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EXTENSION
College of Agriculture,
Biotechnology & Natural Resources



4-H Youth
Development

The 4-H Newsletter for Nevada

4-H Answers the Call to Building a Ready Generation

At 4-H, we've always believed in the boundless potential of young people. We know that when youth are given the tools, opportunities, and guidance they need, they are unstoppable. But today, as our nation's youth face increasing challenges in mental health, education, and workforce readiness, it's clear the stakes have never been higher. This is why 4-H, led by the work and leadership of 4-H Extension programs, is launching Beyond Ready- a bold, nationwide initiative designed to empower 10 million young people with the skills, resilience, and confidence they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Generation Z is a generation at a crossroads, grappling with unprecedented pressures. Over 53% of Gen Zs report feelings of loneliness, while 52% say they feel like they're failing at life goals. Recent years have only intensified these challenges. Chronic absenteeism has doubled since the 2018-2019 school year, and math and reading scores have plummeted, marking the largest declines in student performance in 50 years. As academic achievement continues to drop, youth feel disconnected, less confident, and unsure of how to navigate the future.

These challenges aren't just academic; they're personal. Many young people feel they are falling short, unable to envision a successful future where they feel connected to their friends, families, and communities. Without the essential skills they need to adapt and succeed, they face an uncertain path. The result is a growing crisis in our communities- a crisis that requires immediate action.

So, how do we ensure today's youth are prepared for tomorrow's challenges? While schools play a critical role in education, they cannot do it alone. Employers are increasingly focusing on skills that extend beyond traditional subjects, with 77% stating the need for analytical thinking, creativity, resilience, and adaptability. That's where 4-H comes in.

As the largest youth development organization in the country, reaching 6 million young people annual-

ly, 4-H is uniquely equipped to bridge the gap. 4-H is delivered by Cooperative Extension- a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation, including the University of Nevada, Reno, that provides experiences where young people learn by doing. Additionally, our 4-H alumni network reaches every industry and is 35 million strong.

We are also the only organization with a scientifically proven approach to developing young people, backed by more than 20 years of longitudinal research in partnership with Tufts University. The data is clear: youth who participate in 4-H programs are more likely to succeed academically, engage civically, and contribute to their communities.

They're also more prepared to enter the workforce and navigate the complexities of life with confidence.

At the heart of our success is the 4-H Thriving Model, which outlines key milestones and capabilities that

youth should develop at different stages of their lives. From middle childhood, where teamwork and belonging are emphasized, to middle adolescence, where independence and future planning take center stage, the Thriving Model ensures that youth not only develop academic skills but also gain character traits- such as responsibility, social competence, and resilience- needed for lifelong success.

Through the Beyond Ready campaign, our goal is simple but ambitious: equip 10 million youth with the tools and mindset to thrive in a world where 85% of the jobs they will pursue in 2030 haven't been invented yet. Preparing youth for this future requires a multi-faceted approach that fosters not only academic success but also resilience, adaptability, and a strong sense of purpose. To achieve this ambitious goal, we've outlined three critical initiatives that will drive the Beyond Ready campaign:

1. Expanding academic and career readiness by scaling our most impactful programs and national events- such as Ignite by 4-H, Citizenship Washington

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Beyond Ready

Sagebrush Community Horse Shows

This year, Sagebrush Community Horse Shows will once again have 4-H classes at their shows. These are not only a lot of fun, but they also apply to Washoe County 4-H Horse attendance requirements.

Here are the 2025 show dates:

- April 19
- May 11
- June 7
- September 6

Please note that there are new 4-H classes this year. Arab/HA/AA Native Costume, All Breed Costume, Arab/HA/AA Costume Walk/Trot, All Breed Costume Walk/Trot.



Find out more online about the shows including the Sagebrush prize list, class descriptions, entry forms and release forms. There are also detailed instructions on how to get to the Lemmon Valley Horseman's Area in Lemmon Valley, just north of Reno. The link is <https://comstockarabianassociation.com/sagebrush-community-horse-shows/>

New this year online entry form Sagebrush Online Entry Form. It can be found on the Sagebrush Community Horse Show page or go directly at <https://form.jotform.com/250048941691157>

Beyond Ready Generation

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Focus, and the True Leaders in Equity Institute- and deepening partnerships with land-grant universities to provide more college credit, apprenticeships, and credentialing programs.

2. Investing in educators through expanding Positive Youth Development (PYD) training opportunities and investing in resources like CLOVER by 4-H digital platform to support educators and volunteers nationwide.

3. Mobilizing the 4-H network to accelerate impact by leveraging our partnerships with government agencies, land-grant universities, and local coalitions.

Each of these initiatives is critical to ensuring that young people across the country are not just ready but Beyond Ready for whatever the future holds.

Beyond Ready is more than a 4-H initiative- it's a national movement to prepare young people for the challenges and opportunities of the future. But we can't do it alone. We need you- parents, educators, community leaders, business and philanthropic partners, and volunteers- to join us in this critical effort. By supporting Beyond Ready, you can help empower the next generation with the skills, resilience, and leadership they need to thrive in work, life, and beyond. Will you join us? Visit 4-h.org to learn more.

Battle Born Jackpot in Douglas Co.

The Battle Born Jackpot is set for Saturday, April 5th, 2025 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

As in previous years, we will have Market Lamb, Market Goat, Wether Dam and a Wether Dam Doe class.

There are some changes so please read through the Rules!

The Battle Born Jackpot is open to all Nevada residents and the neighboring CA counties listed here ONLY; Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Mono and Inyo.

The postmark deadline is March 15, 2025. For more information, please email battlebornjackpot@gmail.com.



4-H Livestock Contest Series Schedule:

There have been more changes to the Livestock Contest Series dates. The Elko County Livestock Judging Contest and the State Livestock Skillathon and Quiz Bowl contest have been added to the list.

- March 22- Elko County Livestock Judging Contest
- April 9- State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, Clark County Fair
- June 7 - Washoe, Carson City and Douglas Counties Livestock Skillathon and Quiz Bowl Contest
- August 7- Eureka County Fair Skillathon and Quiz Bowl Contest
- August 14- Lyon County Fair Livestock Judging Contest
- August 24th Cantaloupe Festival Livestock Skillathon and Quiz Bowl Contest
- September 25-27 State Livestock Skillathon and Quiz Bowl Contest

For more information, contact: Rebecca Glocknitzer, rglocknitzer@unr.edu.

Please watch for information about each individual contest and entry forms coming from your county office. Please keep in mind that all clinics and contest are open to all 4-H livestock members.

High Point Individual Awards Requirements

- Skillathon, attend 3 events and the state contest
- Judging, attend 1 event and the state contest

High Point Quiz Bowl Team Awards

- 2 events and the state contest

Don't Forget YQCA Training

Please remember that anyone planning to show in the Nevada Junior Livestock Show and Sale are required to have a current YQCA certificate by April 1, 2025.

If you have not had a YQCA training this year you can complete it online at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>



State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

The Nevada State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest will take place on April 9, 2005 at the Clark County Fair, 1301 Whipple Ave, Logandale, NV 89021

Registration is due by March 15, 2025. Mail entry forms to Churchill County Extension Office Attn: State Judging Contest 111 Shekler Road Fallon, NV 89406.

Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. followed by a Welcome and Contestant Orientation, Judging contest begin at 11:30 a.m.

Please note, lunch will be on your own. It is suggested that contestants have lunch before the start of the contest. Snacks and waters will be available when contestants come back from judging.

To get all entry forms, go to <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:8d89f773-b13d-405c-aa4f-36c90cab82a6>

4-H Small Animal and Static Exhibits

The Washoe County 4-H Small Animal and Static Show, sponsored by Washoe County 4-H Small Animal Leaders, is Saturday, March 8, 2025.

The show is at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center Pavilion, 1350 N. Wells Ave. in Reno.

Species check-ins begin at 8:00 a.m. with shows beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Youth will be showing Rabbits, Cavy (Guinea Pigs), Dogs, Reptiles, and Amphibians.

Following the success of last's year addition of Static entries to the show, the Washoe County Small Animal show will once again provide a place for static entries.

Come see the projects 4-H members from Washoe County and surrounding counties have created this year for their projects, including educational posters and art, to photos, sewing projects, and food.

If you have any questions, please contact Bethany via email at bsteiner@unr.edu.



Record Book Clinic Dates

The Washoe County 4-H staff will be hosting it's final Spring Record Book Working session in March and they would love to have you join them! There will be laptops, project record packets, record book covers for purchase, and staff on hand to answer questions and provide clarification.

Working sessions will happen at the Washoe County 4-H office (4955 Energy Way, Reno, NV, 89502) on the following dates:

- Thursday, March 13, 2025, from 5:30.-7:30 p.m.
- *New date added* Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, September 4, 2025, from 5:30.-7:30 p.m.

For the March 13 event, anyone interested in joining should RSVP to Bethany at bsteiner@unr.edu.

4-H Camp Volunteers and Teens

Northern Area/Western Camp season is starting! The camp will be July 6-12 at the Nevada 4-H Camp at Tahoe. Adult Chaperone registration forms and Teen Counselor applications will be sent out this week.

Previous Adult Chaperones, as well as interested adults who have contacted the 4-H, will receive the new registration forms by email. If you are interested in being an adult chaperone at camp, but have not completed a volunteer application and background check, please contact your county 4-H coordinator as soon as you can.

4-H members in Carson City, Douglas, Storey, and Washoe counties who will be 14-18 years old on the first day of camp (July 6) will receive Teen Counselor Applications by email. So will anyone in that age group who wants to apply for the limited number of Teen Counselor positions. Both 4-H members and non-members can apply.

All completed teen forms must be received by 4-H on or before Friday, April 4. Interviews will be on Saturday, April 19. No exceptions.

To find out more information, or to get added to the interest list, please contact Sam Mitchell at samm@unr.edu or call 775-336-0259.

Minecraft Teaching AI Skills to Youth

When 72% of youth said they seek support from adults in learning how to use AI tools correctly and with confidence, 4-H and Microsoft Corp. knew there was an opportunity to step in and help 1.4 million youth across the country learn for free through Minecraft Education's new AI Foundations curriculum. The series of online animated videos offer materials designed to build AI literacy among students, educators and families across the country, including small and rural communities.

Throughout the academic year, 4-H will lead "train the trainer" sessions for educators, enabling them to bring valuable real-world scenarios and resources to students through AI Adventure Series like AI for Good: Solving Problems with AI and AI in Action: Using AI Tools Responsibly.

This collaboration builds on Microsoft's AI Skills Initiative and underscores Microsoft's commitment to empowering the next generation with the skills needed to navigate and thrive in an AI-driven world.

As more young people use AI systems at home and in school, they need opportunities to build fundamental understanding of how AI works. Educators can use the AI Foundations program to supplement core curriculum, and families can explore AI together with discussion guides and gameplay through Minecraft Education, a game-based learning platform used by millions of educators and students globally. Find out more about this opportunity at <https://education.minecraft.net/en-us/discover/ai>



The Liberty Dogs™ Program Partners with Washoe County 4-H

The Liberty Dogs™ program is a visionary initiative established by Dave and Cheryl Duffield, aimed at supporting Veterans through the provision of highly trained Service Dogs. Nestled in the picturesque Sierra Nevada Mountain range in Reno, Nevada, Liberty Dogs aspires to set the standard for excellence within the Service Dog community.

Northern Nevada 4-H programs have the opportunity to partner with Liberty Dogs. Their mission is to provide service dogs to 200 men and women veterans.

These dogs will primarily be Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and a small percentage of shelter dogs.

The dogs undergo specialized training tailored to mitigate and assist Veterans' needs during a 14-day residential program on a 27-acre campus.

Graduating teams receive ongoing support from the Liberty Dogs family to ensure a smooth transition into confident Service Dog teams.

Plus, the scope of the program will be expanding with the introduction of a 4-H Puppy Raising Program.

Liberty Dogs aims to engage puppy raisers aged 12 to 18 in the local community. With class size of 5 to 10 raisers with family members, the program will provide guidance, instruction, and resources to puppy raisers

and their families.

Puppies will be delivered between 8 and 9 weeks of age, health tested, and pre-exposed. This includes all necessary training equipment, grooming tools. Dog food, and veterinary care are also provided by Liberty Dogs.

Weekly puppy training sessions will emphasize exposure, training, and community outings.

The puppies return to Liberty Dogs at 12 months for evaluation and potential entrance into the advanced training program.

Puppy raisers will be invited to Liberty Dogs campus for the graduation ceremony and to meet Veteran recipients. Dogs not meeting service dog criteria are offered back to the family for adoption free of charge.

The Liberty Dogs program encompasses a holistic approach to supporting Veterans and fostering community engagement through its innovative puppy raising program. With its commitment to excellence and compassion, Liberty Dogs continues to positively impact the lives of Veterans and their families.

If you are interested in finding out more about the program, or wish to join in, please contact Sarah Chvilicek at sarahc@unr.edu or 775-336-0236.



LIBERTY DOGS™
THE DUFFIELD FOUNDATION

March Dates to Remember

Mar. 3 - Capitol Days at the Legislature in Carson City

Mar. 4 - Capitol Days at UNR

Mar. 15 - Deadlines for registration: State Livestock Judging, Battle Born Jackpot, NAF Scholarship

Apr. 1 - NJLS Entry Deadline

Save the Date for Night to Remember 4-H Camp Alumni & Friends Gathering

The *Night to Remember* 4-H Camp Alumni & Friends Gathering is September 12, 2025. It will be a chance to see friends and reacquaint yourself with fellow 4-H Camp alumni and tour the camp!

In the meantime, you can join our community for 4-H Alumni & Friends As an alumni or friend of 4-H, you share a connection across generations.

Keep the connection going. Join the 4-H Alumni & Friends community today. To join, go online to <https://extension.unr.edu/4h/alumniandfriends.aspx>

4-H is a program of University of Nevada, Reno Extension

Clover Clips 4-H Newsletter is now distributed statewide to all 4-H families, 4-H staff and interested parties. This monthly publication is sent via email around the first of each month. To submit an article for possible use in Clover Clips, please email the text and any graphics to samm@unr.edu by the 20th of each month for following month's newsletter.

Find it in  4-h.org/clover/

IoT in the Physical Environment

Authored by Rachel S. Haselby

In this activity, You will learn how programmers consider the physical environment and data collection when programming Internet of Things (IoT) devices or robots. You will also map out our physical environment using pencil and paper.

For grades 3-8, this is a 30 minute activity that incorporates Computer Science, Robotics, and STEM.