The UMass Extension 4-H E-NewsBlast is sent to all 4-H families and volunteers throughout the state; some local 4-H offices may add information that is specific to that county or region. Unless otherwise noted, all virtual programming is available to 4-H members throughout the state, no matter where you live or what club or group you belong to!

4-H Enrollment Fee Going up in January

Important Deadline: The $40 participation fee to enroll in the 2020-2021 4-H year ENDS on December 31. On January 1, 2021, the fee increases to $80 per member. The participation fee is not refundable for any reason.

If you would like to apply for a full waiver, visit https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/2020-2021_waiver_of_fee_guidelines_0.pdf. You do not need to be on Food Stamps to obtain a waiver. Submit your letter of application to your local 4-H educator. You must receive an approval before going online to re-enroll. After December 31, only half-waivers will be available; full waivers will no longer be an option.

4-H Office Holiday Closures

All 4-H educators and staff continue to work remotely during the current COVID pandemic. Some offices may have staff working remotely from December 21-24. All offices will be closed from December 28-January 1, as the University will be closed during that time.

- Educators and staff will respond to your questions or concerns as soon as possible
- Any 4-H enrollment payments made by credit card or check will be processed during the last two weeks of December. However, you may not receive immediate confirmation. Once the enrollment and payment has been processed you will receive an email from your local 4-H office.

4-H Re-Enrollment Procedure

To Re-Enroll: All volunteers and returning 4-H members must re-enroll yearly. Being enrolled allows you to take part in all 4-H activities, contests and programs. Go to http://ma.4honline.com. Do not use Internet Explorer – it is not compatible with 4honline! Be sure to update all your information, especially your email if it has changed. If you forgot your password, click “forgot password” and a temporary one will be sent to your email. Then, just reset it to create your own.

Payment: Credit card payment is not submitted in 4honline, but through https://umassextensionbookstore.com/products/87. Follow these directions: When you are on the payment screen in 4-H Online you need to select the option for Non-Electronic Payment. Follow the directions for the extension bookstore payment site. Tips for using 4honline are found at https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/about/4h-online. (4honline Family guide). If you do not see your club listed in 4honline, check with your local educator.

After you re-enroll and pay at the UMass Bookstore, you may receive a VERY confusing notice from 4honline such as this one:

Dear (your name)
Your enrollment has been approved, however payment is required before you will become active in the current program year. Please follow the instructions below to submit your payment. Please submit payment to (Name of County). Amount Due: $40.00

Please ignore this!! Unfortunately, this message is automatically generated by 4honline, and we are not able to change it. We are working with the company to see if they can use less confusing wording! If you paid through the UMass bookstore or by check, you can ignore that automatic message from 4honline. When your credit card payment or check is processed by the 4-H office, you will receive an email from that local 4-H office letting you know your membership is approved.
Upcoming Workshops and Events:
Check the 4-H Website at https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h for more details on all upcoming programs and events.

Winter Workshops: January 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2021
All workshops will take place on Zoom. Check the Massachusetts 4-H website for the full list of workshops and instructions to register. This event is free for all registered 4-H members and volunteers and $30 for non-registered members or others. The fee covers all four days of sessions.

Registration Deadline Extended to December 11 for any “red” workshops. All others, registration is extended to January 6! Contact your local 4-H educator with any questions!

Animal Science

Interested in judging animals? This article applies to all species even though it focuses on cattle.

National 4-H Agri-Science Summit – March 5-7, 2021
Two workshops at this summit will be taught by Massachusetts 4-H Educators! Kim Pond will be discussing Heritage Breeds and Genetics, and Carrie Sears will be presenting Meet your Meat: Educating your Local Consumer. This second workshop is based on ideas that delegates attending the 2019 Ag Summit developed. Congratulations to the 2021 Delegates Selected: Sofia Black, Rachel Meacham, Timothy Meacham and Owen Weigel.

What animal science workshops would you like to see developed for future Zoom meetings? Email Carrie with your ideas ccsears@umext.umass.edu

Community Service

The Learn to Make a Corsage or Boutonniere workshop will be held tomorrow, Saturday, December 19 from 1-2:30pm. There is still time to sign up! Contact Kim Pond at kima@umext.umass.edu.

Quilting -English Paper Piecing

December 29 at 3-4 PM – presented by the Montague Stitcher’s 4-H Club. Sign up today, December 18 by contacting Tom Waskiewicz at waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu. To download your hexagon paper template and for further information, visit the 4-H website events page. https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/upcoming-events

You need:
- 7 pieces of cotton fabric, each measuring 4 inches square
- one contrasting thread color, one coordinating color
- fabric scissors, a few straight pins, a needle
- one piece of felt 10 inches square, an iron
- 7 hexagon paper templates measuring 1 ½ inches on one of the 6 sides

Massachusetts 4-H Creative Writing and Art Contest

The Year Without a Summer: 4-H Projects in a Pandemic. Some Background: In 1816, the Northern Hemisphere experienced a year where summer never really came. From China to Canada it got cold; the ground froze in June and the crops never came in. Life was strange and hard and scary for millions of people; but even from the worst times comes beauty. The color of the air from volcanic ash made blazing sunsets that inspired painters; the lack of oats for horses led to the invention of the bicycle. And the ensuing bad weather made a group of poets and writers stay inside to write ghost stories, which resulted in both Frankenstein and Dracula.

In 2020, many of us too saw a year where summer didn’t seem like summer. No horse shows, no club meetings, no 4-H Fairs. Like our ancestors, we too stayed home. And also like our ancestors, we looked for ways to occupy ourselves. We taught our dogs new tricks, we learned to sew masks for our community, we attended virtual symposiums and classes. We worked on our projects, individually but never alone, and wrote our records to show what we’d done for the 4-H community we love.

And now it’s time for you to create your stories about “The Year Without a Summer: 4-H Projects in a Pandemic”.
Share your story regarding how you and your project have interacted during the pandemic. You can submit in any of the following categories: Poetry of no more than 50 lines, Short stories of no more than 1000 words, or Artwork that tells a
story about this summer from your project’s perspective. Submissions are open to all Massachusetts 4-H members from Cloverbuds through Seniors. One winner will be selected from each of the categories. We hope to publish all submissions. If published, each person submitting an entry will receive a copy of the printed journal; additional copies will be available to purchase!

The deadline is March 1st. Check the state Massachusetts 4-H website for more details and a flyer. If you’d like feedback on your piece before final submission, please get it to us by February 1st. Winners will be announced at the 2021 State Visual Presentations!

4-H Across America-2021

Form a team of 4 people and get ready to virtually exercise your way across America from Boston and back, visiting as many states as you can in the "lower 48."

- All states in the lower 48 are included (Not Alaska or Hawaii)
- The program begins on January 1 and end on March 31
- Each team must select a Team Captain. The team captain is responsible for the following things:
  - Collect time exercised from each member of the team
  - Collect time exercised by each team member and convert the time to miles. A conversion chart will be provided
  - Keep a record of the team’s miles each month
  - Submit the team’s total miles to the 4-H educator at the end of each month

Each team member will track their daily exercise mileage, whether by walking, jogging, biking, riding, rollerblading, skiing, swimming or by participating in any type of exercise. Team members will submit exercise time to their team captain. Team captains will also document where the team is located on the map at the end of the month. Teams will be asked to complete one of three different activities to show what they learned. More information will be provided during a series of workshops that will be held throughout this event, including Story Mapping, nutrition and healthy eating, stress management, injury prevention, teaming up with pets and time management.

Be sure to send the team Captain’s name and email, name of the team and names of team members to Tom at waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu by January 1, 2021

Bitmoji Classroom

Explore the science behind cooking and baking while making some edible treats for you and your family to try out. Yum! Sign up with Lauren DuBois ldubois@umass.edu for an invitation to the classroom. Classes have begun, but when you sign up you have access to all the archived lessons!

4-H 101: Volunteer Professional Development Series

Upcoming sessions are listed below. Contact either VaShon Wallace at vwallace@umext.umass.edu or Tom Waskiewicz at waskiewicz@umass.edu to receive the zoom link. All sessions begin at 7:00PM

Upcoming Sessions:
Planning the 4-H Club Year – December 22
Marketing 4-H Clubs – January 5
Recruiting, Training and Recognizing Volunteers – January 12
Recognizing 4-H’ers Accomplishments – January 19
Making Action Plans – January 26

Save The Dates

Two new programs are being planned for 4-H teens and volunteers throughout the Northeast! Save these dates and watch for more details in January.
- February 4, 7-8PM for 4-H Teens. Meet and greet with 4-H teens from the Northeast!
- February 24, 7-8PM for 4-H volunteers. Attend a workshop on organizing and running an Impact program. (some areas call it a SPIN program)

More details and zoom links coming soon!
Career Exploration Zoom Series
Contact Angelica Paredes at angelica@umext.umass.edu to obtain the zoom link. Be ready to provide her with the session you wish to attend, your name, club or school, county and state where you are enrolled if a 4-H member. THANK YOU to all who participated in sessions during 2020!

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Guest speaker from Zoom</th>
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| January 6  | Steven Deame      | Team Lead- Senior Enterprise Account Executive  
Zoom Video Communications
Steve comes from a small town in the Massachusetts Berkshires called Cheshire. From there his education took him to Siena College for his undergraduate degree, and then graduate school at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). The majority of his career had been spent at startup software companies. He spent 24 years in roles ranging from sales to leadership. Steve has always had a passion to create long-lasting client partnerships that drive measurable value, innovating, solving complex situation, and leading/mentoring sales teams. He has been at Zoom for 5 years and says it’s the best company he’s ever worked for. Though life has taken him away from New England, he still roots for Boston sports teams! He also enjoys spending time with his family, wife Kim and 2 daughters, at their beach house in Bald Head Island, North Carolina. |
| January 20 | No Massachusetts 4-H CES on this date | We realize that not only is this inauguration day, but also right in the middle of the Massachusetts 4-H Winter Workshops weekends!  
Massachusetts 4-H CES Zoom sessions will resume the schedule of the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month; starting February 3, 2021 |
| February 3 | Mushroom Montoya | **Guest Speaker: Architect, Author, and Shaman Mushroom Montoya**  
Mushroom Montoya is an example of not all careers follow a linear path. After high school, he spoke to a guidance counselor at a local university that informed him there were only three colleges in California (at that time) that offered an architecture program. The guidance counselor sent him to speak with the chair of the civil engineering department; civil engineers and architects work closely together. There he received a long list of math and engineering courses he should take. He was disappointed because he didn’t like math, and as a result, he changed his mind. He changed his major to English, started taking classes, including his first ever art class. He fell in love with art and changed his major. Mushroom was soon drafted into the Viet Nam war, serving two tours. Upon his return he completed his associate degree in art and transferred to the architecture school at the University of New Mexico. Part of that choice was because that University was the only one at the time with courses in solar energy. He spent the next 30 years as an architect. Some of his projects as an architect include: The largest sleep study center for the Veterans Medical Center in Long Beach, the first hangar for the B1 Bomber, office buildings, dining facilities, childcare centers, numerous office remodels, an FBI photo lab, courtrooms, jails, secret places, medical facilities and more. Buildings were not the only things Mushroom was creating. He took his experiences in Viet Nam and wrote his first book, “Viet Nam Body Count”, fictionalizing the book but relying on firsthand knowledge. His second book, “Koln Letters” is a mystery novel that answers the historical question, “Why did the Roman Emperor, Nero, blame the Christians for the fire in Rome?” The novel takes place in Koln and Bonn, Germany, A monastery in France, and in Seattle, Washington.  
As a Shaman, Mushroom witnessed so much destruction during his time in Viet Nam, he decided he also wanted to be a person who heals. As a bereaved father he advocates for organ donation. As an adoptive parent, he advocates for adoption, especially of older children who all too often don’t get adopted. |
Meet Charlee Clover!

2020 has been a tough year for all of us, from missing fair, teen leadership, club events, and so much more. Charlee wants to travel to bring joy to 4-Hers across the state. To promote 4-H and have a little fun, cut out Charlee Clover (find his full size on the 4-H website!) and take photos of him interacting in your 4-H activities and celebrating the holidays. Here is what to do:

1. Print and cut out Charlee the Clover (Download Charlee on the Massachusetts 4-H Website!)
2. Show Charlee around! Take pictures/videos of our friendly clover learning about your 4-H project.
3. Post photos of Charlee and your projects to social media and tag your county. Facebook and Instagram pages! Share how you have been keeping busy with your 4-H project during these times.

You can also send your creations to hhamilton@plymouthcountyma.gov. Call 774-404-7020 with any questions.

Have Fun!!

4-H Office Contacts:

The 4-H Program is operating and available to answer questions. Reach out to your local office by email. Phone numbers are available at the 4-H Website at https://ag.umass.edu/mass4h/about/office-locations-contacts

State 4-H Office: Linda Horn, Interim Director lhorn@umext.umass.edu
Carrie Sears, 4-H Animal Science Program Manager – ccsears@umext.umass.edu
Kim Pond – 4-H SET Program Manager – kima@umext.umass.edu
Deb Comeau – State 4-H Administrative Assistant – dcomeau@umass.edu

Western MA (Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire Counties):
Tom Waskiewicz, 4-H Educator – waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu
Angelica Paredes, 4-H Educator – angelica@umext.umass.edu

Southeastern MA (Bristol and Norfolk):
Meg McDermott, 4-H Educator – memcdermott@umass.edu
Kim Henderson, Administrative Assistant – khenders@umext.umass.edu

Central MA (Worcester County):
Meg McDermott, 4-H Educator – memcdermott@umass.edu
Martina Jasiewicz, Administrative Assistant – mjasiewicz@umext.umass.edu

Northeastern MA (Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk):
VaShon Wallace-Hiltpold, Acting 4-H Educator – vwallace@umass.edu
Pam LeFave, Program Assistant – plefave@umext.umass.edu
Debbie Beaubien, Administrative Assistant – debbieb@umext.umass.edu
Nancy McCarthy, Program Assistant – nmccarthy@umass.edu

Plymouth County:
Molly Vollmer, 4-H Educator: mvollmer@umass.edu
Valerie Schell, 4-H Educator: vschell@umext.umass.edu
Cathy Acampora, Administrative Assistant: acampora@umext.umass.edu

Barnstable County:
Judy Vollmer, 4-H Educator: jvollmer@barnstablecounty.org
Dawn Johnson, Administrative Assistant: dawn.johnson@barnstablecounty.org

Massachusetts 4-H is an extension program at the University of Massachusetts. UMass 4-H follows the Massachusetts Governor’s regulations for the re-opening of the state as well as the governance of the University of Massachusetts. Although guidelines for numbers of people who can gather have relaxed a bit for the state, the University guidance still states that no in-person 4-H meetings or activities are to take place at this time. This means our clubs and groups still may not meet in person. We will continue to monitor the situation and will allow in-person club meetings and activities to occur when university guidelines have been completed. We hope that your groups will continue to meet virtually and use some of the many programs, contests, and links that we have to offer online.