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# Virginia 4-H Foundation

## NEWSLETTER

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FALL 2014

## 53rd Virginia State 4-H Championship Horse and Pony Show

The 2014 Virginia State 4-H Championship Horse and Pony Show was held Sept. 11-14 at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington. This four day, statewide event drew in more than 700 young people from across the commonwealth to participate in a wide variety of contests, from educational events to the horse show itself.

The State 4-H Horse Show is self-funded through entry fees, donations by friends of the State 4-H Horse Program, and corporate sponsors. The state show is primarily run by volunteers, most of whom grew up in the program and continue to give back using their personal time.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Horse Specialist Celeste Crisman states: "Virginia 4-H volunteers and Virginia Cooperative Extension county agents are the most dedicated group of individuals I have ever met, and this program would not exist without their efforts on behalf of Virginia's youth."

For more information and detailed listings of results, please visit the Virginia 4-H Horse Program website: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/horse/index.html>.



*Sisters Cortney (L) and Gracie (R) McDonald of Golden Horseshoe 4-H Club and proud parents showing off their winnings.*

## Virginia 4-H License Plate

Virginia 4-H is seeking to establish a revenue-sharing license plate. This is a great way to show your pride for 4-H, and once the minimum sales requirement has been met revenue will be used to fund scholarships for 4-H members. We must have 450 orders complete with payment before approval of the plate can be introduced in the General Assembly. Those wishing to order plates will need to mail the completed form, with the appropriate fees (\$25 for non-personalized plates or \$35 for personalized) via check made payable to the Virginia 4-H Foundation, to 107 Hutcheson Hall (0419), Blacksburg, VA 24061. Funds will be held in the Virginia 4-H Foundation and will be reimbursed if the 450 plate minimum sales requirement is not met. To receive updates, those ordering can include an email address on the check. The unit that collects the most orders will receive a \$500 programming grant, the second most will receive \$400 in programming funds, and third through fifth place finishers will receive \$250. If you would like an order form, or if you have any questions, please email Amanda Lucas at [alucas4@vt.edu](mailto:alucas4@vt.edu). The deadline to get your order in is Jan. 1, 2015. Please participate and encourage others to do the same.



Virginia 4-H Foundation, Hutcheson Hall (0419), 250 Drillfield Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061

The Virginia 4-H Foundation is a division of the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., which has been granted 501(c)(3) nonprofit status by the Internal Revenue Service.

## A Message From the Chair

Dear Friends,

I recently spoke with a young woman, in her mid-30's, who has a rather impressive job with a well-known national company. She told me that when she interviewed for the job, about a year ago, they asked about her leadership skills. She was quick to reply that her leadership development started at a very young age, in 4-H, and it is not surprising that her professional résumé showed a long list of accomplishments, including being a Virginia 4-H All-Star.



I smiled as I heard this story because I know that 4-H develops strong, lifelong leaders. It develops confident people who know how to move through a project and work well with others. There is nothing better than hands-on opportunities to practice leadership. 4-H is built on learning by doing, which is why I am working to secure additional resources to support even more 4-H programming.

As the chair of the Virginia 4-H Foundation, I am proud to be associated with such a successful youth development organization. I believe with all my heart that there has never been a more important time to ask you to join with me in giving to the foundation. Your gift will make a difference, and you will be helping to sustain the future for 4-H in Virginia.

If 4-H was at the root of your leadership development, and you want to know more about how you can help others to have the same opportunities, I would be honored to hear from you. I invite you to join with me to invest in the future of our youth.

Sincerely,

Mary Miller, Ph.D.  
Chair, Virginia 4-H Foundation



## 4-H Shooting Education Program Highlights

It's been a busy time in the world of 4-H shooting education in Virginia. Starting with the Southeast District 4-H Shoot in June, and ending with the Virginia 4-H Shotgun Championship in September, hundreds of 4-H members, their families, and coaches attended a variety of 4-H shooting events. These include three district shoots, two residential shooting camps, and two state shoots. Record numbers attended the Northern District 4-H Shoot, held in Culpeper; the State 4-H Shoot, held at Holiday Lake 4-H Center; and the Shotgun Championship held at Conservation Park in Charles City County.



*Ben Rhodes, a 4-H member from Brunswick County, represented Virginia at the National 4-H Invitational in Nebraska.*

Through competition, participants in shooting competitions never lose; they either win or learn. They learn gun safety and marksmanship, but even more important, they learn skills that will last a lifetime: responsibility, discipline, and teamwork. For additional information about the Virginia 4-H Shooting Education Program, contact Jinx Baney at [jbaney@vt.edu](mailto:jbaney@vt.edu).

## Making Your Investment in Virginia 4-H

There are many ways to invest in 4-H with a gift to your county program, one of Virginia's six 4-H educational centers, or in support of 4-H programs delivered across the state.

### *Make a Difference Today*

Your gift or pledge of cash, securities, or other liquid assets, or a gift of real estate, will make an impact on Virginia 4-H and its programs. Gifts can be designated to support 4-H in general, or can be directed to a specific programs, including ones that provide camp experiences, leadership opportunities, international experiences, healthy living education, livestock education, and many more.

### *Make a Difference Tomorrow*

Your deferred gift benefits you now and provides support to 4-H in the future.

Need income, either now or later? Perhaps for retirement? You receive lifetime income from charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, and pooled income fund gifts. In addition to income, such gifts generate current tax benefits.

Planning your estate? Bequests and retirement account designations are among the options that will reduce estate taxes and establish your legacy of philanthropy to 4-H – without affecting your current assets.

The variety, flexibility, and donor benefits of deferred gifts may provide a way for you to make a contribution with more impact than you may have thought possible.

Your resource for information about these and other ways to support Virginia 4-H is the development office for the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Contact Ben Grove by phone at 540-231-7640 or email at [begrove@vt.edu](mailto:begrove@vt.edu).

## Virginia 4-H Volunteers:

4-H volunteers are essential to help young people make the most of a wide variety of learning experiences. There are many opportunities for volunteers to support 4-H programming in clubs, school enrichment, after-school programs, camps, and much more.

### In Virginia 4-H in 2013 there were...



11,333 adult volunteers trained to deliver 4-H youth development programming.



2,967 youth volunteers trained to deliver 4-H youth development programming.



532,785 hours of service, with an estimated dollar value greater than \$11 million, provided by 4-H volunteers.

### Virginia 4-H volunteers...



Are caring adults who help youth develop a sense of belonging by creating a safe and inclusive environment.



Educate and engage youth through activities that build knowledge, skills, and attitudes to foster the development of mastery.



Support youth to develop independence by creating opportunities to see oneself as an active participant in the future.



Promote generosity by constructing experiences to value and practice service to others.

Virginia 4-H Foundation  
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250 Drillfield Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

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