

# THURSTON 4-H NEWS

FALL QTR | OCT-DEC 2024



WSU EXTENSION  
Thurston County

**Achievement  
Afternoon  
Sunday, 12/8**

## THURSTON 4-H TEENS EXCEL IN KENTUCKY

*See next two pages for details!*



Joanne K. at the ARBA Convention.



L to R: Maria K., Leah A., Charlotte P., and Coach Molly P. at Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup.

## 4-H ONLINE

To maintain membership, 4-H members and volunteers need to re-enroll annually at <https://v2.4honline.com/>. Email the 4-H Office if you would like to request a member fee scholarship. For step-by-step instructions please visit the WSU 4-H resources page for the 4-H Online Family Enrollment Help Guide: <https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/member-resources/>.

**Looking for a new 4-H Club?** Visit the Thurston County 4-H "joining" web page: <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/youth/join/>

Each 4-H club needs at least two certified 4-H Adult Volunteers, who are officially re-enrolled in 4-H Online for the 2024-2025 year, to begin conducting gatherings. 4-H staff will reach out to clubs needing additional leadership.

4-H volunteers due for a new background check will be contacted by the 4-H Office and then will be sent a Sterling Volunteer background check email.

## CLUB REPORTS DUE

Annual Financial Reporting is now past due. Each 4-H club or project committee, whether they have a bank account and hold funds or not, is required to submit. Financial forms can be found at this link: [https://wsu.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0DqTkI5qdwTWeZE](https://wsu.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0DqTkI5qdwTWeZE).



Intermediate and senior age youth came from all over the USA to judge rabbits and cavy at the National ARBA Convention held at the Kentucky Expo Center in Louisville.

## ARBA SENIOR JUDGING NATIONAL WINNER!

Congratulations to Joanne K., member of the Thurston County 24 Carrots 4-H Club. Joanne attended the 101st American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky to represent Washington State (October 26-30) and won Senior Judging!

Joanne writes "I competed in the ARBA Individual Judging Contest, Team Judging Contest, and Breed Identification. On Saturday, I judged six classes of rabbits (four for the Individual Contest and two for the Team Contest). I learned on Sunday evening that I was on the Call Back List for the next round of Individual Judging. On Monday, I next judged three classes of rabbits, one class of cavy, and did oral reasons on a Lilac (breed) rabbit class.



I am thankful for all my years of 4-H and FFA participation because it helped me with preparing for oral reasons! I was so surprised to learn I won first place because there were 174 Seniors from all over the United States in the Individual Judging Contest.

I learned a lot at the ARBA National Convention and had a chance to bond with my rabbit and cavy 4-H friends who live beyond Thurston County. I also got to visit the Louisville Zoo, Churchill Downs, and the Kentucky Derby Museum. Competing in Louisville at the ARBA Convention was such a rewarding experience. Thank you to the Thurston County 4-H Council for helping make this trip possible."



## BEYOND 4-H

**Did You Know?** There are a lot of opportunities offered by breed associations and hobby clubs that can help 4-H youth develop their 4-H project skills and knowledge? Please reach out to the Thurston County 4-H Office if you are looking for ideas to help your 4-H member(s) develop their project skills. Supplementing 4-H learning with partner organization events and contests is a great way for youth to gain knowledge, learn from experts, and meet peers from across Washington State and beyond!

To learn more about rabbit and cavy contests visit the Washington State Rabbit Breeders Association (WSRBA) youth page <https://wsrba.net/youth/>.



L to R: Leah A., Maria K. and Charlotte P. on an equine tour in Kentucky.

## NATIONAL EQUINE CONTEST WINNERS!

The Thurston County 4-H National Equine Contest qualifiers were also in Louisville, Kentucky! Three Thurston County 4-H horse project members attended the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup. The winners are:

**Public Speaking - Charlotte P., 6th Place**

**Team Presentation - Leah A. & Maria K. with Reserve Champion (2nd Place)**

**Plus a Third Place Overall Presentations Team Award for Washington State 4-H!**



Leah A. on a behind the scenes track tour.

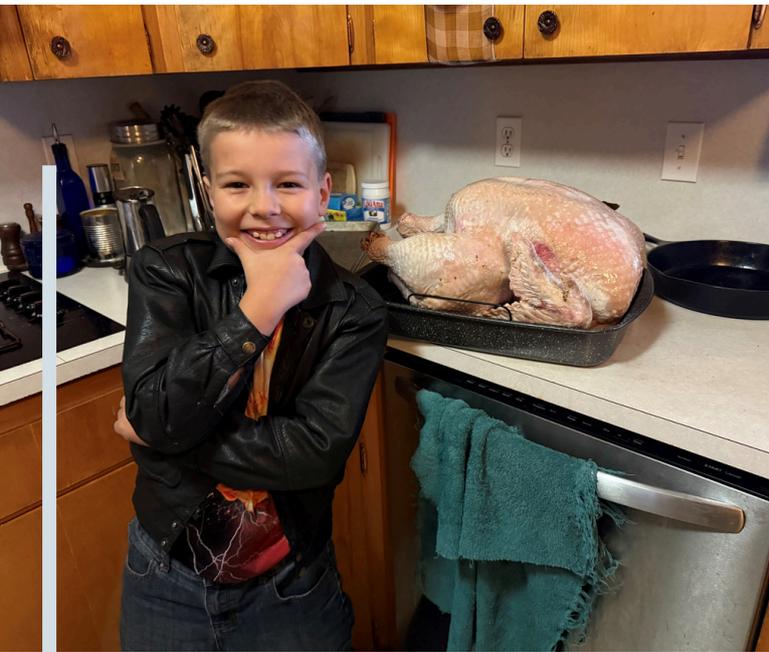
Leah A. writes about her experience: "I had the amazing opportunity to go to 4-H Nationals with one of my best friends, Maria, in our team presentation, "The Benefits of Dressage for Equines." We started this presentation last December, and it grew so much over the past year. In Kentucky, we gave the best version of this presentation that we had ever done, and Maria and I became Reserve National Champions!!! This accomplishment is something I'm so grateful for and so proud of, and I am so thankful to Maria for being such a wonderful partner to have done it with. I also want to say thank you to my mom, Cherie, and Maria's mom, Sarah, for listening to this presentation grow and offering feedback the whole time, and for our coach, Molly, as well as Charlotte for the help they offered along the way.

After the competition I got to travel with the rest of the Washington State 4-H Nationals Team to go on behind the scenes tours of racetracks like Churchill Downs and Keeneland, equine research centers, vet clinics, rescue centers, rehab facilities, retirement farms, stud farms, broodmare farms, and more. We talked with jockeys, trainers, veterinarians, dentists, equine safety specialists, mounted police, farriers, and even members of Midway University's collegiate equestrian team. I learned so much on this trip, and it was a surreal feeling to be surrounded by so many knowledgeable horse people all the time.



I enjoyed every second of the trip, but some of my highlights are probably watching USDF dressage finals, meeting triple crown winners Justify and American Pharoah, watching morning breezing at Keeneland, and going to the Kentucky Horse Park."

**Congratulations to our Thurston County 4-H youth! We are proud of your accomplishments at the National Level!**



Alex W. with one of the turkeys he raised ready to go in the oven.

## 4-H YOUTH CONTRIBUTE TO CELEBRATIONS

During the holiday season we are reminded of the skills our 4-H youth members learn through their 4-H projects. Our youth 4-H members are raising and growing food for their families and beyond! We hear reports of the turkeys raised this past year not only feeding 4-H families but helping church and other community groups give thanks. A big "high five" to all our 4-H youth who raised turkeys and fryer chickens last year to be part of the first Thurston County Youth Market Animal Sale (TCYMAS) Market Poultry exhibit at the Thurston County Fair!



The finished product. A turkey Everett S. raised.

## FAIR EXHIBIT IDEAS

You are probably already familiar with 4-H animal exhibits and baked goods being on display during the Thurston County Fair but did you know that 4-H members can also exhibit holiday crafts, table settings, and decorative centerpieces? Consider how adding a creative arts project, needle arts project, sewing project, or natural resource (forest products) project can enhance what your 4-H member is already doing as part of their 4-H project work.



Owen S. with his cute turkey treats!

Here are some **winter holiday fair exhibit ideas** you may want to explore with your 4-H youth member in preparation for the **Thurston County Fair, July 30-August 3, 2025**. Please read the Exhibitor Guide (when posted) for 2025 for complete entry instructions and rules.

- **Table Setting** (at the Fair 4-H members decorate a card table with a themed place setting and plan a corresponding meal menu as part of the display).
- **Creative Arts, Needle Arts or Sewing** (4-H members can enter any holiday craft or item made as a gift as long as it is in good condition come fair time.)
- **Natural Resources** (4-H members can make fresh wreaths, swags, centerpieces, etc.)

Be sure 4-H members are enrolled in any 4-H project they plan to exhibit at the Thurston County Fair by **April 15, 2025!** Contact the 4-H Office if you have questions at [tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us).



**CONGRATULATIONS**

# STATE 4-H FAIR

Congratulations to all the 4-H members who qualified to represent Thurston County at the 2024 Washington State 4-H Fair, held at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup. Here are a few memories from the 2024 State 4-H Fair fun!



**JOB WELL DONE!**





From the 2023 campaign. Yelm Nerd Herd 4-H Club members Anja G., William C. and Alex W.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We have Thurston County Fair dates! Please update your calendar with these dates and deadlines.

- 7/23 - Still Life Entry (non-perishable), 3 to 8 p.m.
- 7/28 - Food/Baking Entry, 5 to 7 p.m.
- 7/29 - Garden//Environmental/Nat. Res., 4 to 7 p.m.
- 7/29 - Animal Haul-In various times (see Exhibitor Guide)
- Thurston County Fair, July 30-August 3**
- 8/3 - Still Life exhibit pick-up, 7 p.m.
- 8/3 - Animal Haul-Out (follow Superintendent instructions)
- 8/4 - Still Life exhibit pick-up, 6 to 8 p.m.

More details will be posted in the 2025 Exhibitor Guide.

## TSC CLOVER DAYS

### 11/29/24 TO 12/15/24

**Reminder - Tractor Supply Company (TSC) Clover Days is happening now!** The last few years, Clover Days has been a significant money earner for Thurston County 4-H. Customers "round up" at the register when they check-out to support Thurston County 4-H. Clover Days helps fund camps and leadership events for 4-H members.

If your family would like to help staff a 4-H Information table in one of the Thurston County area stores, please reach out to the 4-H Office. The 4-H Office will provide flyers to distribute. We just need people to staff the table. We are all busy during the holiday season and appreciate it when families can spare a little time to help promote 4-H! The Tractor Supply Clover Days would be considered 4-H Promotion in your 4-H Permanent Record Book!

Thank you to the T90 Herdsmen 4-H Club for stepping up to cover our newest location, the Grand Mound/Rochester area store!

4-H Calendar available now!



## NEW 4-H CALENDAR

Have you picked-up your Thurston County 4-H 24-25 Calendar yet? We have produced a new 4-H Calendar to help families and 4-H volunteers be in the know about Thurston County 4-H opportunities, dates, and deadlines. Pick up a copy at the 4-H Office or print a copy from home. Email ahead of time to request a stack to distribute at your next club meeting! Print a copy from this link:

<https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/youth/whats-happening-in-thurston-county-4-h/>



## 4-H COUNCIL LYNCH CREEK FUNDRAISER

Don't Delay! You still have time to order a wreath or centerpiece for your table! Order now to schedule delivery.

The Thurston County 4-H Council has an online fundraiser set-up with Lynch Creek Farm. Every time someone shops online through the 4-H Council's fundraising page with Lynch Creek, we receive **15% back** from eligible items purchased. It really is that easy!

Use the link below and be sure to use the invite code **8131719** so Thurston County 4-H benefits from your purchase.

[https://www.lynchcreekwreaths.com?campaign\\_id=8131719](https://www.lynchcreekwreaths.com?campaign_id=8131719)

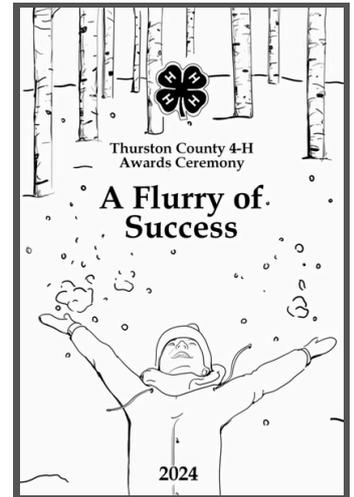
The Thurston County 4-H Council is your county-wide advisory board. The 4-H Council raises and manages funds to help support the Thurston County 4-H Program.

**You can help the 4-H Council reach their fundraising goals!** You can purchase a holiday wreath or other nature craft item. Beautify your home or gift a beautiful wreath from the Pacific Northwest to your friends/family out-of-state!

There are just a few days left to place an order and have it delivered for the holidays!



## 4-H ACHIEVEMENT AFTERNOON 12/08/24 2 TO 3:30 PM



Don't miss the 2024 4-H Achievement Afternoon at the Thurston County Fairgrounds, Heritage Hall, **Sunday, 12/8, 2 to 3:30 p.m.**

Achievement Afternoon is the Thurston County 4-H annual awards celebration. Come celebrate a "**Flurry of Success**" and recognize local 4-H members for their project learning achievements and leadership skills over the past 4-H year (2023-2024 year).

4-H members who submitted Record Books will be recognized for Record Book awards and Project Completion awards. All 4-H members will receive year pins and first year members will be invited to participate in a new member initiation ceremony. Please plan to dress in your 4-H show clothes or business casual type clothing. Parents/guardians may want to take photographs for future Record Books!

We will have cake and refreshments! Come with your 4-H spirit and have a good time with your 4-H friends!

LET'S  
- CELEBRATE -  
you



The 2024 joint King County and Thurston County 4-H KYG Delegation touring the Capitol Campus.

## 4-H KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT 2025

The Thurston County 4-H Council is sponsoring Thurston County 4-H member high school students who want to attend the Washington State 4-H Know Your Government Conference. This means the 4-H Council is helping to cover the registration and hotel expense. Please contact the 4-H Office **by December 15** to coordinate registration.

This year's focus is the judicial process. At the conference, 4-H KYG delegates will participate in a mock trial and will serve as jurors for a hands-on learning experience! 4-H Leaders will facilitate pre-conference meetings and serve as 4-H KYG Conference Chaperones.



4-H KYG is hands-on and full of fun activities!

**4-H TEENS IN HIGH SCHOOL!!!  
CHECK OUT THIS OPPORTUNITY!!!**



## WHAT IS 4-H KYG?

4-H KYG is a civic education program. 4-H members from all across Washington State gather in Olympia to participate in group activities, tour the Capitol Campus, and more!

**What:** 4-H KYG Conference

**Theme:** Pursue Justice: Be the Jury

**When:** Feb. 15-17, 2025

**Who:** 4-H Members in grades 9-12

**How:** Contact the 4-H Office by 12/15.

**Cost:** Registration Fee is: \$290 plus the cost of the hotel (\$135 a night with up to 4 teens in a room) NOTE: Please don't let the cost be a barrier to your interest in this opportunity. The 4-H Council is supportive of this event and providing financial assistance.

### **IMPORTANT Pre-Conference Meetings:**

Delegates will attend pre-conference meetings (in-person/zoom) to prepare for the conference and meet their peers. Pre-conference meeting dates TBD depending on interest indicated by 12/15.



Having fun during 4-H KYG 2024!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**[HTTPS://EXTENSION.WSU.EDU/4H/YOUTH/KYG/CONFERENCE-INFORMATION/](https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/youth/kyg/conference-information/)**



# WINTER BREAK TEEN NIGHT - LIGHTNING BOWL

The Thurston County 4-H Council is sponsoring a Winter Break Teen Night!

For Intermediate and Senior Age 4-H members (4-H age 11 to 18)

**Friday, Dec. 27**

9:30 pm to Midnight

Aztec LANES

2825 Martin Way E.

Olympia, WA 98506

Cost: \$10 (half the usual price!)

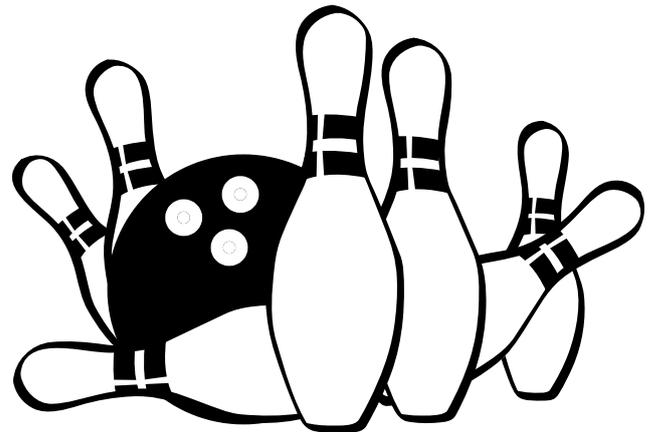
**REGISTER VIA 4-HOnline**

**by 12/17/24**

Space is limited.

Reserve your spot!

Questions? [tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us)



# Just \$10

# WINTER BREAK 4-H MAKE 'N' TAKE DAY CAMP

Be sure to pre-register soon to reserve your spot for Winter Break 4-H Day Camp!

December 30 & 31

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

4-H age 5 through 5th grade

Space is limited!

Cost: \$30

Email: [tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us) to request pre-registration forms.



Teens interested in being a Day Camp Teen Teacher please email. Teen Teacher space is limited too!



## Winter Break 4-H Make 'N' Take Day Camp

Turn the page on 2024 with our Winter Break 4-H Make 'n' Take Day Camp! Youth participants will create fun, simple crafts and learn how to make tasty desserts together. This 4-H day camp is most appropriate for youth who enjoy kitchen activities and making crafts.

**When:** December 30 and 31

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Heritage Hall, Thurston County Fairgrounds

**Cost:** \$30.00 per camper

**Who:** For youth age 5 as of 10/1/24 through grade 5.

**Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. Email [tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us) to RSVP and receive pre-registration materials.**

