



Pinal County 4-H Newsletter

4-H GROWS HERE

SEPTEMBER | 2026

Welcome back, 4-H! Whether you're a returning member ready to pick up right where you left off, or brand new and still learning what a clover pin means, we are beyond excited to have you as part of our 4-H family this year.

4-H has always been about so much more than projects and ribbons. It's about finding your people, the friends who cheer you on at fair, the leaders who believe in you before you believe in yourself, and the community that shows up for you again and again. It's about discovering your spark, that thing that lights you up, whether it's raising an animal, building a robot, baking the perfect batch of cookies, or standing in front of a crowd and finding your voice. And it's about belonging, knowing that no matter where you come from or what you're into, there's a place for you here.

This year is packed with opportunities to grow, explore, and have a whole lot of fun along the way. New projects to try, old favorites to dive back into, and plenty of memories waiting to be made.

To help you stay connected, you'll receive three newsletters throughout the year, plus special editions to get you ready for Fair and Camp. Keep an eye out for important dates, exciting updates, and all the ways to jump in and get involved.

We are so glad you're here, and we cannot wait to see what this year holds for you.

Here's to new beginnings, old friendships, and everything in between.

Esther Turner, Associate Agent, 4-H Youth Development

CONTENTS

Meet Shelby McDonald	2
AmeriCorps Member News	3
Welcome Back 4-H	4
Grow San Tan Valley	4
Start a 4-H Club	4
Volunteer Today	5
Horse Riders	6
Maricopa Amateur Radio	7
Volunteer Spotlight	8
Community Spotlights	9-10
National 4-H Week	11
4-H Achievement Night	12
About 4-H	13
Resources	14
Donations	15
Social Media	16
At a Glance	17
Beyond Ready Spirit Week	18
Annual AZ 4-H Gala	19
Communications Day	20
Skate Park Jam	21

University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension
Pinal County 4-H Youth Development Program
820 East Cottonwood Lane, #C, Casa Grande, Arizona 85122
Phone: (520) 836-5221 / Email: mmelende@cals.arizona.edu

Website: extension.arizona.edu/4h/pinal

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pinalcounty4h | Instagram: [pinalcounty4h](https://www.instagram.com/pinalcounty4h) | Twitter: [@Pinal_County_4H](https://twitter.com/Pinal_County_4H)



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension
Pinal County



THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

GROWING AT THE MARICOPA AGRICULTURAL CENTER: NEW FACES, FALL FUN & AG FACTS



MEET SHELBY McDONALD

Hi, I'm Shelby McDonald, the new Extension Professional II at the Maricopa Agricultural Center (MAC)! I recently moved to Arizona from Eastern Iowa, where I was born and raised.

My background is in Agriculture Business Management, and for the past five years I worked with Iowa 4-H in Black Hawk and Benton Counties. My own 4-H journey started back in 4th grade and never stopped — over the years I exhibited everything from horses and goats to food & nutrition, sewing, and photography.

I'm thrilled to bring my passion for agriculture to Arizona youth through MAC Field Trips and in-school programs. I can't wait to meet you all!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARICOPA AGRICULTURAL CENTER

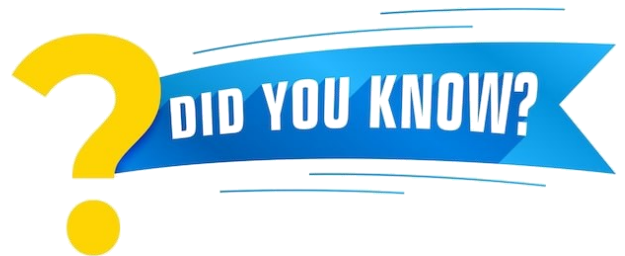
MAC is gearing up for fall Corn Festival field trips and in-school presentations! The grounds have seen some great summer updates: a new shade area has gone up, the fence has been painted with fun agricultural designs thanks to our AmeriCorps member, Karina, and the corn maze is planted and growing strong.

We look forward to getting local area schools on our fall and spring calendar!



AGRICULTURE DID YOU KNOWS?

- Honeybees have to visit about 2 million flowers to make just one pound of honey.
- The color of an egg's shell - brown and white, for example - corresponds to the color of the hen's earlobe.
- 97% of U.S. dairy farms are family-owned and operated.





THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

AMERICORPS MEMBER NEWS



If you ask me what makes 4-H so special, I'll probably tell you it's the people, the experiences, and all the little moments that turn into memories.

I'm Melannie Dominguez, and I'm excited to share a little about my journey and my role with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program in Pinal County. As an AmeriCorps member, I have the opportunity to give back to a program that has been an important part of my life.

I have been involved with 4-H for many years, and throughout that time, I have experienced firsthand the impact that 4-H can have on young people, families, volunteers, and communities. One of the things I love most about 4-H is the strong sense of connection and community it creates. It is a place where youth can try new things, discover their interests, build confidence, develop leadership skills, and, most importantly, *Learn by Doing*.

Through my AmeriCorps position, I have the opportunity to support youth as they learn, grow, and develop important leadership, communication, teamwork, and life skills. I also work alongside 4-H members, volunteers, families, and staff throughout Pinal County to help support clubs, events, activities, and programs.

In my role, I help with a variety of behind-the-scenes and hands-on activities that help keep our 4-H programs moving forward. Whether I am assisting with an event, supporting a volunteer, helping a 4-H member or family navigate the enrollment process, preparing materials, or helping coordinate program activities, I enjoy knowing that the work I do contributes to creating positive experiences for our 4-H community.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve as an AmeriCorps member with Pinal County 4-H. I look forward to continuing to learn, grow, and build relationships throughout my service while helping our youth and volunteers succeed. Here's to another year of *Learn by Doing*, making memories, building confidence, and growing together through 4-H!



AmeriCorps





THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

WELCOME BACK, PINAL COUNTY 4-H CLUBS!

A new 4-H year is underway, and we are excited to welcome back our amazing Pinal County 4-H clubs, families, and members! A new year brings new opportunities to reconnect with friends, explore new projects, develop skills, and make memories through hands-on 4-H experiences.

GROWING TOGETHER ACROSS PINAL COUNTY

From Apache Junction to Sacaton, Pinal County 4-H is proud to have clubs serving youth and families throughout our communities.



Our current clubs include:

- Apache Junction: Country Kickers
- Casa Grande: Casa Grande Desert Dwellers, CG Livestock, Desert Rustlers, Signal Peak Livestock
- Coolidge: Coolidge Clovers
- Florence: Desert Rose
- Kearny: Kearny Koyotes
- Maricopa: Copper Shots, Maricopa Trailblazers, Maricopa Sidewinders
- Oracle: Oracle Oaks
- Queen Creek: Bella Vista, Desert Dust Devils
- Sacaton: GRIC (Gila River Indian Community)

Interested in becoming a 4-H member? Start by creating your 4-H member profile and completing your enrollment through <https://4h.zsuite.org/>. During the enrollment process, you will select the club you would like to join and choose the projects you are interested in. Once enrolled, you can connect with your club leader to learn more about meeting dates, activities, and upcoming opportunities.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW 4-H IN SAN TAN VALLEY

We also have an exciting opportunity for families in the San Tan Valley area! The Desert Dust Devils currently have an open club charter, creating an opportunity for new members and volunteers to help grow the club and bring new 4-H experiences to local youth.

Starting or rebuilding a 4-H club can be a rewarding way to make a difference in your community and give young people opportunities to learn, lead, and discover their interests.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO START A 4-H CLUB?

A 4-H club is an organized group of at least five youth from three different families who meet regularly with adult volunteers or Extension staff for a long-term, progressive series of educational experiences.

To establish a new club, you'll need:

- A minimum of five youth members from three different families
- At least one approved adult volunteer leader who has completed the required background check and volunteer training
- A regular meeting schedule and location
- Completed State 4-H chartering paperwork, including required financial, insurance, code of conduct, and multimedia release forms
- A commitment to providing youth with ongoing, hands-on 4-H project experiences



THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU IN 4-H! VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Have you ever had that moment in your life where you just wanted to make a difference, change the world, and have a meaningful impact? The answer may be simpler than you think: you can be a part of the incredible team that makes 4-H possible.

As part of the Pinal County 4-H Youth Developmental Program, one of the greatest joys is connecting passionate individuals with meaningful opportunities to serve. Whether you have years of experience or simply a heart to help, there is a place for you in 4-H.

BECOME A CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER

Our volunteers are the heart of 4-H. They inspire youth by sharing their knowledge, encouraging new skills, and helping young people develop confidence, leadership, responsibility, and lifelong friendships. Volunteers don't have to know everything; they need a willingness to learn, mentor, and create a positive environment where youth can thrive. If you've ever considered leading a club or project, we'd love to help get you started.

JOIN A COMMITTEE

Not everyone wants to lead a club, and that's okay! Our committees play an essential role in making county events, contests, fundraisers, and special events successful. Committee members help plan events, judge events/activities, organize activities, brainstorm ideas, and support the volunteers and families who make our program so special. Whether you have a few hours a month or can help with a single event, your time and talents can make a lasting impact.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

No matter your background or experience, there is a role where your unique gifts and talents can shine. There are countless ways to get involved, including:

- Serving as club or project leader
- Joining a committee
- Helping at fairs, contests, and community events
- Sharing a hobby, trade, or professional skill with youth
- Supporting behind the scenes with planning and organization

BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

Every volunteer, committee member, and leader helps create opportunities that ultimately empower young people to discover their potential, build lifelong skills, and become leaders in their communities. If you've been waiting for the right opportunity and perfect time to get involved, this is it. We would love to welcome you to our 4-H family and help you find the opportunity that's right for you.

Interested in volunteering or learning more? Reach out to abigham@arizona.edu. We're always looking for passionate individuals who are ready to make a difference, one youth at a time.





THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PINAL COUNTY 4-H HORSE RIDERS!



We are excited to cheer on our **State qualifiers** and wish them the very best as they continue their 4-H journey!

Our Pinal County 4-H youth had a fantastic showing in **English, Western, Gymkhana, and Sorting!** Congratulations to all of our riders for their hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Junior and Senior Advanced riders who placed in English, Western, and Gymkhana qualified for the State competition. In the **Sorting** event, the top four teams in the Junior, Senior, and Mixed divisions also qualified for State. We are proud to celebrate all of our riders and their accomplishments!

GYMKHANA PLACINGS

Senior Advanced

- 1st – Amya Mckee
- 2nd – Rebecca Dillard

Junior Advanced

- 1st – Caydee Standage
- 1st – Dash DeRamos

Intermediate

- 1st – Jade Wiley
- 2nd – Trenity Snow

Beginner

- 1st – Savannah Bencomo
- 2nd – Kaylee Petkus

WESTERN PLACINGS

Senior Advanced

- 1st – Amya Mckee
- 2nd – Rebecca Dillard
- 3rd – Samantha Aden

Junior Advanced

- 1st – Flora Clark
- 2nd – Caydee Standage

Intermediate

- 1st – Jade Wiley
- 2nd – Trenity Snow
- 3rd – Dash DeRamos

Beginner

- 1st – Evelyn Penrod
- 2nd – Taylor Warren
- 3rd – Kaylee Petkus

ENGLISH PLACINGS

Senior Advanced

- 1st – Samantha Aden
- 2nd – Amya Mckee

Beginner

- 1st – Evelyn Penrod
- 2nd – Kaylee Petkus
- 3rd – Taylor Warren

SORTING PLACINGS

Senior Team

- Grand –
Devin Williamson & Lilah Williamson
- Reserve –
Dixon Williamson & Lilah Williamson
- 3rd –
Amya Mckee & Devin Williamson
- 4th –
Amya Mckee & Rebecca Dillard

Junior Team

- Grand –
Jade Wiley & Dash DeRamos
- Reserve –
Jade Wiley & Evelyn Penrod
- 3rd –
Trenity Snow & Dash DeRamos
- 4th –
Evelyn Penrod & Dash DeRamos

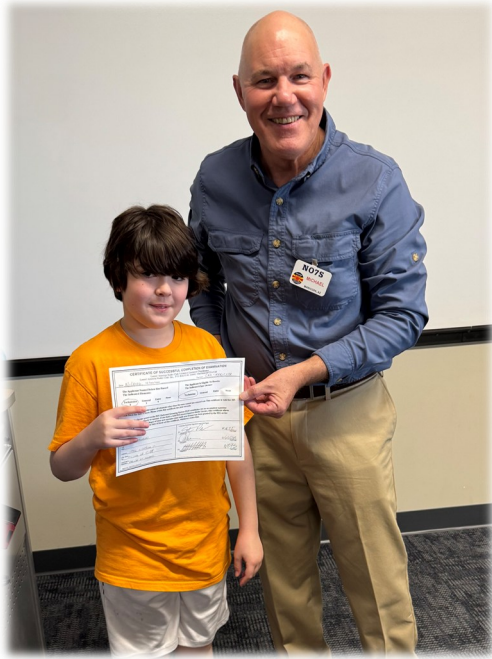
Mixed Teams

- Grand –
Devin Williamson & Jade Wiley
- Reserve –
Dixon Williamson & Dash DeRamos
- 3rd –
Lilah Williamson & Jade Wiley
- 4th –
Devin Williamson & Dash DeRamos



THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

MARICOPA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



Congratulations are in order for **ten-year-old Reynaldo Mangual, KMN7HFU**, who recently passed the examination for his **Technician Class Amateur Radio License**. The 35-question exam covers basic radio theory, operating rules, electrical safety, and circuits, and requires at least 26 correct answers to pass.

Reynaldo is the youngest member of the **Maricopa Amateur Radio Association (MARA)** and is also a member of the **Pinal County, Arizona, 4-H Amateur Radio Club**. The youth program is supported by 4-H, MARA, a grant from the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona, and the Arizona 4-H Foundation. At MARA's August 1, 2026, meeting, club president and 4-H group leader **Michael Mills, NO7S**, presented Reynaldo with his certificate recognizing his successful exam.

But the celebration didn't end there.

While everyone expected Reynaldo to pass his test, he certainly wasn't expecting what came next: an almost-new **Yaesu FT-857D HF/VHF/UHF Multimode Transceiver** of his own.

The radio had been donated anonymously to MARA with the stipulation that it be presented to a deserving young person upon successfully earning an amateur radio license. The station package also included an **LDG YT-100 automatic antenna tuner and power supply**, giving Reynaldo the foundation for a very capable amateur radio station.

To add a little radio history to his new station, Reynaldo was also presented with a **fully restored, authentic World War II-era J-38 telegraph key** by **Steve Miller, W6SDM**, a collector and restorer of historic telegraph keys.

We have a feeling that J-38 may provide just the encouragement Reynaldo needs to discover Morse code—and that his Technician license is only the beginning. We look forward to hearing **KF7HFU** on the air and, before too long, perhaps congratulating him again on earning his **General and Amateur Extra licenses**.

Congratulations, Reynaldo, and welcome to amateur radio!





THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JANA E KEMERY

Pinal County 4-H is fortunate to have volunteers who are always willing to step up, lend a hand, and make a difference in the lives of our youth. **Janae Kemery** is one of those volunteers!

Janae first became involved with 4-H when the VFW was asked to volunteer at a county shooting event. That experience sparked something in her and inspired her to become more involved as a volunteer. For approximately four years, Janae has supported Pinal County 4-H Shooting Sports, the Pinal County Fair, and a variety of other 4-H volunteer opportunities. She is always willing to help wherever she is needed.

What Janae enjoys most about volunteering is **“watching youth understand new information and doing it correctly.”** Seeing a young person learn something new, put it into practice, and gain confidence is what makes volunteering so rewarding.

If you asked Janae to describe herself in three words, she would choose **kind, understanding, and helpful**—qualities that are evident in the way she works with youth and fellow volunteers. One of the most important lessons Janae hopes to pass along to youth is **“not to give up trying.”** Life will bring challenges, and learning to keep trying is an important skill that youth can carry with them far beyond their 4-H experience.

Janae also appreciates the way 4-H youth support one another. She has seen how **“they build each other up and help them do better.”** That sense of encouragement and teamwork is one of the things that makes 4-H such a special experience for young people.

When asked what she would say to someone considering becoming a 4-H volunteer, Janae’s answer is simple: **“Become a volunteer.”** There are so many ways to get involved, and every volunteer has an opportunity to make a difference.

Outside of 4-H, Janae stays active with the VFW, enjoys reading Western novels and murder mysteries, and is a fan of John Wayne. She also has several favorite 4-H memories and projects, making it difficult to choose just one!

Janae believes one of the most important roles of a 4-H volunteer is helping youth learn how to **“handle problems growing up in this world.”** Through 4-H, youth have opportunities to develop skills, confidence, resilience, and the ability to work together while preparing for the challenges ahead.

Thank you, Janae, for your dedication to Pinal County 4-H and for always being willing to help! Your willingness to serve, encourage youth, and step in wherever needed is a wonderful example of what makes our 4-H volunteer family so special.

Thank you, Janae, for helping Pinal County 4-H youth **learn, grow, and never give up!**





THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: THANK YOU, C-A-L RANCH!



At Pinal County 4-H, we are fortunate to have community partners who not only welcome us into their businesses but also invest in the success of local youth. This quarter, we are excited to shine the spotlight on C-A-L Ranch in Casa Grande for their continued partnership, generosity, and support of 4-H!

On August 8th, 4-H staff members Jennie Treadway and Shelby McDonald spent the day at C-A-L Ranch connecting with families and customers, sharing information about 4-H, and showcasing the many clubs, projects, and opportunities available to youth in Pinal County. Youth who stopped by also received a 4-H STEM take-home activity, giving them a fun, hands-on introduction to the types of learning experiences they can explore as 4-H members.

C-A-L Ranch has supported Pinal County 4-H in more ways than simply providing a space for outreach. Earlier this year, the Casa Grande store hosted a Father's Day BBQ, giving our 4-H team another opportunity to engage with families and introduce them to 4-H. Even more meaningful, C-A-L Ranch generously donated the proceeds from the BBQ directly to our local 4-H program.

Partnerships like this make a difference. C-A-L Ranch has opened its doors, welcomed our youth and families, provided opportunities for community outreach, and generously contributed resources to help strengthen 4-H.

Thank you, C-A-L Ranch Casa Grande, for believing in our youth and being such a wonderful community partner! We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to all the opportunities we can create together.

ONGOING WAYS C-A-L RANCH SUPPORTS 4-H FAMILIES

Beyond hosting events, C-A-L Ranch runs a couple of standing programs worth knowing about if you have a 4-H, FFA, or Jr. Rodeo member in your family:

- **Donate Your Change (Roundup In-Store):** Every time you check out at a local C-A-L Ranch store, you can choose to round your purchase up to the nearest dollar, with the extra change going straight to the local 4-H program. It's available **only in store** (not online) and takes just a moment at checkout. C-A-L Ranch distributes roundup donations to local 4-H groups twice a year, and those donations may also be tax-deductible.
- **4-H Project Discount:** C-A-L Ranch offers **10% off select, animal-specific project supplies** — things like feed, brushes, and halters — for enrolled 4-H, FFA, and Jr. Rodeo members. To take part, members fill out a program application and receive a discount number for each species listed on their application; that number is used at checkout to apply the savings. Accounts run on an annual cycle starting **October 1st** through **September 30th**, so members need to re-enroll each year, even if they participated previously.

You can learn more about both programs, including how to sign up for the Project Discount, on C-A-L Ranch's [4-H Support page](#).



THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: THANK YOU, TRACTOR SUPPLY!



This month, we're giving a special shout-out to one of our incredible community partners — **Tractor Supply Co. in Coolidge** — for opening its doors and welcoming 4-H into the store!

Recent Outreach

On **August 14th**, 4-H staff member Jennie Treadway and Community Club Leader Bonnie Palmer brought their energy and enthusiasm to Tractor Supply Co. in Coolidge, meeting new families and spreading the word about everything 4-H has to offer. The event gave staff a chance to reach families who may not have encountered 4-H before, and to answer questions about how to get a young person enrolled in a club or project. Every youth who stopped by got to take home a **4-H STEM activity** — a fun, hands-on way to show kids just what they can look forward to as a 4-H member.

Paper Clover: Tractor Supply's Nationwide 4-H Fundraiser

One of the biggest ways Tractor Supply Co. supports 4-H is through its **Paper Clover Campaign**, a biannual fundraiser held each **spring and fall** in stores nationwide. During each campaign, customers can purchase a paper clover — the 4-H emblem — at checkout, in store or online at TractorSupply.com, to directly benefit 4-H. Since the partnership began in 2010, Tractor Supply Co. and 4-H have raised more than **\$26 million** together, including over \$2.3 million during the 2024 campaign alone. Ninety percent (90%) of every dollar raised stays with 4-H programming in the state where it was donated — funding things like camp scholarships and leadership activities — while the remaining 10% supports national 4-H programming.

Keep an eye out for the spring and fall Paper Clover campaigns at the Coolidge store — it's an easy, feel-good way for customers to support local 4-H kids right at checkout.

Why This Partnership Matters

Community partners like Tractor Supply Co. help us in so many ways — from providing spaces where we can connect with new families to running nationwide fundraising campaigns that put real dollars behind local 4-H programs.

Thank you, Tractor Supply Co., for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to many more events together!

For more information on Tractor Supply's Paper Clover campaign to support 4-H youth, visit tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h.





THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

CELEBRATE NATIONAL 4-H WEEK WITH US!



Mark your calendars — **National 4-H Week is October 4–10, 2026!** This is a special week set aside each year to celebrate 4-H members across the country and recognize the positive impact 4-H has on our youth and communities. It's a time to shine a light on the leadership, life skills, and hands-on learning that 4-H provides, and to say thank you to all the volunteers, families, and partners who make our program possible.

LIGHTING UP THE WATER TOWER GREEN

We're excited to share that 4-H is partnering with the **City of Eloy and Town of Coolidge** to **Light Up the Water Tower Green** on **October 5th** in honor of National 4-H Week! Keep an eye out for the iconic 4-H green glowing throughout the community as a visible reminder of all the young people growing, learning, and leading right here at home.

HOW YOUR FAMILY CAN GET INVOLVED

National 4-H Week isn't just about our staff and events — it's about our whole 4-H family! Here are a few ways you can join in the celebration:

- **Participate in Spirit Week** — a fun, themed way for members and clubs to show their 4-H pride each day of the week — *see Beyond Ready flyer page 18!*
- **Share your photos** — snap pictures of your family celebrating 4-H Week and share the spirit with our community.
- More details on how to share and tag your photos — *see Beyond Ready flyer page 18!*
-

Follow and interact with us on social media — like, comment, and share our posts throughout the week to help spread the word about all things 4-H.

We cannot wait to help celebrate National 4-H Week with you!



THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

PINAL COUNTY 4-H ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT

We are excited to announce our first **Pinal County 4-H Achievement Night – “Behind Every Clover”**! Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for an evening celebrating the outstanding youth, volunteers, leaders, and supporters who help make Pinal County 4-H successful.

Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
University of Arizona – Maricopa Agricultural Center
 37860 West Smith-Enke Road, Maricopa, AZ 85139

We Need Your Nominations!

Behind every clover is someone who showed up. Inside every clover is a kid who grew. This celebration is about more than simply recognizing accomplishments...we want to share the stories of the people who have made a meaningful difference through 4-H.

We are looking for nominations for both **youth and adults** who exemplify the Four H's...**Head, Heart, Hands, and Health**...through their growth, character, leadership, service, and contributions to 4-H. Contact **Jennie Treadway** at jennietreadway@arizona.edu to request the nomination form.

There are numerous award categories recognizing youth and adults, including leadership, project achievement, mentorship, community service, agriculture and livestock, creative arts, healthy living, personal growth, and more.

Tell Their Story

When completing a nomination, don't just list accomplishments. Tell us **what makes this person special and the difference they have made during the past 4-H year**. The form asks nominators to share:

- The nominee's story and impact
- A specific **“Clover Moment”** that represents the nominee
- Which of the **Four H's** best represents them
- Why the nominee stands out and deserves recognition
- Optional photos, quotes, or sayings that help tell their 4-H story

Nomination Deadline:

September 18, 2026, at midnight

Please email completed nomination forms to **Jennie Treadway** at jennietreadway@arizona.edu by the deadline.





THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

ABOUT 4-H...

WHAT IS 4-H? 4-H is the largest youth-serving organization in the world. 4-H is an organization that serves youth. From 4-H clubs to special interest groups to school enrichment projects, 4-H includes youth in activities. 4-H is the youth education component of Cooperative Extension, which is conducted jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the state land grant university (The University of Arizona), and your county government. 4-H Youth Development has a unique link with a variety of resources from The University of Arizona.

While 4-H has its beginnings in rural America, 4-H now serves young people and volunteers from major urban centers and from suburban communities and rural non-farm settings as well.

4-H AND THE COMMUNITY! 4-H doesn't stop with its impact on young people and their families. An integral part of the popularity of 4-H is that it reaches into the communities in which these families live. As part of their 4-H experience, young people are encouraged to develop a better understanding of their communities and to contribute to community betterment.

4-H IS A FAMILY AFFAIR! 4-H encourages participation by the entire family. Youth enroll as 4-H members. Other family members help out as club leaders, project leaders, meeting helpers, transportation aides--you name it. 4-H is definitely a family affair.

Most importantly, 4-H families work together on projects and activities, attend meetings and events together and learn together through 4-H. In the process, family members learn more about each other through their involvement in 4-H. They may even become better families, appreciating each other's strengths and talents just a bit better.

WHAT ARE THE 4 H'S? The 4 H's stand for Head, Hands, Heart, and Health. The 4 H's represent the four-fold training and development that 4-H'ers receive. At first there were three "H's" with the fourth "H" of "Health" being added. Together the 4 H's symbolize: the development of HEAD, to think, plan and reason; the HEART, to be concerned with the welfare of others,

accept the responsibilities of citizenship, and develop positive attitudes; the HANDS, to be useful, helpful, and skillful; and HEALTH, to practice healthful living, enjoy life and use leisure time productively.

WHAT'S THE 4-H EMBLEM? A green four-leaf clover with a white "H" on each clover leaf. The design, attributed to L.H. Benson, An Iowa school superintendent, was adopted as the national emblem in 1911. Similar to a copyright, legislation has been passed so that the 4-H name and emblem may only be used as approved by 4-H.

WHAT'S THE 4-H PLEDGE?

I pledge...

My **Head** to Clearer Thinking,

My **Heart** to Greater Loyalty,

My **Hands** to Larger Service,

and My **Health** to Better Living.

For my Club, my Community, my Country, and my World.

In repeating the pledge, a member raises the right hand to the side of the head when saying "head", points to their heart when saying "heart", extends hands, palms upward when saying "hands" and then stands straight when speaking rest of the pledge. The pledge was adopted in 1927 during the first National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D.C. Otis Hall, state 4-H Leader in Kansas was responsible for the original wording, which remained unchanged until 1973 when the words "any my world" were added.

WHAT'S THE 4-H MOTTO? "To Make the Best Better". The motto was proposed by Carried Harrison, a botanist with the U.S. Bureau of Plant Industry and was officially adopted in 1927 when the 4-H Pledge was introduced.

WHAT IS THE 4-H YEAR? The Arizona 4-H Youth Development program year is October 1 through September 30.

The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity provider. Learn more: extension.arizona.edu/legal-disclaimer.



THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

We welcome members and leaders to submit articles highlighting members or examples of what you are doing in your club. If you are hosting a project meeting, activity or event that the entire county would benefit from, this is a great forum to get the word out there. Submit articles by the 15th of March, June, September or December.



Please be sure to submit your article to Maria at the 4-H office at mmelende@cals.arizona.edu.

We will also post on our Pinal County 4-H social media sites. Submit today, don't delay, and share away!!!

AZ 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Inspiring the next generation of leaders, inventors, entrepreneurs, and problem solvers, transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary - 4-H is the youth development program of The University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension.

Check out the 4-H State Office website for state program opportunities, resources, history and much more.



<https://extension.arizona.edu/4h>

KEEPING UP WITH 4-H

4-H Enrollment	https://4h.zsuite.org/
4-H Mall	https://shop4-h.org/
4-H in the USA	4h-usa.org
AZ 4-H	extension.arizona.edu/4h
AZ 4-H Youth Foundation	cals.arizona.edu/4-h_foundation
Livestock Inspection	602-542-0872
National 4-H Council	fourhcouncil.org
National 4-H Curriculum System	4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum
National 4-H Web	4-h.org
Use of Name & Emblem	national4-hheadquarters.gov
Youth Livestock Quality Assurance	https://yqcaprogram.org/



 More likely to make healthier choices	 More likely to participate in STEM activities	 More likely to give back to their communities	 More likely to be civically active
--	--	---	---



THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

FRY'S DONATIONS TO PINAL COUNTY 4-H

A simple way to support the Pinal County 4-H Program is through the Fry's Community Rewards Program. Fry's Food and Drug Store will donate a small portion of what you spend every time you use your Fry's card. If you would like to support the 4-H program, please link your Fry's rewards card to the Pinal County 4-H Program.

Instruction to link Pinal County 4-H in the Fry's app (iPhone/Android):

- Open Fry's App
- Top Left Hand **Menu** (user profile icon)
- Scroll down and click **Community Rewards**
- Choose **Search for Organization**
- Search for **Pinal County 4H** (no hyphen)
- Click **Enroll**



You're all set!!!

WAYS TO GIVE (4-H FOUNDATION)



The Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation, 50+ years old—Incorporated in 1970, was created to support Arizona 4-H programming and 4-H youth through 4-H Scholarships. There are many ways to contribute to the Foundation to help 4-H increase future opportunities. You can find out more about contributing to the Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation here <https://extension.arizona.edu/4hfoundation/give>.

GIVE TO GROW BRIGHTER FUTURES (NATIONAL 4-H)

A **recurring** gift to 4-H helps us respond to kids' greatest needs with urgency and flexibility. By **giving monthly** you'll be recognized as a member of our **Give to Grow Society** and become a reliable source of support in kids' lives.

Ready to help provide youth with crucial year-round opportunities and support? **Check the "make this recurring" box!**

[Donate Here!](#)





THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

PINAL COUNTY IS SOCIAL—FOLLOW US!

LIKE, LOVE, COMMENT, SHARE, PIN, TAG, TWEET, REPEAT!

Let's Socialize! Be the first one to know what is happening with The University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension, Pinal County 4-H. Join our online community, stay in the know and get exclusive news/updates! Help us spread the word, you're just a scan away!



Website:
<http://extension.arizona.edu/4h/pinal>



Instagram:
[pinalcounty4h](#)



Twitter:
[@Pinal_County_4H](#)



Facebook:
[@pinalcounty4h](#)

WHAT IS A STATE 4-H HASHTAG AND WHERE CAN I USE IT?

A hashtag is a word or phrase preceded by the number sign or a hash symbol (#), used on social media websites and applications, to identify messages on a specific theme or topic.

Let's make the best, better and show people we are transforming character, knowledge and skills to successful stories by using it during 4-H Program moments.

- #AZ4H
- #inspirekidstodo
- #trueleadersinservice
- #AZ4Hcares
- #HOWWEFAIRAZ
- #opportunity4all



@uarizona4h



@uarizona4h



@uarizona 4h



@UARizona4-H



THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

4-H At-a-Glance

SEPTEMBER—2026

- 18-19 Shooting Sports Air Qualifier Match
- 19 Community Club Leaders Meeting
- 19 Pinal County 4-H Officers Training
- 30 4-H Year Ends: 2025-26

OCTOBER—2026

- 1 4-H Year Begins: 2026-27
- 1 Arizona State Fair Begins
- 3 AZ 4-H Foundation Gala Dinner
- 4-10 National 4-H Week
- 10 "Behind Every Clover" Achievement Night
- 16-18 Shooting Sports Multi-Discipline Qualifier Match

NOVEMBER—2026

- TBA 4-H Scholarship Application Opens
- 1 Arizona State Fair Ends
- 6 New Leader Training
- 11 Office Closed—Veteran's Day
- 26-27 Office Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday
- 27 National 4-H Congress, Atlanta, GA
- 27-13 4-H Winter Paper Clover Campaign
Tractor Supply

DECEMBER—2026

- 4-6 Level 1, Shooting Sports Instructor Certification
- 24-1 Office Closed—Winter Closure
- 27-31 [Arizona National Livestock Show](#)
- 31 4-H Enrollment Deadline in [ZSuite](#)

JANUARY—2027

- 9 State Shotgun Championships
- 22 State Air Championships
- 30 Horse Skill-a-Thon Event
- 30 4-H Communications Day

FEBRUARY—2027

- 1 State Shooting Sports Multi-Discipline Championships

MARCH—2027

- 1 4-H Still Exhibits Entries Due
- 13 Club Booth Set-Up
- 13 Fair Clean Up Day
- 15 Receiving 4-H Building Exhibits
- 16 Receiving Perishable 4-H Building Exhibits
- 16 4-H Dog Show
- 17 4-H Building Exhibits Opens
- 17-21 Pinal County Fair

APRIL—2027

- TBA Scholarship Applications Due
- TBA National 4-H Conference
- TBA Rocket Show & Drone Challenge
- TBA Spring Paper Clover Campaign
- TBA Arizona 4-H STEM Competition
- 3 Horse Skill-a-Thon Event
- 7 Arizona Gives—[Click Here](#)



**PINAL COUNTY
4-H PROGRAM**

BEYOND READY

SPIRIT WEEK



OCTOBER 5-10, 2026

**OCT
05**

GO GREEN MONDAY

Let's turn social media green for 4-H! Share your best "Go Green" photo and show your 4-H pride.

**OCT
06**

TELL-A-FRIEND TUESDAY

Wear or dress up as something that represents your favorite 4-H project and tell a friend about it!

**OCT
07**

HHHH WEDNESDAY

Choose your favorite H and dress to represent it!

🧠 Head = Learning ❤️ Heart = Caring 🙌 Hands = Doing 💪 Health = Living Well

📷 Share a photo with a sign that says:

"My favorite thing about 4-H is _____."

Tell us which H it represents and celebrate what makes 4-H special to you!

**OCT
08**

THANKFUL THURSDAY

Take a moment to thank someone who makes 4-H special! Write a thank-you note or tag a 4-H leader, volunteer, mentor, club leader, or parent who has positively impacted your 4-H journey.

**OCT
09**

FUTURE READY FRIDAY

Dress up as your future career. How are you Beyond Ready for your future? What problem will YOU solve one day?

**OCT
10**

CELEBRATION SATURDAY

Dress up in your best 4-H show attire and join us at the Behind Every Clover event.

📱 SHARE. TAG. CELEBRATE.

TAG @4-H AND @PINALCOUNTY4H AND INCLUDE
#4HBEYONDRREADY #NATIONAL4HWEEK 🍀



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension
Pinal County

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
PINAL COUNTY OFFICE
820 E COTTONWOOD LN BLDG C | CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122
DIRECT: 520-340-4979 | OFFICE: 520-836-5221
[HTTPS://EXTENSION.ARIZONA.EDU/PROGRAMS/4-H-PINAL-COUNTY](https://extension.arizona.edu/programs/4-h-pinal-county)

The University of Arizona is equal opportunity provider. Learn more: extension.arizona.edu/legal-disclaimer.

The 2nd Annual Arizona 4-H Gala

With special thanks to our
Title Sponsor:
Grand Avenue Produce



10/3/2026 | Loews Ventana Canyon Resort | 5-9 PM

Welcome Arizona Pork Council as
a Diamond Sponsorship



Enjoy an unforgettable evening featuring live music, silent, online, and live auctions - all in celebration of Arizona 4-H youth. Proceeds from the event directly support 4-H youth programs and activities throughout Arizona.

Scan here for ticket
and sponsorship
information →



Revised: 08/05/2026

What You Can Expect!

- Adults-only evening that is “for the kids.”
- 5 PM Reception and Watering Hole Kickoff
- Online Silent and live auctions, and more...
- Networking and photo opportunities
- Inspiring program updates and testimonies
- Live music and entertainment throughout the night
- Hosted at the beautiful Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, Tucson

ARIZONA 4-H COMMUNICATION DAY



*Find Your Voice.
Share Your Story.
Build Your Confidence!*



SATURDAY
JANUARY 30, 2027
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA AGRICULTURAL CENTER

37860 W Smith Enke Rd
Maricopa, AZ 85138

OPEN TO ARIZONA
4-H MEMBERS
Ages 8-18

Some contests
may serve as
state qualifiers for
**WESTERN NATIONAL
ROUNDUP.**

Communication Day gives 4-H members an opportunity to practice and showcase their communication skills through a variety of contests and presentations.

Whether you enjoy speaking, demonstrating, teaching, writing, or sharing your knowledge, there is an opportunity for you!

COMMUNICATION CONTESTS



PREPARED SPEECH

Prepare and present a speech on a topic of your choice.



HORSE PUBLIC SPEAKING

Develop your public speaking skills while sharing your knowledge of horses and horsemanship.



GENERAL DEMONSTRATION

Teach others how to do something or explain a process while demonstrating your knowledge and skills.



IMPROMPTU SPEECH

Think on your feet and communicate your ideas with limited preparation.



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Demonstrate your knowledge and skills in conducting an effective meeting.



CREATIVE WRITING

Use your creativity and writing skills to communicate a story, idea, or message.



HORSE PRESENTATION

Share your knowledge and experience through a presentation related to the horse project.



CREED SPEAKING

Present the 4-H Creed with confidence, expression, and understanding.



PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

Share your talent and creativity through a performing arts presentation.



REGISTRATION

\$20 Registration Fee

The registration fee allows youth to enter as many eligible contests as they would like.

REGISTER THROUGH ZSUITE!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

January 15, 2027

Contest schedules will be determined by the number of entries received.



EVENT SCHEDULE



8:30 AM

Check-In



9:00 AM

Contests Begin



4:00 PM

Event Concludes

Contest times and room assignments will be announced based on the final number of entries.



FOOD

Lunch will be provided for registered participants.

GUEST MEAL TICKETS:

\$5 additional fee for each guest's meal ticket



QUESTIONS:



Esther Turner

Pinal County Associate Agent,
4-H Youth Development
Office: 520-340-4815
eturner@cals.arizona.edu



The University of Arizona, Cooperative
Extension, Pinal County
820 E Cottonwood Ln # C
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
520-836-5221
extension.arizona.edu/pinal



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension
Pinal County

Maricopa County General Project
Committee will be providing a snack bar
fundraiser for extra \$.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension
Pinal County

University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension, Pinal Office
820 East Cottonwood Lane, #C, Casa Grande, AZ 85122
(520) 836-5221 | extension.arizona.edu/pinal

GRIND.



RIDE.

SKATE PARK JAM



Whether you're stepping on a skateboard for the very first time or ready to take your skills to the next level, **Kickflip Kids** is a place to learn, grow, and have fun on four wheels!

This program gives youth the opportunity to develop skateboarding skills in a supportive, positive environment while building confidence, perseverance, balance, coordination, and goal-setting skills.

REGISTER AND RIDE WITH US.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact
Rodric Fawehinmi, 4-H Project Leader
kickflipkidsinfo@gmail.com

Esther Turner, Associate Agent, 4-H
(520) 340-4815 | eturner@cals.arizona.edu



Connect with Kickflip Kids:

Website:	KickFlipKids.org
Instagram:	@kickflipkids_
Facebook:	Kickflip Kids

FLIP.



The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity provider. Learn more: extension.arizona.edu/legal-disclaimer.