of related career opportunities.

Texas Brigades are four half-day programs for youth ages 13 – 17 with some of the top wildlife and fisheries professionals in Texas serving as instructors and mentors. There are four programs to choose from: Bobwhite Brigade, Feathered Forces, Buckskin Brigade and Bass Brigade. Brigades are intensive “boot camps” on the management of the species listed, natural resources and leadership development.

State 4-H Center Prime Time provides 9-13 year olds the opportunity to learn interpersonal skills and develop lifetime friendships. Programming will focus on educational and recreational experiences with the emphasis in helping youth to understand the opportunities available in the future.

State 4-H Center Spectra targets youth 14-18 to address project enhancement, leadership development, self-image enrichment, and career exploration. 20 hours of instruction in one of nine project areas plus recreational activities.

District 4-H Leadership Lab - (Occurs in June at Sam Houston State University)

A 2 ½ day program (Wednesday - Friday night) focusing on a 4-H project area. Includes hands on learning activities, some fun and games and a chance to practice social skills. Montgomery Co. 4-H pays for at least half of the registration. (There is a Jr. Leadership lab in October. for 11 - 13 year olds.)

State 4-H Congress - (Occurs the second week in July even numbered years.)

During the week long program senior aged 4-H youth experience the legislative process, first hand. By role playing senators, representatives, lobbyist and press corps members, youth are exposed to the complete political scene. From debating bills in the actual Texas Legislature chambers to socializing with advocates and opponents at evening receptions, you return to their communities with a better understanding of how our state government. Open to a limited number of 4-H'ers. There is an application process in place to determine who from the county gets to attend.

MAJOR SHOWS

Major Shows are considered to be shows that:

- 1) Steers, lambs, goats and barrows are State Validated. Poultry are ordered through the Extension Office.
- 2) Require that all entries go through the supervisor, in this case the County Extension Agent.
- 3) Require Junior exhibitors be members of 4-H or FFA and in grades 3 - 12
- 4) Accept entries from across the state.

The five main shows are State Fair of Texas (Dallas) in September - October, Southwestern Exposition (Fort Worth) in January - February, San Antonio Livestock Exposition (SALE) in February, Star of Texas (Austin) in February - March and Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) in March. Several smaller shows are included.

Entries are taken from exhibitors for the State Fair in August and the remainder of the major shows in November at a special date and time, publicized in the newsletter and manager's packet.

The majority of our entries include Beef Heifers, Market Goats, Lambs, Steers, Barrows (pigs), and Poultry in some cases. Of course there are other areas. If you want to show something other than what is listed please call the 4-H Office before Entry Day so that we will have information and entries prepared for you. These shows also have 2 parts: Open and Junior for breeding animals. Junior shows have the above requirements 2-3. Open shows are open for anyone to enter.

Decisions to make before you come to enter:

- 1) Which shows do you want to attend?
- 2) What species (animal) do you want to show? What are the ownership deadlines?
- 3) How many gate passes and car passes will your family need? (Exhibitors get one gate pass free)
- 4) How many days can the student be absent from school? (Allow extra time if you make sale)

What to bring on Entry Day:

- The exhibitor
- One of exhibitor's parents
- Social Security number of exhibitor
- Registration papers for breeding animals
- Payment, either cash or check for entry fees

Commonly used terms:

Car pass: Allows you to park in exhibitor parking and not pay each time you enter.

Gate pass: Allows person to enter the gate without paying each time. Exhibitor gets one free.

Terminal: The animal does not come home with you. You will receive a floor price from the packer buyer, usually a few cents above market price.

Weigh: Make sure the animal meets the weight requirements.

Classify: Make sure the animal meets the breed requirements of the class you are entering. May be sifted or moved to appropriate class (check the rules)

Sift: Weigh, classify and evaluate quality; failure to meet requirements results in removal of animal from the show. In terminal shows the animal goes straight to the packer buyer's truck.