

4-H Connect

October

Dallas County 4-H

2024



WHERE 4-H GROWS

COUNTY NEWS NATIONAL 4-H WEEK KICKOFF



We're excited to share that National 4-H Week began with a special resolution presented by the Dallas County Commissioners and Judge Clay Jenkins in honor of Dallas County 4-H. The youth present showcased their incredible dedication as representatives of our program.

Akyza and Azarea Lawrence, part of our Teens as Teachers youth development program, delivered inspiring speeches about their experiences over the summer. They highlighted valuable skills they've gained in areas such as food and nutrition, workforce readiness, and financial literacy. The Teens as Teachers efforts in teaching younger members of the community have made a significant impact.

We are proud to work with such talented youth and look forward to enhancing our current programs while expanding our reach throughout the Dallas County community.

A heartfelt thank you to all our 4-H members and volunteers who attended the event. If you missed it, you can watch the recorded meeting here.

National 4-H Week continues next week! Don't forget to check the Dallas County 4-H calendar for exciting events planned throughout the week. Join us for the fun! Please RSVP using through SignUp Genius.



Click this page to view the full article.

COMMISSIONERS COURT RESOLUTION



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Beyond Ready



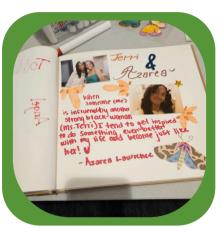




TEENS AS TEACHERS SUMMER CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENTS



On September 7th, Dallas County 4-H celebrated the summer achievements of the Teens as Teachers (TaT) SPIN club in culminating their first semester of training and teaching youth in the Greater Dallas area on Healthy Eating & Active Living. They administered six lessons from a curriculum created by Cornell University over the course of the summer in co-teacher pairings to groups of 10-20 students at a time, ranging in 7-15 years of age. The cohort of 17 teens is gearing up to teach again during the fall semester and will balance school. extracurricular activities, and their TaT duties as they continue to pursue workforce development. Focusing on STEM, the teens will train and deliver lessons curated by National 4-H and in the spring will have the opportunity to send a delegation to the National 4-H Ignite Summit in Washington, DC. We are very proud of our Teen Teachers at the AgriLife Extension office and look forward to witnessing their future achievements.













Interested in gaining workforce experience and working with your community? As a Teen Teacher you will become part of a cohort of teens gaining professional skills quided-mentorship and through specialized trainings. You will become a Texas A&M employee and deliver lessons with a coteacher on topics ranging from STEM to Mental Health to youth in after-school programs. If you're 14 years of age or older and looking to expand your 4-H involvement, an opportunity for educationally oriented-employment, introduction to career readiness then APPLY TO BE A TEEN TEACHER TODAY!

POSITION PAYS 15/Hr







TEENS AS TEACHERS RECRUITING















SOCCER FOR SUCCESS

KICKOFF TO SUCCESS

We're excited to share that the Dallas County 4-H agent Elias Espinosa, from Prairie View has hosted six Soccer Days, introducing communities to the vibrant Soccer for Success program. In collaboration with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas, Mr. Espinosa led engaging sessions for over 150 children in grades K-8 across four clubs in the area.

This initiative is a cornerstone of our Healthy Living program, designed to provide underserved children with access to physical activity, nutrition education, and social-emotional learning (SEL). Through these elements, we're helping kids build a brighter future and enhance their quality of life.

Looking ahead, we plan to roll out the full Soccer for Success curriculum this fall at various venues. If you're interested in starting a soccer program in your community or volunteering to make a difference in the lives of children in Dallas, please reach out to our Prairie View University 4-H agent:

Elias Espinosa

Email: efespinosa@pvamu.edu

Phone: 214-904-3065

Join us in creating opportunities for our youth!











YOUTH HIGHLIGHT

Bringing Change, From Dallas County to the National 4-H TLEI Summit By Faith Apodaca



















After witnessing cultural bullying of friends last year, Gabriella Pardo and I co-founded the Texas 4-H Culture Committee of Dallas County with adult leaders Liz Espie and Starla Apodaca. Thanks to the support of numerous volunteers and advocates, our first year, we reached approximately 4,000 through community engagements. The Committee's leadership team has grown to now include seven youth, three Culture Ambassadors, three adult leaders, and more than twenty advocates and volunteers—and we're still growing. Our new leadership team has already been hard at work through participation in a cultural awareness workshop with Dallas County AgriLife and Purdue Extension, event planning at club and county levels, expansion planning across the state, and presentation and participation at the National 4-H True Leaders in Equity Summit over the summer in D.C. area for five days.





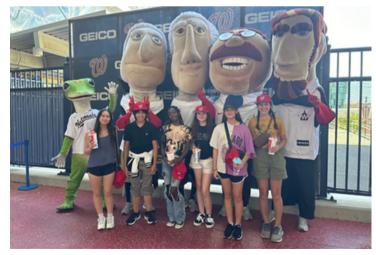
At the National 4-H TLEI Summit, six members of the Committee's youth leadership team: Lux Walker, Anthony Vu, Sophia Pardo, Abigail Kailukaitis, Ryleigh Gamble, and I presented our cultural awareness anti-bullying initiative Many Cultures, One Community to 200 youth from across the U.S. and territories discussing our year in review and future Committee plans. Through other team's presentations, we gained insight into the change initiatives happening across the U.S. Peers shared thoughts and experiences to improve each team's plan, and we connected with teams with similar goals. We participated in Q&A discussions which helped us think deeper and develop more plan details. Keynote speakers shared insightful tips, strategies, and personal stories on a variety of change topics to inspire and educate. We networked during Career Panel discussions. Plus, we expanded our way of thinking and were inspired to reach farther with our goal through attendance of workshops.





Liz Espie and I co-presented two workshops with our workshop Plan C and the Rest of the Alphabet. We shared brainstorming methods to help equip teams' development of their best plan and the tools necessary to explore new options if situations go awry or the unexpected happens. There is more than one letter in the alphabet, and more than one plan to reach a goal. Participants were able to practice brainstorming methods toward solution to an assigned pre-determined goal and revisit brainstorming methods when hit with an unexpected change. The teams had much success, and we received good feedback on our presentation. Though I am not an excellent speaker yet, I believe my presentation skills grew significantly with this year's TLEI experience, and I had a lot of fun.

Presentations and workshops were not the only thing on the agenda. We also explored the D.C. area from the moment we stepped off our early flight, headed to see the Washington Nationals ball game and were gifted team baseball caps. We also took a night tour of the National Monuments, had a night out at the museum tour, checked out multiple Smithsonian museums (I especially loved the National Air and Space Museum), explored the area, rode the subway, danced, exchanged team pins and stickers with the other teams, and along the way developed friendships, a stronger team, self-confidence, and independence.





Overall, the National 4-H TLEI experience enriched our lives by providing us a broader look at the world we live in, interaction with more diverse mindsets, tools to navigate difficult conversations, importance of inclusion and self-advocacy, and opportunity for self-growth. Our team is poised to make an even bigger impact this year as we look to participate in more community engagements, host a cultural arts day and a school cultural read-a-loud, and expand the Committee's mission beyond Dallas County to additional counties across the state.

If you want to be a part of the change to reduce cultural biases, please join the Texas 4-H Culture Committee of Dallas County. We are actively seeking additional committee members, volunteers, community partners, and Culture Ambassadors. For more information, please contact Liz Espie at Liz. Espie@ag.tamu.edu or Elias Espinosa at efespinosa@pvamu.edu and follow us on Instagram.

Hope you join us in creating a safe and welcoming space for all cultures. Faith Apodaca



In attendance of the 2024 TLEI Conference from left to right:
Adult Advisor Elias Espinosa, Anthony Vu, Faith Apodaca,
Abigail Kailukaitis, Lux Walker, Ryleigh Gamble, Sophia Pardo,
Adult Advisor Liz Espie

CONGRATUALTIONS TO THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE



Congratulations to the Dallas County 4-H Youth Development Texas 4-H Cultural Committee on being honored as one of the recipients for the 2024 Lead to Change Award, receiving \$2,000!

A special shoutout to our amazing teens: Faith, Lux, Ryleigh, Sophia, Gabriella, Abigail, and Anthony. We also want to extend our gratitude to Mrs. Starla, our dedicated adult mentor, Liz Espie, our wonderful Family and Community Health Agent, for their invaluable support. "Xiomara Diaz Vargas"

#4H #4HGrows #BeyondReady #Dallas

#Dallas4H



SPIRIT NIGHT FUNDRAISER TORCHY'S TACOS CASA LINDA



SUPPORT DALLAS COUNTY 4-H!!

Join us for our first fundraiser of the 2024-25 program year at Torchy's Tacos! Come out, enjoy some delicious food, and support our amazing 4-H programs. Mention Dallas County 4-H when you order, and 15% of your purchase will be donated to our programs! Spread the word and bring your friends and family along! Your support makes a difference.

Thank you for helping us grow!



Looking for a fun way to support Dallas County 4-H while picking up some festive stocking stuffers? We're excited to announce our Christmas sock fundraiser, replacing the traditional Christmas cards!

Calling All Young Designers!

We invite all 4-H youth members, from Clover Kids to Seniors, to showcase their creativity by designing the new socks! Use the Christmas Sock Design Template and submit your designs via email to bailee.wright@ag.tamu.edu by October 21st.

Voting Details:

All submitted designs will be featured on the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation page for everyone to vote on from October 22nd to October 24th. Each "like" counts as a vote, so get ready to rally your friends and family!

Exciting Prizes:

The winning design will be turned into a beautiful knitted sock, and the designer will receive a \$100 gift card! Plus, \$5.00 from each sock purchase will be allocated to support Dallas County 4-H, benefiting our county foundation account.

We can't wait to see your creative designs. Good luck to everyone!







GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PROJECT VISUAL LETTER ART EXCHANGE





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Visual Letter Art Exchange Global Citizenship Project

4-H clubs are invited to participate in a Global Citizenship Project -- Visual Letter Art Exchange! Club members create "visual letters" to send to children of similar ages in Michigan and Norway. A "visual letter" is just like a written letter in that both can tell stories and share important ideas and feelings. The medium however is different; one uses images and the other uses words - both are effective in connecting children across the globe. Youth are to create a piece of art that communicates something that is important in their lives, such as friends, family, pets, home, school, sports, 4-H activities, holidays, etc.



Open to Texas 4-H members in grades 3-12



How to Participate

- September -- discuss the Visual Letter Art Exchange with 4-H club members and notify Dr. Locke of club's intent to participate (limited to 10 clubs)
- Receive confirmation and additional instructions from Dr. Locke
- Submit art by October 31
- December -- 4-H clubs receive art from Michigan and/or Norway
- January through May -- 4-H clubs share art at monthly meetings; reflect on the cultural similarities and differences through guided discussions.

For More Information:

liz.espie@ag.tamu.edu

"Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating."

CORNER





East Dallas 4-H



At the East Dallas Club meeting on Tuesday, September 17th we started with an icebreaker with a snowball fight (the snowballs had positive words in them) and discussed how we need volunteers for our Kendra Scott fundraiser & our booths at the zoo and Torchy's Taco Casa Linda (to explain how 4-H works). We also discussed our projects and how they work for example robotics, livestock, and photography. For National Voter Registration Day, we registered to vote in our mock "no politics" election at our October meeting. By Isabella Whitener, Reporter



It's going to be an exciting year for Pegasus. Last night we had our first meeting and our officers were installed. Ruth our president talked about goals that we might have for the upcoming year to make our best even better. We also talked about projects that our club might be interested in doing. We will all try to take on more leadership roles in our club and share more responsibilities. We have some projects coming up...archery, photography, community service and public speaking. In archery, several of our club members went to the State Fair and competed. Our president got first place for her group.

We are looking forward to starting more projects this year. By Sam Redman, Reporter





CORNER







The Tumbleweeds 4-H Club had our first meeting of the year. We introduced our 2024-2025 officers, approved our annual budget, and voted to purchase a robotics kit for the Robotics Project, using funds from a Wal-Mart grant that was recently received! The program was all about EGGS! We learned about how eggs are formed inside a chicken and broke into groups to do an egg drop project. With some creative packaging, most of the eggs did not break when dropped from the second floor! By Haley Trcka, Reporter



CCC Dallas Youth Leadership

At the 4-H Meeting on September 9, we started with an icebreaker and then started with our meeting and discussed ideas of how we could be more involved with our community. And we discussed who would be our 2nd and 3rd vice president. Anthony & Gemma were elected. We also discussed what our roles mean to our 4-H community and how we can commit to that.

By Isabella Whitener, Reporter









Constellation of Living Memorials



We're thrilled to share that Constellation of Living Memorials has teamed up with 4-H to launch a new 4-H Spin Club! Under the leadership of Julie Fineman and with the support of Dr. Jarvis James from Taking Back Our Community Church, this initiative brings together dedicated volunteers to provide underserved youth with unique opportunity to learn about monarchs and foster ecological awareness.

Constellation of Living **Memorials** committed to transforming neglected historic cemeteries across Texas into vibrant natural habitats filled with native plants. These revitalized spaces will not only honor those laid to rest but also serve as crucial stopovers for migrating wildlife. Our youth members will gain hands-on experience in habitat preservation, contributing meaningful environmental change.

Dallas County 4-H is excited about the positive impact this collaboration will have on our community and looks forward to working closely with our new 4-H members.

Paradise Baptist 4-H

We are excited to announce that Paradise Baptist Church is now officially a chartered community club with Dallas County 4-H! This marks a significant milestone as one of the first clubs established in South Dallas.

We eagerly anticipate welcoming their new youth members and getting them involved in all the amazing opportunities 4-H has to offer. The members will focus on STEM initiatives, fostering curiosity and innovation in our young leaders.

Let's give a warm welcome to Paradise Baptist Church, Kayla James - Club Manager, and all its new members! We can't wait to see the incredible things they will achieve.





<<< CALENDAR OF EVENTS >>>

Oct 1st Dallas County Commissioners National 4-H Resolution 8:30am

Oct 2nd District Horse Judging Contest Closes on 4-HOnline

Oct 6th National 4-H Week

Oct 7th Robotics Project Meeting 5pm

Oct 7th Dallas County 4-h Youth Leadership Meeting 7pm

Oct 7th Spirit Week Share your favorite 4-H event photos

Oct 8th Homeschool Day at the Dallas Zoon 9am to 3pm

Oct 8th Registration for the District IV Green Jacket Academy Leadership Training closes on 4HOnline

Oct 8th Spirit Week Share your favorite 4-H Friends photo on social media

Oct 9th District Food Challenge Contes Opens in 4HOnline

Oct 9th Spirit Week 4-H Throw Back Share your past 4-H photos on your social media page

Oct 10th Torchy's Tacos Spirit/Fundraiser Night, 9440 Garland Rd #234, 6 to 8pm

Oct 10th Spirit Week 4-H Spirit Week Wear your 4-H colors and swag at Torchy's Tacos

Oct 11th State Fair of Texas AgriLife Booth @Go Texas Pavillion 1:45 to 6pm

Oct 11th Spirit Week share your 4-H & Big Tex photos on your social media page

Oct 12th One Day Community Service For the Love of the Lake White Rock Lakeshore

Cleanup, Big Thicket Building, 430 Thicket Cir, Dallas, TX 75218 8:30 to 10:30am

Oct 12th Spirit Week 4-H Community Service Share your pics on your social media page from the Lakeshore Cleanup

Oct 12-13th District IV Shooting Sports Coaches Training Bowie County Courthouse

Oct 17th 4-H Public Speaking Project

Oct 19th Archery Competition at Rodeo Houston

Oct 19th District Horse Judging Contest TAMU-C

Oct 21 Robotics Meeting 5pm

Oct 23 District IV Food Challenge Contest Closes in 4-HOnline

Oct 24 Livestock Evaluation Project via Zoom 6 to 7pm

Oct 26th Green Jacket Academy Leadership Training District IV 8:30 to 4pm

Oct 26th Dia de los Muertos, Oakland Cemetary, 3900 Oakland Circle, 10am to 3pm

Oct 29th Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Training closes in 4HOnline

Oct 30th District Photography Competition opens in 4HOnline

Oct 31st Deadline for reduced enrollment

Oct 31st Halloween

Nov 2nd Culture in the Core, Main St Plaza, 105 S. Interurban St. Richardson 2:30-6:30pm

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR CALENDAR

<<< 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING PROJECT

Exciting opportunity for youth looking to enhance their public speaking skills! Don't forget, every project can incorporate a public speaking element. Join us and boost your confidence and communication abilities! Scan QR for the link. October 17th @6:30pm



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE DISTRICT IV 4-H GREEN JACKET ACADEMY!

We're thrilled to announce that registration is now open for the District IV Green 4-H Academy! This fantastic program is available for youth in grades 6 through 12, offering them the chance to develop essential leadership skills and understand the importance of effective communication in leadership roles.

Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity—click the link below to register!



Registration Details:

Members of District IV 4-H may register on Texas 4-H Online starting September 24th to October 8th.

https://v2.4honline.com Registration cost - \$20

Participants must be actively enrolled in Texas 4-H for the 2024-2025 year before registering.

Open to 4-H members in the intermediate and senior grade division (6th to 12th grade) in District 4 of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program.



Presentations must be submitted by October 8th.
 Ambassadors may present individually or with a team
 Selected presenters will be notified by October 15th.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

Rockwall County Courthouse
111 E Yellow Jacket Ln, Rockwall, Texas
Check-in 8:30 am
Program 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m.



Learn how to become an effective leader, by understanding how your leadership style impacts people around you.

Communication is important in all leadership positions. Learn the keys to positive communication.





Determine how your passion can help you grow as a leader in as an ambassador in Texas 4-H.

Examine your pathway to leaders in Texas 4-H and learn about county, district, and state leadership positions.



Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommedations to participate in this event are encouraged to contact the your local County Extension Gittlee for assistance, at least two weeks prior to the properties of the

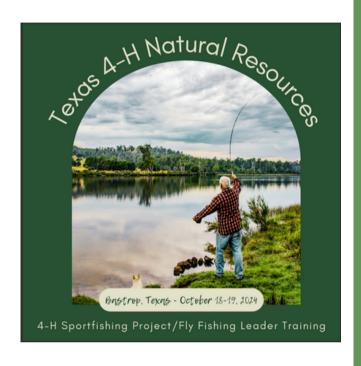
<<< UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

JOIN US FOR 4-H SPORT FISHING AND FLY FISHING LEADER TRAINING!

Attention senior-level 4-H members, adults, and County Extension Agents! We invite you to participate in the 4-H Sport Fishing Project and Fly Fishing Leader Training, taking place in Bastrop on October 18th and 19th.

The registration fee is just \$30, which covers educational materials and lunch on Saturday. Don't miss out—registration is open now through October 10th on 4HOnline.

For more information or any questions, please reach out to Larry Hysmith at lhsmith@ag.tamu.edu or Hannah Smith at hannahfaith.smith@agnet.tamu.edu. We look forward to seeing you there!









Dia de los Muertos

Our newest 4-H Club, Constellation of Living Memorials, along with some of our Cultural Ambassadors, will be participating in the Dia de los Muertos event at Oakland Cemetery on October 26th from 10 AM to 3 PM. This family-friendly event is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the rich traditions of Dia de los Muertos while exploring the ongoing restoration project at the cemetery. Enjoy performances by

We hope to see you there for a day of celebration and cultural enrichment!

Ballet Folklórico and savor delicious

food from various vendors.





CULTURE IN THE CORE

Join the Cultural Affairs Committee at Culture in the CORE.

For a list of events, please visit their <u>website</u>.

* Attention Graduating Seniors! *

We would love to feature you in our upcoming Youth Highlight section of the newsletter! If you'd like to be showcased, please send in your article and pictures by October 25th.

This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate your achievements and reflect on your 4-H journey. We're excited to highlight all the incredible things you've accomplished!

Club Reports

We'd love to hear from you! Please send your club reports along with a few pictures to <u>cara.kailukaitis@ag.tamu.edu</u> after your club's monthly meetings. Remember to include <u>"Club Report" and your club name in the subject line</u>. We can't wait to showcase all the amazing activities our 4-H members are involved in!

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need assistance with your registration or submissions.

Dallas County 4-H - Contact information

Phone: 214-904-3050

dallas@ag.tamu.edu

Elver Pardo: County Extension Agent- 4-H Youth Development <u>elver.pardo@ag.tamu.edu</u>

Elias (Paco) Espinosa - PVAMU Extension 4-H Youth Development elias.espinaosa@aq.tamu.edu

Cara Kailukaitis: 4-H Grows Program Coordinator

cara.kailukaitis@ag.tamu.edu

Kimberley Randall: Teens as Teachers Coordinator kimberley.randall@ag.tamu.ed

Kamilah Valentin Diaz: Teens as Teachers Assistant kamilah.valentindiaz@aq.tamu.edu