



4-H Connect

November

Dallas County 4-H

2024



WHERE 4-H GROWS

COUNTY NEWS DALLAS COUNTY 4-H CELEBRATES NATIONAL 4-H WEEK



Dallas County 4-H had an exciting week celebrating National 4-H Week, embracing the "Beyond Ready" theme through a series of engaging events.

The festivities kicked off with the Dallas Zoo's homeschool day, where participants got hands-on experience simulating various bird beaks to collect food, sparking interest in wildlife and ecology.

We also partnered with Torchy's Taco – Casa Linda for a spirited fundraiser night, to support our programs.

On Friday, our members showcased their efforts at the AgriLife booth during the State Fair of Texas, where we welcomed numerous visitors eager to learn more about 4-H and our initiatives.

The week culminated on Saturday with East Dallas 4-H organizing a shoreline cleanup at White Rock Lake as part of One Day 4-H. This initiative provided a meaningful opportunity for our members to give back to the community and demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship.

Overall, National 4-H Week was a fantastic celebration of youth leadership, community service, and the spirit of 4-H!

[CLICK THIS PAGE TO VIEW THE FULL ARTICLE](#)



Beyond Ready



TEENS AS TEACHERS

TRAINING



On October 25th, the first cohort of Teens as Teachers by 4-H underwent training on the 2024 National 4-H STEM kit, Food for Thought. Located at the Dallas County RB1 Urban Farm, teens were able to experience each lesson for themselves in-depth with the assistance of the TaT Program Coordinator (Kimberly Randall) and the 4-H Youth Development Agent (Elver Pardo) in preparation for Fall Teaching.

Our Family and Community Health Agent (Liz Espie) delivered additional training on GEM (Get Experience in Mindfulness). Not only did they learn what actions can be taken to address food security needs in their communities, but also how to take care of their bodies and minds through simple breathing exercises and yoga techniques.



TEENS AS TEACHERS

RECRUITING

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 through guided-mentorship and specialized trainings. You will become a Texas A&M employee and deliver lessons with a co-teacher 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, or an introduction to career readiness then **APPLY TO BE A TEEN TEACHER TODAY!**

POSITION PAYS 15/Hr



By: Ruth Schmiel

My name is Ruth Schmiel and I am a senior in Pegasus 4-H Club. This is my fifth year in 4-H and I participate in the projects of archery, leadership, community service, and poultry. I also attend Lake Highlands High School where I am involved in cross country, softball, and National Honor Society. 4-H has been an important extracurricular activity for me because it has given me many opportunities and experiences. One opportunity 4-H has given me is being able to serve as club president. As president, I get to be a leader for my club, listening to everyone's opinions and making motions for the benefit of all members. In addition to being club president, I participate in archery where I get to compete in competitions all around the state. I participate in indoor and 3-D; meeting new people along the way. I enjoy archery because it teaches me more about myself everyday, and it allows me to shoot with people who share the same passions. My favorite experience from 4-H was when I won first at the State Fair of Texas archery competition in September. Having the opportunity to create new experiences every year is what I appreciate the most about 4-H. 4-H has taught me how to be a leader and to step out of my comfort zone which has led me to where I am today. While I may be closing this chapter of 4-H after this year, the lessons it has taught me will follow me as I go off to college.



CULTURAL COMMITTEE

RECOGNIZED AS FINALIST IN THE LEAD CHANGE GRANT



The Dallas County 4-H Team extends heartfelt congratulations to the Cultural Committee for being named one of three finalists for the Lead to Change Grant. This grant program is dedicated to supporting innovative initiatives that foster leadership, diversity, and community engagement. Each year, it empowers young leaders who are making a meaningful impact in their communities. The project, titled “Many Cultures One Community,” is spearheaded by an enthusiastic group of students: Faith Apodaca, Ryleigh Gamble, Abigail Kailukaitis, Gabriella Pardo, Sophia Pardo, Anthony Vu, and Lux Walker. Their initiative aims to create platforms for cultural exchange and understanding, bridging gaps between diverse groups and promoting dialogue and collaboration among residents from various backgrounds.

As finalists, the team will receive an additional \$3,000 grant and tickets to the Ignite 2025 conference, taking place from March 12-16, 2025. At this conference, they will have the opportunity to pitch their project, with a chance to secure an additional \$5,000 to further advance their initiative.

In preparation for their presentation at Ignite 2025, the team will share their progress and vision with a wider audience. They are also encouraged to document their journey through photos, videos, and participant testimonials, highlighting the positive impact of their project.

This recognition not only showcases the potential of their initiative but also emphasizes the vital role of youth leadership in tackling social issues. The Lead to Change Grant seeks to empower young leaders to implement transformative projects that contribute to a brighter future for communities nationwide. We eagerly anticipate the positive outcomes that “Many Cultures One Community” will achieve.

For more information about the project and its upcoming initiatives, please reach out to Liz Espie, Family and Community Health Agent, at liz.espie@ag.tamu.edu.



DISTRICT IV

FOOD CHALLENGE



Tumbleweeds Club members Talley Baker, Haley Trcka, and David Bureau recently competed in the District IV Food Challenge. Dallas County 4-H would like to congratulate them on their impressive performance and for earning a top placement.



DALLAS 4-H CLUBS CORNER



Pegasus 4-H



At Pegasus, we are still eagerly awaiting a location to hold our archery practice. Meanwhile, many of our club members are preparing their entries for the upcoming photography contest. We're also thrilled to announce that we are in the early stages of planning a Christmas Dance for all of Dallas County 4-H! By Ben Redman



East Dallas 4-H

This month our club participated in National 4-H Week. The Dallas County Commissioners Court meeting was a great opportunity to see parliamentary procedure at work and meet our county commissioners. We talked to hundreds of kids about 4-H at Homeschool Day at the Zoo and raised money for 4-H at Torchy's Taco night. For 4-H One Day, we cleaned up the shoreline at White Rock Lake. The kids were shocked at how much trash there was. We filled up five big bags! Aiden said they learned why it's important to take care of our environment. At our October meeting, everyone had fun turning Zach and Gemma into toilet paper mummies. For our program, longtime election helper Zach Porter explained how voting works in Dallas County and we held our own election. Some of the winners were Cats for Best Pet, Sushi for Best Food and Red for Favorite Color.



Constellation of Living Memorials



Carol Clark, a program volunteer with Master Gardeners, recently guided the youth members of Constellation of Living Memorial 4-H in a hands-on demonstration on catching and tagging monarch butterflies. The young participants eagerly explored W.W. Glover Cemetery, identifying various butterflies and other insects as they enjoyed their time outdoors.



Dallas Youth Leadership

The Dallas County Youth Leadership Group's October meeting focused on 4-H Week. Events include One Day 4-H, Homeschool Day at the Zoo and attending the Dallas County Commissioners Court. A fundraiser was held at Torchy's Tacos, where members promoted the program to patrons! The group is also looking forward to participating in the City of Richardson Christmas Parade in December. The program was by Gabby Pardo, who presented on her International Exchange Trip to Japan.



Tumbleweeds



The Tumbleweeds Food and Nutrition group has been busy preparing for the upcoming District Food Challenge. Their activities have included a variety of hands-on experiences designed to engage and educate participants. One highlight of the club meeting was the "Pumpkin" 4-H program, which offered a comprehensive overview of pumpkin-related projects and skills. This included a career guest speaker who shared insights into the food and nutrition field, as well as a demonstration on how to sprout pumpkin seeds and a pumpkin pie baking demo.



Oct 30 District Photography Competition opens in 4HOnline.com

Nov 1st District Food Challenge Contest Hopkins County Civic Center, 8 to 5pm

Nov 1st Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Applications open. Deadline to apply is

Feb 15, 2025, <https://texas4hfoundation.org>

Nov 4th Robotics Project Meeting, 6820 LBJ Frwy, 5pm

Nov 4th Dallas County 4-h Youth Leadership Meeting, 6820 LBJ Frwy, 7pm

Nov 4th District IV 4-H Fall Focus - Team Building & Leadership Training, Registration closes on [4HOnline](#)

Nov 5th Election Day

Nov 9th Robotics Meeting, 6820 LBJ Frwy 8am

Nov 9th STEM Meeting, 6820 LBJ Frwy, 10am

Nov 9th Red River County Outdoor Challenge, 7:30am, Detroit, TX

Nov 11th Veterans Day

Nov 11th Parade Meeting, [TEAMS link](#), Meeting ID: 261 089 291 316, Passcode: CHy974, 7pm

Nov 12th Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Training Virtual, 6pm, Visit

<https://texas4hfoundation.org> for more information and to access the application

Nov 13th District IV Photography Contest Closes in 4HOnline.com Submit photos here.

Nov 16th District IV 4-H Fall Focus - Team Building & Leadership Training, Titus County Extension Office, 1708 Industrial Rd, Mount Pleasant, 9am.

Nov 16th Culture in the CORE, Main Street Plaza, Richardson 12 to 4pm, [Signup Genius](#)

Nov 18th Robotics Project Meeting, 6820 LBJ Frwy, 5pm

Nov 21st Club Managers, Assistant Managers, and other Project Leaders Monthly Meeting, Virtual, 6pm

Nov 21st Livestock Evaluation Project, Virtual meeting, [Zoom Link](#), 6-7pm

Nov 28th Thanksgiving Day

Nov 29th Office Closed

Nov 29th Dec 3rd National 4-H Congress, Atlanta, Georgia

Dec 1st Texas 4-H Natural Resources Photography Contest opens in [4HOnline](#)

Dec 6th Pegasus 4-H Club, Fundraiser Dance, Richardson, TX

Dec 7th [Richardson Christmas Parade](#), Plano Rd between Belt Line & Apollo Rd Richardson, 7am

Feb 8th District IV Food Show Contest, Registration opens on [4HOnline](#) on January 8th, North Central Texas College, Gainesville

Feb 8th District IV Talent Showcase Contest, Registration opens on [4HOnline](#) on January 8th, North Central Texas College, Gainesville

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR CALENDAR

[HTTPS://CALENDAR.GOOGLE.COM/CALENDAR/ICAL/DALLASCO4H%40GMAIL.COM/PUBLIC/BASIC.ICS](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/dallasco4h%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics)

Holidays Around The World



🎉 City of Richardson's Annual Holiday Parade 🎉

Parade Date: **December 7th, 7AM-11AM**

Location: **501 S Plano Rd, Richardson, TX**

Calling All Dallas County 4-H Members!

Dallas County 4-H is excited to participate in the [Holiday Parade](#) and invites all club members to join in the fun.

Let's showcase our diverse culture and celebrate the Holidays Around the World theme!

Important Dates & Meetings:

Virtual Meeting Date: **November 11th, 7:00 PM**

Join the Tumbleweeds & Cultural Committee to discuss costume and prop ideas, how to tie your 4-H project to the theme, and other parade logistics.

[TEAMS Link](#): Meeting ID: 261 089 291 316

Passcode: CHy974

In-Person Meeting Date: **November 20th, at 6PM, Dallas County Office, 2nd Floor**

Come help make props, tag candy, and prepare for the parade.

Everyone is welcome to participate!

Volunteers Needed!

We are also looking for volunteers to help guide Donkey along the parade route on December 7th. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Let's Represent Our Diverse Culture!

We want to see our 4-H members' creativity shine as we celebrate the global traditions that make the holiday season special!



For More Information:

Contact: Liz Espie at liz.espie@ag.tamu.edu



DENIM AND DIAMONDS HOLIDAY DANCE

Join us as we kick up our heels!

Friday, December 6th, 7-9pm

\$8 with rsvp by 11/22 OR
\$10 at the door

First United Methodist
503 N Central Expy,
Richardson, 75080

Wear your boots & bling!
Dance, mingle, enjoy refreshments!
rsvp: Zelle/Venmo to: 972.342.3623

HOSTED BY PEGASUS 4-H OF DALLAS

The holiday season is upon us, and what better way to celebrate than by kicking up your heels at the Pegasus 4-H Club Fundraiser, Denim and Diamonds Holiday Dance! Mark your calendars for this festive event, filled with fun, music, and plenty of holiday cheer. To RSVP, simply send your payment via Zelle or Venmo to 972-342-3623.

This event is hosted by Pegasus 4-H of Dallas, and all proceeds will support their ongoing programs and activities for local youth.

We can't wait to see you there—don't miss out on this exciting evening of music, dancing, and holiday fun!

**Red River County 4-H
OUTDOOR CHALLENGE**



Registration Fee ~~\$10~~
Lower \$\$
\$20
Discount for more than 2

November 9, 2024
Registration 7:30a Start Time 8:00a
Detroit, Texas

Events:
.22 Rifle
Archery
Kayaking
Gear Judging
Outdoor Safety
Biologist Skills
Plus a 7th "Fun" event

Clover Kids will have a Challenge Contest

Registration opens 9/15-10/22 Late Registration 10/23-11/9
email robbyn.blount@ag.tamu.edu for more info

**ATTENTION:
OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS!**

Red River County 4-H is excited to present a fantastic opportunity for youth interested in outdoor challenges! Participants can engage in activities such as .22 rifle shooting, archery, kayaking, gear judging, outdoor safety, and biologist skills. Plus, Clover Kids will have their own challenge contest. Registration is open until November 9th, with the event taking place in Detroit, Texas. Check-in starts at 7:30 AM on the day of the event. For more details about the Red River County 4-H Outdoor Challenge, please reach out to robbyn.blount@ag.tamu.edu. Don't miss out on this thrilling experience!

TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITY >>> SCHOLARSHIP VIRUTAL TRAINING

Join us for virtual scholarship training hosted by the Texas 4-H Foundation on November 12th at 6:00 PM. Prior registration on [4HOnline](#) is required for the training. Applications for scholarships will be available starting November 1st, with a deadline of February 15, 2025. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Texas 4-H Foundation is proud to award over \$2.7 million in scholarships to more than 220 4-H members each year. The Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships are academic scholarships awarded based on applicants' records, 4-H experience, and financial need. For more details, please visit [Texas 4-H Foundation](#).



**TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP
VIRTUAL TRAINING**

November 12, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Registration in 4H Online
Opens - October 16, 2024
Closes - October 29, 2024

TEXAS 4-H FOUNDATION OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships are academic scholarships awarded each year to applicants based on their academic record, 4-H experience, and financial need. Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to award over \$2.7 MILLION in scholarships to over 220 4-H members.

2025 Scholarship Applications will open November 1, 2024 and the deadline to apply is February 15, 2025.

Visit <https://texas4hfoundation.org> for more information and to access the application

For More Information Contact:
Denita Young
District IV 4-H Youth Development Specialist
djyoung@ag.tamu.edu

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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DISTRICT IV 4-H LEADERSHIP TEAM-BUILDING OPPORTUNITY ▶▶▶

On November 16th, District IV 4-H will host an exciting leadership team-building event at the Titus County Extension Office in Mount Pleasant. This opportunity is open to Intermediate and Senior 4-H Members.

The registration fee is \$20, which includes lunch. Don't miss out—registration closes on November 4th! If you're interested in attending, please sign up through [4HOnline](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

Titus Co. Extension Office
1708 Industrial Rd.
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455

TEXAS A&M **AGRI LIFE** EXTENSION

Saturday, November 16th, 9 am - 3 pm

fun: punkin' chunkin'

Know your leadership "type"

Register on 4-H Online by Nov. 4

District IV FALL FOCUS
for intermediate & senior members

- Workshops to help your council grow like:
 - Food, fashion, & fun Ed presentations
 - public speaking 101
- Presidents' luncheon for all County 4-H Presidents

Cost is 20.00 & includes lunch.

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◀◀ TEXAS 4-H NATURAL RESOURCES PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



We are excited to announce the continuation of the state-level Natural Resource Photography Contest. It is open to junior, intermediate, and senior members, and categories are focused solely on the Natural Resource project areas. If you have questions about this contest, please contact Larry Hysmith. Here are a few key points:

- Open contest (no qualifying required) to all counties
- Open to juniors, intermediate, and senior age divisions
- 10 Natural Resource themed categories
- Same scoring matrix and general rules as the state contest
- Entry timeline is December 1-15
- No late entries accepted
- More information in the attached PDF.

Registration will be available through [4HOnline](#) from December 1st to December 15th. Participants will submit their photos via a separate platform called Submittable. Instructions and a direct link will be provided during the registration process. The contest [rules and guidelines](#) will include important details, such as categories and image size requirements.

Best of luck to all our talented photographers!



DISTRICT IV 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Photos will be submitted in a Digital Format in Submittable.

Registration in 4HOnline Opens: October 30, 2024
Registration on 4HOnline Closes: November 13, 2024
Photos must be Uploaded in Submittable during these dates also.

Submittable Link can be found in the Contest Memo.

OR



The complete set of categories and rules can be found at <https://d44-h.tamu.edu/>



Contact your local Extension Office for more Information and Questions

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

The District IV 4-H Photography Contest is now open for entries until November 13th! To register, please visit [4HOnline](#). Submissions should be made through [Submittable](#). Categories include Domestic Animals, Wildlife, Architecture, Birds, Food, Landscape & Nature (non-animal), People, Plant/Flora, Selfies, and Reptiles. For more information, make sure to check the 2024-2025 Photography [Contest Memo](#) for all the details. Happy snapping!



CULTURE IN THE CORE

Culture *in* **THE CORE**
 NOVEMBER 16 • NOON - 4 P.M.
 105 S. INTERURBAN ST.

Culture in THE CORE has been rescheduled to November 16th, from noon to 4pm. The Culture Committee will be hosting a booth to promote their initiative “Many Cultures, One Community”. Please use the [SignUp Genius](#) to volunteer. If you would like more information on the Culture in THE CORE event, please visit their [website](#).

☀ 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 cara.kailukaitis@ag.tamu.edu after your club's monthly meetings. Remember to include "Club Report" and your club name in the subject line. 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

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Elias (Paco) Espinosa - PVAMU Extension 4-H Youth Development

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Cara Kailukaitis: 4-H Grows Program Coordinator

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Kimberley Randall: Teens as Teachers Coordinator

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Kamilah Valentin Diaz: Teens as Teachers Assistant

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