

Shelby County 4-H October Newsletter



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4-H Enrollment in ZSuite

Enrollment for the new 4-H year is tentatively scheduled to open October 1 through the ZSuite enrollment system. Watch for an upcoming email that will let families know when enrollment is open!

4-H Fall Bash

Grab your flannel, round up your friends, and join Shelby County 4-H for the annual Fall Bash on Sunday, October 11! Hosted by the Shelby County 4-H Federation, this free event is a great opportunity for both new and returning members to kick off the 4-H year with an evening full of fall fun.

The Fall Bash will take place from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Center in Shelbyville. Members can enjoy a variety of exciting activities, games, a wiener roast, and seasonal surprises while getting to know fellow 4-H'ers from across the county.

Whether you are brand new to 4-H or have been involved for years, the Fall Bash is the perfect place to make new friends, reconnect with old ones, and discover all the opportunities that await this 4-H year.



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The event is free for all 4-H members, but registration is required. When registering, please indicate how many people will be eating at the wiener roast to help us plan. **RSVP online by Wednesday, October 7 to reserve your spot at <https://go.illinois.edu/4-HFallBash>**

We can't wait to celebrate fall and kick off another great year of 4-H with you!

Shelbyville Homecoming Parade

Shelby County 4-H members are invited to show their 4-H pride and join the fun at the upcoming Shelbyville Homecoming Parade on Thursday, October 1.

Participants should gather on the north side of Main Street School and arrive by 3:30 p.m. to prepare for the parade lineup. Pick-up will be at Shelbyville High School at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Members are encouraged to wear their favorite 4-H t-shirt and proudly represent Shelby County 4-H. Those who would like to help spread some extra cheer along the parade route are welcome to bring a bag of candy to hand out during the parade.

This is a great opportunity to celebrate community spirit, connect with fellow 4-H members, and showcase the enthusiasm and impact of Shelby County 4-H. To assist with planning, members who wish to participate should **RSVP to nation2@illinois.edu by September 30**. Note: This will count as a 4-H appearance on year-end records.

Scarecrow Daze Parade - New route for 2026

Show your 4-H pride on October 10 as we hand out candy and share information about Shelby County 4-H with the community at the Scarecrow Daze Parade! All 4-H members and Cloverbuds are invited to walk or ride with the Federation float.

RSVP to Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu by October 9 (walk-ups are welcome!) Parents should drop off members at **Shelbyville High School by 9:45 a.m.** Following the parade, youth can be picked up on the North side of Main Street School. Wear your favorite 4-H shirt, bring a bag of candy to share, and support Shelby County 4-H! Note: This will count as a 4-H appearance on year-end records.

Shelby County 4-H Fall Round-Up – October 17

Shelby County 4-H will host the 4-H Fall Round-Up Workshop on Saturday, October 17, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the 4-H Center. This workshop is designed for 4-H members who are at least 8 years old and are new or second-year members.

Participants will enjoy a morning of hands-on activities while learning about a variety of 4-H project areas. There is no cost to attend the workshop. However, youth must be enrolled in ZSuite and have paid their program fee to participate.

Families are asked to RSVP by October 9 by registering at:

<https://go.illinois.edu/4-HFallRound-Up>

Join us for a fun and informative morning as we explore the many opportunities available through 4-H and celebrate the 4-H motto of "Learning by Doing!"

Archery begins – October 5

Shelby County 4-H is preparing for another exciting archery season, with practices starting October 5 and continuing through November 30, except on November 16. Sessions will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Shelby County 4-H Center.

The archery program provides youth with an opportunity to develop marksmanship skills, build self-confidence, practice responsibility, and form lasting friendships in a safe and supportive environment.

During the first practice on October 5, instructors will assign shooting times for the remainder of the season. To participate, youth must be current 4-H members enrolled in ZSuites and have their \$10 program fee paid by October 5. In addition, a \$20 archery fee is required for the season. Members who are not enrolled or who have outstanding fees will not be permitted to participate.

A limited number of bows will be available for participant use. Members are also welcome to bring their own equipment; however, all personal bows must pass a safety inspection conducted by program instructors before they may be used on the range.

Families experiencing financial hardship may apply for fee waivers through the Shelby County Junior Rifle Club Association. Questions regarding the archery program may be directed to Kelly Barringer, Shelby Shooters SPIN Club leader, at 217-369-6860.

Note: Air Rifle will begin later in 2027. Watch for updates.

Shelby County 4-H Federation

If you missed the first Shelby County 4-H Federation meeting but are interested in getting involved this year, it's not too late to join! Federation members will meet on Wednesday, October 7, at 7 p.m. at the 4-H Center.

Shelby County 4-H Federation provides youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills, plan countywide workshops and events, coordinate National 4-H Week activities, and participate in meaningful community service projects.

Federation is open to 4-H members in 8th grade and above. Youth in 6th and 7th grades may participate as Junior Federation members. New youth planning to attend the October

7 meeting are asked to contact Yolanda in advance so membership information can be prepared.

Upcoming Fall Federation Meetings at the 4-H Center

- November 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- December 2 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Yolanda Nation at nation2@illinois.edu or 217-774-9546. We encourage interested youth to join us and discover how Federation members make a difference in Shelby County 4-H and their communities.

Awesome Autumn Photography Contest

Shelby County 4-H Federation is once again sponsoring the Awesome Autumn Photography Contest for 4-H members in Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties. The contest will run from September 27 through November 14, giving youth an opportunity to showcase their photography skills while capturing the beauty of the autumn season.

Participants are invited to submit their best "Awesome Autumn" photograph via email to nation2@illinois.edu. Entries must include the member's name, county, and age. Cash prizes will be awarded by the Shelby County 4-H Federation in each age division.

Contest Rules

- Photos must reflect the theme of "Awesome Autumn"
- Only one photo entry per 4-H member will be accepted.
- Entries will be judged in three age divisions:
 - Ages 5-7, Ages 8-13, Ages 14-18
- 4-H age is based on the member's age as of September 1, 2026.
- Photos must be taken by the 4-H member submitting the entry.
- If a submitted photo includes an individual who is not a family member or relative, a completed photo release form must accompany the entry.

Participation in the contest will also count as a multi-county activity for the Illinois 4-H Experience Award.

Grab your camera, head outdoors, and capture the colors, scenery, and special moments that make autumn such an amazing season!

Bank Steer Program

Are you interested in raising, showing, and selling a steer as a 4-H project? The Shelby County State Bank is offering interest-free loans to eligible Shelby County 4-H members to assist with the purchase of a steer for exhibition at the county fair.

To participate, members must have been enrolled in 4-H for at least one previous year and

must complete their enrollment in ZSuite and pay the \$10 program fee by November 13.

New families will receive an on-farm visit from the Bank Steer Committee prior to market animal weigh-in, and all participants will receive a spring on-farm visit. Shelby County State Bank reserves the right to deny participation in the program.

The deadline to sign up for the Bank Steer Program is November 14. Steers will be picked up on February 13 at the county steer weigh-in. For more information, contact Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu or 217-774-9546.

Recruiting a new member

Help Shelby County 4-H grow by inviting your friends to join! Members who recruit a new 4-H member will receive a prize. Recruitment forms are available from club leaders, or you can contact Yolanda. For more information, contact nation2@illinois.edu or 217-774-9546.

Shelby County 4-H Achievement Night

Shelby County 4-H members, families, and volunteers are invited to attend the 2025-2026 Shelby County 4-H Achievement Night on Saturday, November 7 at the Nazarene Church Gym in Shelbyville.

The evening will begin with dessert at 6:30 p.m., followed by the awards program at 7:00 p.m. as we celebrate the accomplishments of Shelby County 4-H members and volunteers.

Those planning to enjoy dessert are asked to RSVP by November 2. Invitations to award recipients will be emailed to families later in October.

We look forward to recognizing another year of accomplishments and celebrating the many successes of Shelby County 4-H!

Shelby County 4-H Week Theme

Shelby County 4-H Week is being planned for March 13-20 and we need your help! We have so many creative 4-H members and are looking for unique, one of a kind, and fun 4-H Week Theme ideas. Please email your ideas to Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu by October 6.

Become a 4-H Teen Teacher

Still looking for youth interested in joining our Teen Teachers group!

The Teen Teacher program consists of six training sessions covering a variety of topics designed to help youth become confident and effective leaders. Participants will learn more about the 4-H program, explore teaching techniques for different age groups, develop

lesson plans, and gain hands-on experience while having fun with fellow 4-H members. 4-H'ers do not need to be a member of Shelby County 4-H Federation to participate in this program. Teen Teachers are open to youth ages 14 -18 as of 9/1/26. Youth interested in participating should **RSVP by October 9** to nation2@illinois.edu.

Once interest has been determined, training dates and times will be scheduled. Sessions may be held monthly or once a week for six consecutive weeks, depending on participant availability. Upon successful completion of the training, participants will receive training materials and be rewarded with a special trip and meal.

Join us and discover how you can make a difference as a 4-H Teen Teacher!

Oct

- 10 – 9:30 a.m. Scarecrow Daze Parade
- 11 – Save the date for a “Bashing good time”
- 17 – 4-H Fall Round-UP

Nov

- 7 – 6:30 p.m. Achievement Night
- 13 – Bank Steer Sign-up deadline

Save the date: Shelby County 4-H & Junior Fair Dates July 17-21, clean-up on July 22.

Staff:

County Director: Jessie Streit

4-H Program Coordinator: Yolanda Nation

Office Support Assistant: Diana Litteral

4-H Youth Educator: Krista Houk

Shelby County 1125 W North 2nd Street, Shelbyville, IL 62565, Phone: 217-774-9546

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 -12, 1-4:30

Find us on Facebook: Shelby County IL 4-H

Website: <https://extension.illinois.edu/ccdms/4-h-shelby-county>

If you need reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact the Shelby County Extension office.