

Shelby County 4-H November Newsletter



In this edition:

- 4-H Enrollment
- Achievement Night Invites
- Collection for Pediatric Unit
- Project Manuals
- Awesome Autumn Photography Contest
- Winter Craft Day
- Greenery Workshop
- 4-H Week
- Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign
- Officer Training
- Communications Workshop
- State events
- 4-H Calendar



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

4-H Enrollment is Now Open in ZSuites!

All 4-H members must be enrolled, have paid their program fee, and be approved in ZSuites before participating in any club, county, or state activities.

Program Fee for 2025–2026:

- Total fee: \$20 per member
- Families pay \$10, and Shelby Extension Foundation covers \$10.
- Payment options:
 - Online via credit card
 - Cash or check to your club leader

Important Notes:

- Some clubs are covering their members' program fees—please check with your club leader.
- If enrolling more than 3 children, submit enrollment but do not pay online. The 4th child discount will be applied first. Yolanda will notify you when payment is ready.
- Refunds cannot be issued if you pay for more than three children before the discount is applied.

Website: 4h.zsuite.org

Questions? Contact Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu or call 217-774-9546.

4-H Achievement Night

Shelby County 4-H will hold Achievement Night on Saturday, November 22 at the Nazarene Church Gym. Invites were sent via email to families whose 4-H'ers will be receiving awards on Tuesday, November 4 with a reminder being sent the week of November 17. Dessert will be served at 6:30, with the program to follow at 7 p.m. RSVP's are needed by November 20 so we can plan on the number of tables and desserts needed. RSVP to Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu or by calling 217-774-9546.

Shelby County 4-H Hospital Collection for Kids

Saturday, November 22

Brady & Alicia Rivas, Shelby Sparklers members, are asking for your help! They would like to brighten the hospital rooms of kids in the pediatric unit in Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital and they need your help!

They are looking for donations such as coloring books, crayons, Play-Doh, word search books, new small plastic toys (no stuffed animals), drawing pads, colored pencils, or bubbles.

Please bring your donations to 4-H Achievement Night or drop off at the Extension office. For every 5 items donated, you will receive a ticket for a chance to win prizes.

If you don't have time to shop, you can bring a monetary donation and they will purchase items. Thanks in advance!

Project Manuals

4-H members must email Yolanda or call the Shelby County Extension Office to order project manuals. Please note: ZSuites is not set up to order project books.

Some projects require the manual to be completed as part of the 4-H exhibit, so be sure to check your project requirements. Email: nation2@illinois.edu or call: 217-774-9546

Awesome Autumn Photography Contest

September 29 – November 14

Shelby County 4-H Federation is sponsoring a photography contest for 4-H'ers in Coles, Cumberland, Moultrie, Douglas and Shelby Counties. The contest ends on November 14, so get your submissions made ASAP.

Submit your best "Awesome Autumn" Photo via email to Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu. **Include your name, county and age.** Cash prizes will be awarded by Shelby County 4-H Federation.

Rules:

- Photos should be centered around the theme "Awesome Autumn Photos".
- Only 1 photo may be submitted by a 4-H member.
- There are 3 age divisions 5-7, 8-13 and 14-18. 4-H age is based off of 9/1/25.
- If submitting a picture with someone other than family/relative, a photo release must be completed and submitted with the entry.
- Pictures must be taken by the 4-H member submitting the picture.

This will count as a multi county activity on the Illinois Experience Award.

4-H Winter Craft Day

Saturday, December 6

Shelby County 4-H Winter Craft Day will be held on Saturday, December 6 at the 4-H Center. 4-H'ers will make winter craft projects and the famous gingerbread houses. 4-H'ers are asked to bring candy to share for decorating gingerbread houses.

If you have signed up to attend craft day workshop, the \$10 workshop fee is due into the Extension office by Friday, November 21.

- Session 1 – 9-10:30 a.m. This session is currently full.
- Session 2 – 10:45-12:15 p.m. This session currently has 5 spaces available.
- Cloverbuds – 1:15-2:30 p.m. This session currently has 3 spaces available.

If you would like to sign-up, please RSVP to Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu or call 217-774-9546.

Greenery Workshop

Sunday, December 14

The Green Works in rural Cowden, will be hosting two Greenery Workshops. 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to make a wreath and/or a mug centerpiece. You chose – one workshop or two. Bring a friend and get into the holiday spirit!

- Wreath Workshop – 2-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$15. Space is limited to 20 participants.
- Centerpiece Mug Workshop – 3:30-4:15 p.m. Cost is \$15, and the mug is included.

RSVP's and payment are due to the Extension office by December 11. RSVP to Yolanda at nation2@illinois.edu or call 217-774-9546

Shelby County 4-H Week – March 14-21

The theme for Shelby County 4-H Week is “Rooted in 4-H, Growing our Future”. A big thank you to Kyndall Bennett for submitting the winning theme.

- March 14 – 4-H Fire-Up 9-11 a.m., 4-H Center This workshop will be for first- and second-year members.
- March 14 – Skating Party 6-9 p.m. at Silver Stars Skating Rink in Mattoon.
- March 15 – Public Speaking Contest, 6:30 p.m. 4-H Center
- March 16 – International Night 6 p.m. Nazarene Church Gym
 - Countries spoken for include: Coldspring Copperheads (Japan), Moweaqua Rustlers (Mexico), Rural Feeders (Australia), Shelby Showstoppers (Iceland), and Silver Spurs (Brazil)
- March 16 – Window Display judging
- March 17 – 4-H Member Showcase shared on Facebook
- March 18 – Community Service Day with your club
- March 19 – Wear your 4-H shirt to school day and submit a photo
- March 21 – Spring Craft Day – 2 sessions, one for 4-H'ers and one for Cloverbuds
- Note – We will not be holding Family Fun Night this year but will bring it back in 2026.

Support 4-H During the Paper Clover Campaign

November 28-December 14

The Paper Clover Campaign is a great way for patrons to support local 4-H programs at any Illinois Tractor Supply Company (TSC) store. The campaign runs twice a year, and our local TSC in Shelbyville would love to have 4-H members help promote Shelby County 4-H during this time!

How can your club participate?

- Set up 4-H project displays
- Host a bake sale
- Bring small animals for a mini petting zoo
- Or simply set up a table to talk with patrons about 4-H

Best times for store traffic: Friday evenings or anytime Saturday and Sunday

If your club is interested in setting up a booth or table, contact Yolanda with your preferred date and time. She will coordinate with the store. Members who work at least one hour can count this as a county activity. Let's show our support for TSC and the 4-H program by participating in the Paper Clover Campaign!

Unit opportunities:

4-H Officer Training

Saturday, January 17

Make Your 4-H Meetings Shine! Join us for a dynamic multi-county 4-H Officer Training Workshop designed to help youth leaders bring energy, creativity, and confidence to their club meetings!

This hands-on session will take place on Saturday, January 17, from 9-11:30 AM at the Lumpkin Family Center for Health and Education (1000 Health Center Dr., Mattoon). Please note: Entrance is located on the north side/back of the hospital.

Participants will dive into the responsibilities of key officer roles (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) through interactive activities and real-world scenarios. In addition to learning how to run effective meetings, youth will explore and build leadership skills!

This workshop is open to youth ages 8 to 18 as of September 1, 2025.

Whether you're a newly elected officer or just curious about leadership, this training will equip you with tools to succeed and inspire your peers.

Registration is required by Friday, January 9.

Register here: <https://go.illinois.edu/MultiCountyOfficerTraining>

Confident Communicators 4-H Public Speaking

Saturday, February 21

Join us for our Confident Communicators 4-H Public Speaking Field Trip! For Coles, Cumberland, Shelby, and Moultrie-Douglas 4-H Members Ages 8-18 as of 9/1/25.

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Destination: University of Illinois, Lincoln Hall

Transportation Schedule:

- 8:00 AM – Bus departs from Shelby County Extension Office, Shelbyville
- 8:40 AM – Bus departs from Cross County Mall Rural King, Mattoon
- 9:10 AM – Bus departs from Kirby Foods Grocery Store, Tuscola

Event Schedule:

- 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM – Public Speaking Workshop at U of I Lincoln Hall
- 12:30 – 1:00 PM – Lunch provided by the Department of Communications
- 1:00 – 1:30 PM – Guided Campus Tour
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM – Interactive Activity (TBA)
- 3:15 PM – Depart for home

Drop-Off Schedule:

- 3:45 PM – Drop-off at Kirby Foods Grocery Store, Tuscola
- 4:10 PM – Drop-off at Cross County Mall Rural King, Mattoon
- 4:45 PM – Drop-off at Shelby County 4-H Center, Shelbyville

Registration Details:

- Deadline: Friday, February 6, 2026
- Cost: FREE – All expenses are generously covered by a grant from Coles County Wind

Register here: <https://go.illinois.edu/ConfidentCommunicators>

Parent Attendance: Parents/guardians are welcome to attend if it would make their child more comfortable. Please indicate on the registration form if a parent/guardian will be joining.

Preparation Tips:

- Dress Warmly! We'll be walking outside during the campus tour, so wear layers and comfortable shoes.
- Stay Hydrated: Bring a refillable water bottle or cash to grab a drink if needed.

- Know Your Presentation Type - During the workshop, youth will begin preparing for their local 4-H public speaking contest. Participants should come knowing which type of presentation they'd like to work on:
 - Formal Speech
 - Illustrated Speech
 - Original Works
 - Oral Interpretation

More details about each speech division can be found here:

<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/state-events/illinois-4-h-public-speaking-contest>

State opportunities:

Fashion Revue Registration is open

Saturday, January 24

4-H youth will showcase their skills in clothing construction, fashion design, and personal presentation in two competition levels: Junior (ages 8-13) and Senior (ages 14-18). Through interviews with judges and a public fashion show, youth build confidence, express individuality, and foster career exploration. Up to 75 participants will select one category to compete in: Constructed, Purchased, or Upcycle Your Style. More information can be found here: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/state-events/fashion-revue>

Registration is open through December 5!

IL 4-H Building Brick Build November Challenge: Hometown Pride

Youth ages 8 to 18: Compete in our virtual building brick challenge series to show off your original builds with plastic building bricks like LEGO and MEGABLOKS! Each month through December we'll offer a new build challenge to celebrate the launch of our new [Creating with Building Bricks 4-H project](#). For our challenges youth create their own original builds following the month's theme and size limits, then submit info on their build, along with photos of the build electronically. The November theme is hometown pride. For this theme we're looking for builds that represent something about your town or county!

Each month, our favorite build (based on creativity, technical skills demonstrated, and alignment to theme) will be selected as the winner in 3 different age divisions:

- 8-10 year olds
- 11-13 year olds
- 14-18 year olds

Winners will receive prizes via mail. We'll also select one random participant submission per month to receive some swag. There is no cost to enter, but youth MUST be currently enrolled Illinois 4-H club members to participate.

Click here for additional information: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/state-events/illinois-4-h-building-brick-challenge-series>

IL 4-H Junior Leadership Conference (JLC)

March 7-8

Registration is now open for the 2026 Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference (JLC), happening March 7–8, 2026, at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield!

This fun, hands-on event is open to 7th and 8th grade 4-H members who want to build leadership skills, meet new friends, and explore exciting 4-H opportunities.

- Registration Deadline: January 1, 2026
- Register in ZSuite
- Cost: \$200 (includes lodging, meals, and activities)
- Space is limited to the first 100 youth—register early!

More details can be found on the website.

<https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/leadership-conferences/junior-leadership-conference>

Calendar:

November

- 14 - Deadline to sign up for the Bank Steer Program
- 14 – Deadline to submit a photo for the Awesome Autumn Photography Contest
- 21 - Community Service Workshop, 6 p.m., 4-H Center
- 22 - Achievement Night, 6:30 p.m., Nazarene Church Gym, Shelbyville
- 26-28 - Office closed for the holidays

December

- 3 - Federation meeting, 6:30 p.m., 4-H Center
- 6 - Winter Craft Day, 9-12:30, 4-H Center
- 6 - Cloverbud Winter Craft Day, 1:15-2:45, 4-H Center
- 12 - Early Enrollment Incentive - enrollments must be entered and the program fee paid by this date
- 14 – Greenery Workshops 2 p.m., Green Works (Cowden)

- 23-31- Office closed for the holidays

January

- 1-2 - Office closed for the holidays
- 7 – Federation meeting, 7 p.m., 4-H Center
- 17 - Officer Training 9 a.m. –12 p.m., Sarah Bush Lincoln Education Center Mattoon
- 19 - Office closed for the holiday

February

- 4 – Federation meeting, 7 p.m., 4-H Center
- 13 – Fair Book Cover submission deadline
- 14 - Steer Weigh-in, 8 a.m. Shelbyville Sale Barn
- 14 - Bank Steer Pick-up, 10 a.m. Shelbyville Sale Barn
- 21 – Confident Communications Public Speaking Field Trip, 8 a.m.
- YQCA - TBD

March

- 4 – Federation meeting, 7 p.m., 4-H Center
- 7-8 – JLC Conference, Crowne Plaza, Springfield
- March 14-21 – 4-H Week
- 30 – Spring Clean-up at the fairgrounds, 6 p.m.
- YQCA - TBD

April

- 1 – Federation meeting, 7 p.m., 4-H Center
- 7 – Tailwaggers Registration at Show Arena 6-6:30 p.m., Class 6:30-7 p.m. Classes will continue for 8 weeks with graduation and continue until the fair.
- YQCA - TBD

May

- YQCA – TBD
- 25 – Office closed

June

- 1 – Fair Entries must be submitted in Fair Entry.
- 1 – Junior fair exhibitor cards and entries are due into the Extension office

- 1 – 4-H Scholarship applications are due into the Extension office
- 19 – Office closed

July

- 3 – Office closed
- 17 – Lawn Mower and Tractor Driving contest
- 18 – 4-H Foods, Photography (a.m.), 4-H misc. Visual Arts (p.m.) 4-H Center
- 18 – Horse Show 4 p.m
- 19 – Move-in day, animals in place by 4 p.m.
- 19 – Sheep Show 5 p.m.
- 20-22 – Fair
- 23 Fair Clean-up

Aug

- 16 – General project day at the IL State Fair

Office Information:

Staff:

County Director: Jessie Streit

4-H Program Coordinator: Yolanda Nation

Office Support Assistant: Diane Litteral

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.