



2018

MSU EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

annual report





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.*



The Mississippi State University Extension Service 4-H Youth Development Program continues to promote interest in “learning by doing” in a variety of hands-on educational programs.

With more than 60,000 4-H’ers ages 5-18 and hundreds of adult volunteers, Mississippi 4-H is focused on providing positive youth development experiences to young people. By enhancing and increasing young people’s knowledge of citizenship, health, leadership, communication skills, energy conservation, agricultural and environmental issues, and foods and nutrition, Mississippi 4-H is teaching the three 4-H mission mandates: science, engineering, and technology; healthy lifestyles; and citizenship and leadership.

Learning to grow. Learning to serve. Learning to live. Learning for life. Extension’s 4-H program is a path for young people to have fun while learning new skills, accomplishing goals, and developing lifelong friendships. 4-H’ers build confidence because the program encourages diverse groups of youth to develop their unique skills and talents to the fullest potential. Young people participate in 4-H in clubs, special interest groups, after-school programs, camps, and many other activities. Through hands-on activities and community involvement, 4-H’ers are “learning by doing” to develop and strengthen life skills.

4-H empowers young people to be true leaders. True leaders are confident young people who know how to work well with others, endure challenges, and stick with a job until it gets done. In 4-H, we believe true leaders aren’t born—they’re grown.

Mississippi State University Extension 4-H continues to strengthen our programming efforts by securing resources to build strong leaders for Mississippi’s future. Current supporters include the Mississippi State Legislature, Mississippi State University Foundation, National 4-H Council, Tractor Supply, and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Mississippi Inc.

Mississippi State University Extension 4-H continues to provide opportunities that positively impact youth development in the State of Mississippi.

Sincerely,

PAULA THREADGILL
Associate Director
Mississippi State University Extension

69,254 Mississippi State University Extension 4-H Members...

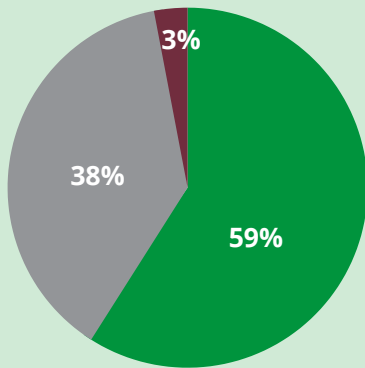
- Are aged 5-18 years old.
- Participate in 4-H community clubs or 4-H project clubs where they live.
- May also be involved in 4-H school enrichment clubs or 4-H specialist interest clubs.
- Master life skills by developing 4-H projects.
- Develop leadership and citizenship skills that last a lifetime.

Duplicates not eliminated.



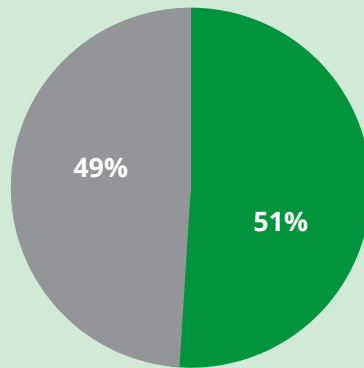
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION 4-H:

REFLECTING OUR GREAT STATE



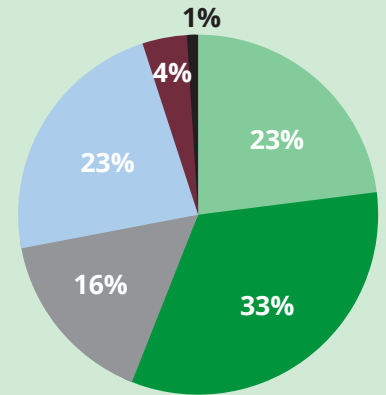
Ethnic Background

- White
- African American
- Other groups



Gender

- Girls
- Boys

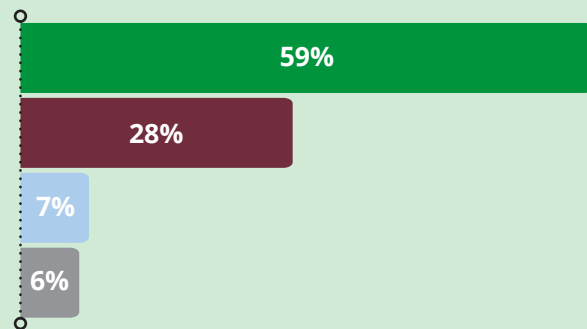


Grade in School

- K-3rd
- 4th-6th
- 7th-9th
- 10th-12th
- Post-High School
- Special

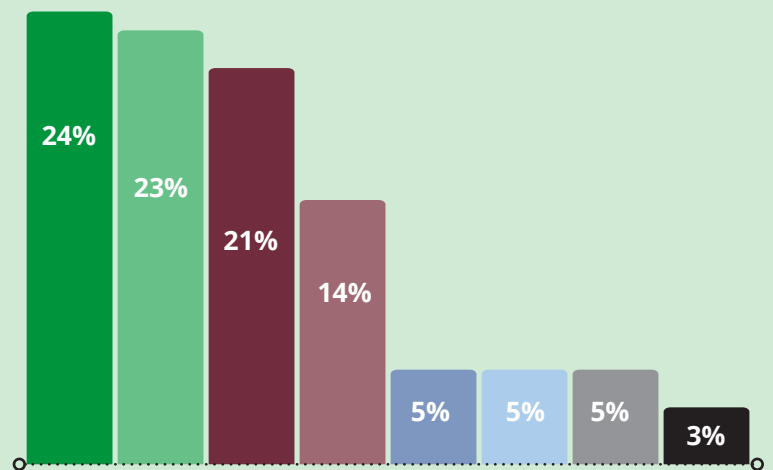
Geographic Location

- 40,860 live in towns with populations under 10,000 and rural
- 19,391 live in towns and cities with populations of 10,000 to 50,000
- 4,848 live on farms
- 4,155 live in suburbs and cities



4-H Project Enrollment

- Plants and Animals
- Environmental Education and Earth Sciences
- Personal Development and Leadership
- Healthy Lifestyle Education
- Science, Engineering, and Technology
- Citizenship and Civic Education
- Communication and Expressive Arts
- Consumer and Family Sciences



DEDICATED, CARING MISSISSIPPI 4-H VOLUNTEER LEADERS

- “Make the Best Better” in young people’s lives.
- Care about kids and service.
- Share their time to lead 4-H clubs and projects.
- Mentor children and teens across Mississippi.
- Serve as role models for kids.
- Motivate children to be more responsible.
- Teach young people leadership and citizenship skills.
- Encourage young people to reach their goals.
- Coordinate school enrichment and special interest programs.

5,361 – Confirmed total of volunteer leaders

220 – Average number of hours contributed by individual volunteers in 2018

1,179,420 – Average total hours donated by all Mississippi 4-H volunteers

\$19.81 – Average hourly dollar value* of Mississippi 4-H volunteer service

\$23,364,310.20 – Approximate value* of volunteers’ service in 2018

**Source: Independent Sector*

Mississippi State University Extension 4-H clubs emphasize the 4-H Essential Elements

- **BELONGING:** Developing positive relationships with caring adults.
- **GENEROSITY:** Providing and appreciating service to others.
- **INDEPENDENCE:** Presenting frequent opportunities for self-discipline through community service.
- **MASTERY:** Enhancing participation in engaged learning to grow new skills.

The 4-H community club is the foundation of Mississippi 4-H, where 4-H’ers learn life skills—citizenship, community awareness, decision-making, interpersonal awareness, global awareness, communication, and leadership—in a safe, inclusive environment.

Through involvement in 4-H community clubs, 4-H members are becoming self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.



Congressional Award Program

Numerous Mississippi State University Extension 4-H members were recognized for their achievements in Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration at the October Congressional Awards Program. U.S. Senator Roger Wicker and U.S. Congressman Gregg Harper presented bronze, silver, or gold Congressional Award certificates and medals based on 4-H’ers’ accomplishments to each area.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION 4-H SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE

Celebrating the most dedicated and committed 4-H volunteer leaders.

The Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association presented these awards. *Photos by Jonah Holland*

RISING STAR AWARD | Volunteers who have served 1–3 years



Not pictured: Christa Garrett, Rankin County Marti Pulido, Lauderdale County

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD | Volunteers who have served 4–10 years



Not pictured: Norman Moore, Benton County

LIFETIME VOLUNTEER AWARD | Volunteers who have served more than 10 years



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION 4-H INSPIRING KIDS TO DO

2018 Mississippi AT&T and 4-H Banner Club Award Winners



GOVERNOR AWARD

DREAM WEAVERS
of Lowndes County



LT. GOVERNOR AWARD

**CONTROLLERS
GENERATION II CLUB**
of Oktibbeha County



FIRST LADY AWARD

LAUDERDALE 4-H CLUB
of Lauderdale County



MR. SPEAKER AWARD

COUNTY LINE CLUB
of Lee County



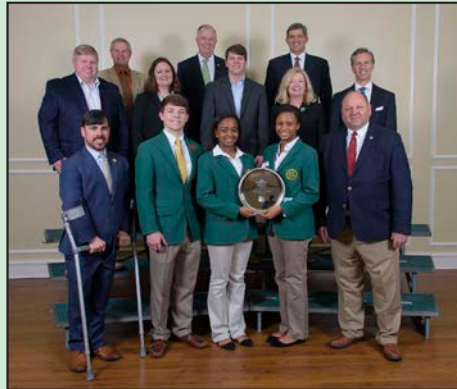
COMMISSIONER OF AG AWARD

AGRI-SCIENCE 4-H CLUB
of Lauderdale County



AT&T TECHNOLOGY AWARD

PEARL RIVER COUNTY MEGABOTS
of Pearl River County



1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AWARD

CONSOLIDATED 4-H CLUB
of Lee County



2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AWARD

4-H YOUNG RIDERS CLUB
of Yazoo County



3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AWARD

CLOVER DAWGS 4-H CLUB
of Oktibbeha County



4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AWARD

TURNERS & BURNERS 4-H HORSE CLUB
of Lamar County



4-H ATV SAFETY PROGRAM TRAINING

The MSU Extension 4-H All-Terrain Vehicle Safety program continues to expand to reach more young people and adults to provide ATV safety awareness. The ATV Safety program reaches children and adults through online ASI ATV Safety activities, safety day camps, ATV RiderCourse training, and ATV Safety Leader Guide activities.

More than 100 students participated in the hands-on ATV RiderCourse in 2018. Thirteen trained instructors in more than 15 counties taught 4-H ATV Safety Program training classes, and the computer-based eCourse has been delivered to more than 200 participants. Thousands of children participating in safety days at their schools have heard the Mississippi 4-H ATV safety presentation.

Abbye Buchanan won a 4-H ATV Safety public service announcement contest. Her video is available for viewing at: <http://extension.msstate.edu/atvpsa>.

4-H S.A.F.E.T.Y. PROGRAM

With 3,285 4-H'ers enrolled in Mississippi 4-H S.A.F.E.T.Y. (Safe Archery & Firearms Education & Training for Youth) program across the state in 2018, the program continues teaching responsibility, sportsmanship, and self-discipline to young people ages 8-18.

4-Her's participated in at least one of the disciplines, including archery (compound and recurve), muzzleloading, hunting, pistol (air and .22), rifle (air and .22 rifle), and shotgun.

In June, Mississippi's team delegation participated in the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships held at Grand Island, Nebraska, and brought home several awards. More than 300 4-H'ers competed in the state 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational in July.

Following two adult volunteer certification trainings, 53 new instructors joined the hundreds of Mississippi volunteers training 4-H'ers in one of the largest shooting-education programs in the state and nation.



4-H STEM DAY

Mississippi senior 4-H'ers focus on science, technology, engineering, and math, or STEM, for an experiential day of teaching elementary students. Altogether, 42 senior 4-H'ers completed training to conduct science experiments and met with almost 1,000 elementary students via STEM days.

Whether they are building a molecule from gum drops and toothpicks or exploring unusual interactions when milk, food coloring, and soap are combined, 4-H'ers discover how to make science fun. Toyota and Mississippi 4-H work together to encourage young 4-H'ers to ask questions and seek answers as they discover how awesome science can be.



4-H ROBOTICS

4-H Hosts LEGO Build Competition at State Fair

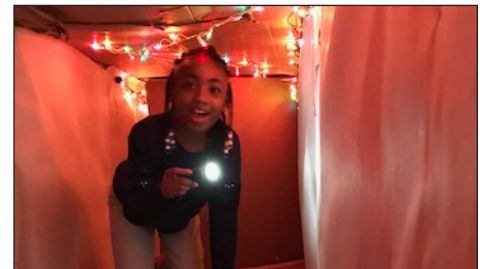
The 2018 State Fair brought more than 50 young people to Jackson for the inaugural LEGO Build competition. Co-hosted by the MSU Extension Center for Technology Outreach and the 4-H Youth Development Program, the competition grew from Extension agents' programs using the LEGO Club Curriculum in their communities. Each participant was given 1,000 LEGOs to create a model of something that appears at State Fair. First-place winners were Cloverbud 4-H'er Landry Varner from Rankin County, Junior 4-H'er Jaden Varner from Rankin County, and Senior 4-H'er Ethan Neeley of Rankin County.

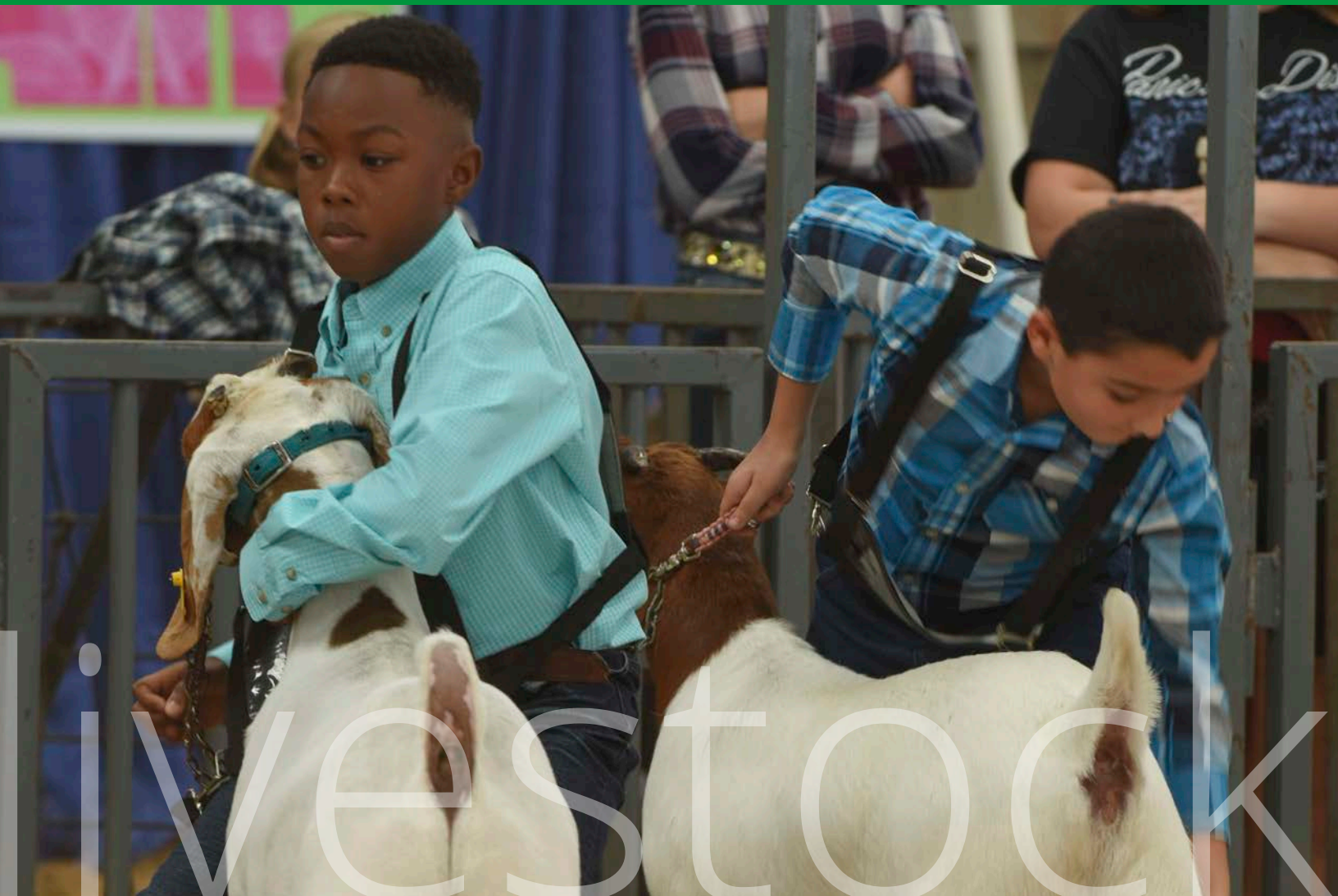
4-H'ers Code Their World

4-H'ers across Mississippi took on the 4-H National Youth Science Day challenge to "code their world" by applying knowledge about computational thinking, algorithms, and artificial intelligence. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that by 2020, more than 1.4 million computer science-related jobs will be available, but only 400,000 qualified candidates will be trained to fill them. Young people were able to use Scratch, a free visual-programming language, to animate their names. Additionally, 4-H'ers completed "low-tech" projects such as coding a dance, using dice to understand how artificial intelligence can make fair decisions, and recognizing patterns found in world maps. The overall goal of this year's National Youth Science Day project was to enable young people to understand computational thinking—how to solve complex problems systematically.

LEGO Club in Adams County

Penny Rachal in Adams County hosted a LEGO Club camp for 15 young people. Participants navigated a maze, created LEGO builds, and had fun dancing to the Monster Mash. The Adams County camp was the first to result from a gift of 12,000 LEGOs for the 20 counties in the MSU Extension Central Region. To date, 18 Extension agents have been trained to deliver the curriculum in their counties.





4-H LIVESTOCK AND HORSE PROGRAMS

4-H'ers experience so much more than just winning Mississippi 4-H Livestock and Horse Program competitions. Caring for and learning about livestock builds participants' character and helps them develop and accomplish life goals. Mississippi 4-H Livestock and Horse Programs provide unique opportunities to teach young people about the responsibility and dedication needed to raise beef or dairy cattle, sheep, goats, swine, or horses for competition.

4-H'ers develop life skills:

- Learning management decisions that influence how their animals will perform.
- Creating quality assurance practices to ensure they are raising a wholesome product.
- Winning and losing with dignity and grace.
- Communicating on written and oral platforms.
- Becoming productive citizens who seek ways to give back to their communities.

While 4-H'ers enjoy competing in the show ring, they also like the Mississippi 4-H Livestock Program's educational contests. Young people are extremely knowledgeable about their project animals, and they get to make presentations, compete in quiz bowls or skill-a-thons, judge livestock and orally defend their rankings, and take advantage of numerous other opportunities to demonstrate their skills.



Highlights of 2018 Dixie National Junior Round-Up and Sale of Junior Champions

In 2018, young people exhibited 2,739 livestock at one of five district shows in Mississippi. Those animals that earned blue ribbons then participated in the Dixie National Junior Round-Up, where 2,364 livestock were shown. These champion animals were sold to the highest bidder at the Sale of Junior Champions auction.

Junior Round-Up is the showcase for the 4-H and FFA livestock programs and the livestock industry; it is also the site of the largest junior market livestock shows in Mississippi. Buyers at the 2018 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions purchased the 43 champion and reserve champion market animals for a total of \$344,778. In addition, 37 post-secondary scholarships, totaling \$58,500, were awarded. These accomplishments are possible because many individuals and businesses in Mississippi buy animals and contribute to scholarships to show how important livestock projects are.

Highlights of 2018 Mississippi 4-H Horse Program

The Mississippi 4-H Horse Program is strong and competitive. In 2018, 389 4-H'ers, representing 58 counties, exhibited 650 horses with 1,545 entries at the district shows. Then, the 309 4-H'ers who qualified competed in the Mississippi 4-H Horse Championship, with 476 horses and 1,094 entries exhibited. 2018 marks the second consecutive year that show entries have increased.

Mississippi qualified 70 horses from the state show for the 2018 Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championship held in Perry, Georgia, and 50 horses earned Top 10 honors. Furthermore, 4-H'ers exhibiting two horses won the High Point Speed Division and High Point Western Division honors. Young people also competed at the regional level in the Horse Bowl, winning 5th of 18 competitors, and in Hippology, winning 10th of 15. The support given by Extension agents, volunteers, and families is unsurpassed and goes a long way to make this one of the largest and most competitive 4-H horse programs in the southern region.



Highlights of the 4-H Replacement Beef Heifer Development Contest

4-H livestock projects are one of the most successful ways to teach young people and their families about personal responsibility and animal care. The 4-H Replacement Beef Heifer Development Contest recognizes young people who have a true passion for raising beef cattle. The 10-month contest allows contestants to be personally responsible for the daily management of their heifers. Participants and adults around the state who compete learn proper heifer development practices and procedures.

2018 marked the contest's 10th year and the state cattle industry also benefits because young cattlemen and cattlemen become educated producers. Contest participants can be a positive influence in their own family's cattle production system and share their insights with other cattle producers around the state.



STATE 4-H COUNCIL OFFICERS AND STATE 4-H AMBASSADORS

Mississippi 4-H Council officers and State 4-H ambassadors advocate statewide for Mississippi 4-H. These outstanding youth leaders pursue 4-H Citizenship and Leadership projects, and they proudly wear distinctive green blazers that show their commitment to 4-H when they participate in county, regional, and statewide 4-H activities, events, and programs. These 4-H officers and ambassadors assist with planning and implementing state 4-H events and activities. The skills they are developing will prepare them to meet the civic-leadership challenges they will face as adults.

2018-19 STATE 4-H AMBASSADORS

- Daniel LaudadioAlcorn
- Payton Horn.....Bolivar
- Shelby AbramsChickasaw
- Galin BurtonDeSoto
- Brenden ChathamForrest
- Lucien FaillaHancock
- Connor RawlsHancock
- Mason Rawls.....Hancock
- Quin RawlsHancock
- Erin BoothLamar
- Taylor Fields.....Lee
- Cardarius HodgesLee
- Jacob Lindsey.....Lee
- Shelby Lindsey.....Lee
- Shae PhilipsLee
- Micah TaylorLee
- T'Ajahlon WhiteLee
- Haileigh BrooksLowndes
- Hunter BrooksLowndes
- Jakenzie Bryant.....Noxubee
- Jilkiah Bryant.....Noxubee
- Hanna Dean.....Panola
- John Mark HuffRankin
- Jonah HollandTishomingo
- Lana EstesUnion
- Lacy RainesUnion
- Brianna BuggsWashington

4-H STATE COUNCIL OFFICERS

- President..... Jaylin SmithLeflore
- Vice President..... Kacilyn Pegues.....Lee
- Secretary Hayley CrossDeSoto
- Parliamentarian Daniel LaudadioAlcorn
- Reporter Drake MerrittPontotoc
- Song Leader Lathe Ward.....Pontotoc
- Southeast Vice President Lucien FaillaHancock
- Northeast Vice President Shelby AbramsChickasaw
- Northwest Vice President Payton Horn.....Bolivar
- Southwest Vice President Savana Ashley.....Wilkinson

2019 NATIONAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

- Shae Philips Lee
- Hunter Brooks Lowndes
- John Mark Huff Rankin
- Lana Estes Union



MISSISSIPPI 4-H PRESIDENT

JAYLIN SMITH

I never knew how my life would change forever when I first walked up the steps of the Leflore County 4-H office. Hearing about so many great experiences and opportunities that correlate with 4-H, I was a bit intimidated to join. I felt nervous during my interview to become a member of this organization.

Mrs. Christina Meriwether, my county 4-H agent, is truly a godsend. She made me feel like such an integral part of every 4-H operation in our weekly tasks and goals.

My fellow members became brothers and sisters in service. We became a family united by the common goal of “Making the Best Better.” The projects that 4-H offered allowed me to better my community and my leadership skills.

The days I spent at my first State Congress were nothing short of amazing and life-changing. When I walked into the lobby of Bost Extension Center at Mississippi State University, I was greeted with smiling faces and welcoming words. These acts of simple kindness reassured me that State 4-H Congress was going to be a great experience.

The leadership skills I learned in Leflore County motivated me to compete in the statewide 4-H public speaking competition and run for northwest region vice president. The night that I gave my election speech for the office will always be etched in my memory. I walked on the stage, looked out into the crowd, opened my mouth, and poured out my heart. Among the loud cheers, I heard Mrs. Christina scream, “Go, baby!” In that moment, I knew that I was loved. I knew that I was accepted.

That moment propelled me to winning the public speaking competition, and that success encouraged me to engage in even more service to my community. Also, delivering my election speech gave me the confidence to run for Mississippi 4-H president.

So, thank you, 4-H! Thank you for crafting the leader I am today. Thank you for the scholarships that ensure no obstacles stop my continuing journey of success and service. Thank you for loving me and being my family.

4-H—its people and programs—truly means the world to me, and I will work tirelessly to show the world that 4-H learning and service is making the world a better place. My heart truly bleeds green.





NORTHWEST: BOLIVAR COUNTY

In the 2018 fall semester, Bolivar County Extension agent Ashley Kerr held a robotics program in four different schools in the Cleveland School District. This program followed the Junk Drawer Curriculum from National 4-H. The young 4-H'ers created their own ArtBots. These "robots" used the vibrations of a mini motor to move a plastic cup with markers attached around on a piece of paper. This project taught young people about teamwork, design, and counter weights to get the ArtBot to move. 4-H'ers drew their plans, built the ArtBot, and made edits as needed, just like adult engineers.

NORTHEAST: YALOBUSHA COUNTY

The 4-H Family and Consumer Science Club in Yalobusha County had a great year. During its monthly meetings, 4-H'ers learned about the science of making bath bombs, how to develop a color scheme for interior design, how to determine age-appropriate toys and books for children, how to cook safely on a grill, how to compose impactful photographs, how to make a delicious apple pie in a mason jar lid, and how to be safe online. In Master Chef School, participants made meals with an entree, sides, and dessert each day of the camp.

county



SOUTHWEST: ADAMS COUNTY

The Adams County MSU Extension office partnered with the Natchez-Adams County Chamber of Commerce to organize the Natchez Youth Leadership program. Twenty-two 4-H'ers, all high school juniors, participated, representing the four local high schools: Natchez High, Cathedral Catholic, Adams County Christian, and Natchez Early College. The 7-month course equipped 4-H'ers with community knowledge that inspires local leadership. Each 4-H'er went through an interview process to be selected for the program. The 4-H'ers met once a month to engage in team-building projects and field trips around the area. They studied various topics, including law enforcement, tourism, state government, recreation, health care, and more.

SOUTHEAST: KEMPER COUNTY

Kemper Academy is home to its first ever 4-H Club. A very eager physical education instructor contacted the Extension office in Kemper County about her interest in 4-H. Within a few short months, the instructor, Mrs. Lou Ann Wilson, became a registered volunteer and the club was formed.

4-H'ers in Kemper County participated in a 5-week baking class. They learned to measure, cream, mix, stir, beat, and sift their way to delicious baked goods. 4-H'ers learned the math and science of baking, including how to read and follow recipes, measure dry or wet ingredients, and identify common baking tools. The classes were conducted by Extension agent Malikah Jones and 4-H volunteer Mary Scott.



NORTHWEST: CARROLL COUNTY

The Carroll Youth Leadership 4-H group consists of 11 Carroll County High School juniors who are learning leadership skills from 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey. Before learning the habits, 4-H'ers participated in several team-building activities and a zip-line course to gain trust in each other and learn about communication. Participants meet each month and focus on different themes, such as workforce development and education, quality of life, citizenship, and crime and justice. Each month is filled with tours representing the theme, personal sharing, and the seven habits.



NORTHEAST: CALHOUN COUNTY

The Calhoun County 4-H Kids in the Kitchen program met monthly at the local MSU Extension office. This 4-H after-school project club teaches young people to perform kitchen activities. The local Extension agent arranged for 4-H'ers to ride school buses from school directly to the 4-H meeting at the Extension office. These 4-H'ers had a great time while they learned how to prepare food. 4-H'ers learned how to read a recipe, measure ingredients properly, stay safe in the kitchen, and work as a team. The 4-H'ers also enjoyed eating the food they prepared. Children, in turn, took their new skills home and "taught" their family members what they learned.



SOUTHEAST: JASPER COUNTY

More than 200 5-year-olds in Jasper County participate in 4-H reading each month. This program provides children with nutritional education, as well as information about counting, reading, and identifying different shapes, objects, and colors. Reading gives these young Cloverbuds a different perspective from normal classroom activities and improves their literacy. Each year, a new group of children joins the reading club through 4-H in Jasper County. Child literacy is important at such a young age, and reading each month offers them the chance for a better future.



SOUTHWEST: ATTALA COUNTY

4-H'ers from Attala County participated in a national award-winning youth preparedness and educational outreach program known as MyPI, the My Preparedness Initiative, an innovative emergency preparation/leadership hybrid program for teenagers, their families, and their communities. The program actively engages young people in the process of personal, family, and community preparation for disasters. 4-H'ers participated in hands-on learning and emergency planning, and they helped more than 120 Attala County families prepare for potential disasters by teaching them how to properly prepare disaster kits and plans. Through this program, 4-H'ers learned essential life skills, fulfilled community service requirements, gave back to their families and communities, built self-esteem, and received the satisfaction that comes from helping others.



4-H LEGISLATIVE DAY

4-H Legislative Day is a part of the Mississippi 4-H Citizenship/Leadership Program, which empowers young people to become well-informed citizens and to engage actively in their local communities. This program teaches 4-H'ers and adults about civic affairs and enhances their decision-making skills.

At the 2018 4-H Legislative Day, Mississippi 4-H Council officers and ambassadors were presented to the Mississippi House of Representatives and Senate. 4-H'ers met with Gov. Phil Bryant and Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, and the young people learned about how Mississippi government works. During the 4-H Legislative Day luncheon, AT&T 4-H Banner Club awards were distributed to recognize outstanding Mississippi 4-H clubs.



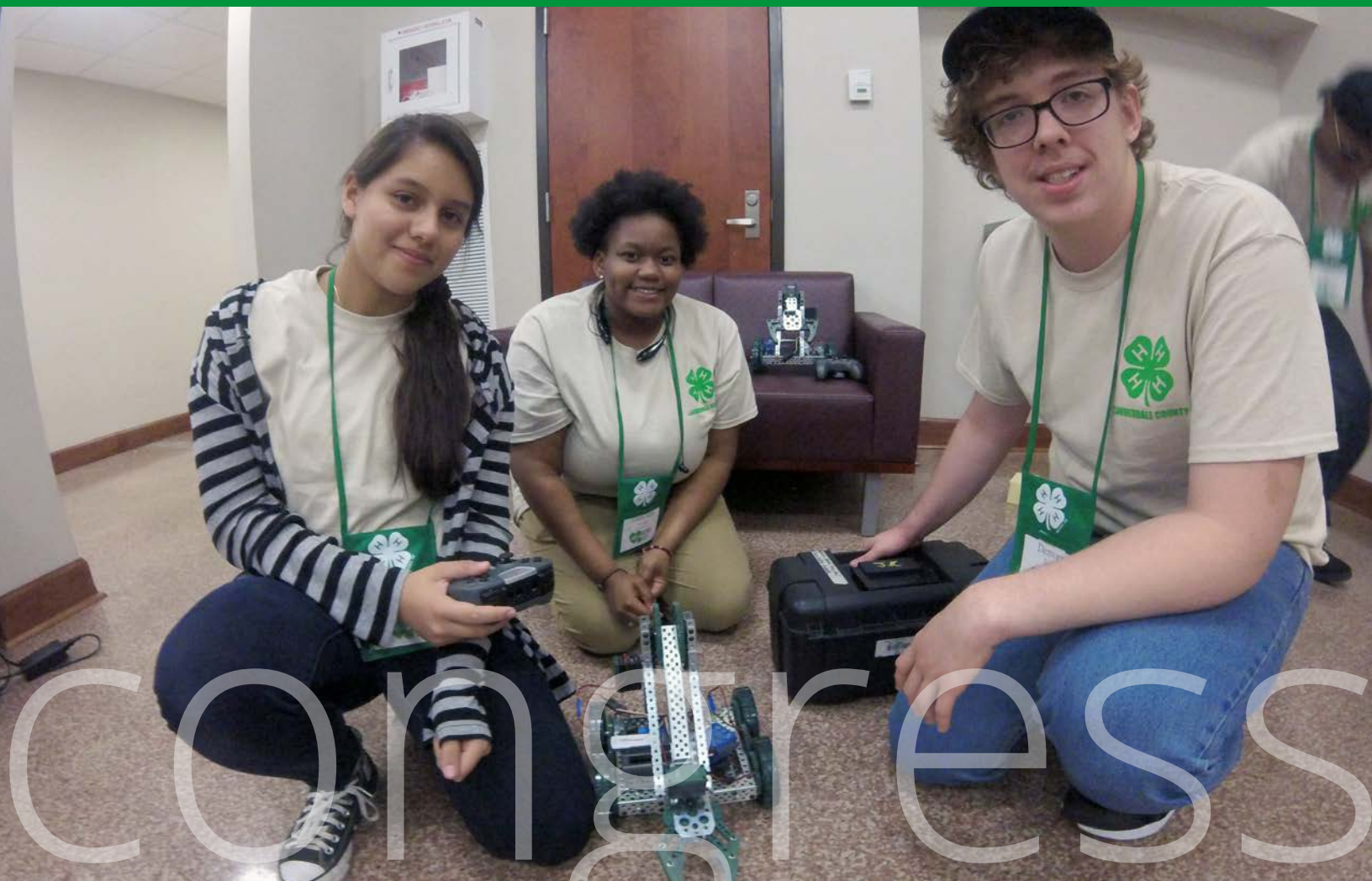


2018 NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE

National 4-H Conference is the pinnacle experience in 4-H Citizenship programs and focuses students on leadership and the future. The conference, administered by 4-H National Headquarters in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, began in 1927 as National 4-H Club Camp and is known today as the Secretary's Conference. Each 4-H'er is assigned to a group that is tasked with solving an issue or challenge facing the nation. Then, the young people present their solutions to the corresponding federal office.

Mississippi's 2017 National 4-H Conference delegates were Jonah Holland of Tishomingo County, Cody Ingram of Lauderdale County, and Taylor Fields of Lee County. They met with Mississippi U.S. Senators Cindy Hyde-Smith and Roger Wicker, as well as U.S. Congressman Trent Kelly and U.S. Congressman Gregg Harper.





STATE 4-H CONGRESS

Mississippi's 2018 State 4-H Congress was held in June on the campus of Mississippi State University. 4-H Congress is held each year to give senior 4-H'ers, ages 14–17, an opportunity to participate in educational workshops, campus tours, social activities, and competitive events.

Close to 800 4-H'ers and adult volunteers attended the event, the largest ever recorded. The 2018 theme was "Our Hearts Beat Green." 4-H members competed and were recognized for outstanding performances in various events. The competition aspect of 4-H Congress gives young people the opportunity to measure what they learned from their 4-H project work in their individual county clubs.

4-H'ers also got firsthand experience learning about the democratic process. They voted for the leadership team officers who will represent them in the coming year.

4-H'ers wrote, delivered, and listened to campaign speeches, and they participated in the electronic voting process.

The keynote speaker was Joel Young, WTVA meteorologist and former 4-H'er. Having a former 4-H'er who has achieved a high level of success come speak to and connect with young people from across the state was truly an honor for participants attending the 2018 Congress event. Mississippi State University Extension delivers 4-H programming and hosts State 4-H Congress.



2018 PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT DAYS

Each year, thousands of Mississippi Junior 4-H'ers, ages 8–13, participate in one of Mississippi 4-H's positive youth development activities. These activities focus on young people's developing characteristics that lead to positive behaviors and outcomes. Positive youth development activities are a cornerstone of Mississippi 4-H, and young people look forward to Project Achievement Days (PAD) for this opportunity.

4-H's positive role in youth development is based upon scientific research that demonstrates that when young people engage in activities like PAD, they get a jumpstart on becoming productive and caring citizens. In 2018, Mississippi hosted four regional PAD events that averaged more than 100 participants each.





COOPERATIVES BRIGHTEN THE FUTURE

The goal to achieve better leadership skills brought 48 students from different corners of Mississippi to the 2018 4-H Cooperative Leadership Conference in July.

The conference develops leadership skills by allowing young people to form their own soft drink cooperative, conduct two service projects, participate in various workshops, and tour real business co-ops.

4-H'ers wrote letters to the National Guard and made blankets for people in need. The young people also elected members to serve in business positions as part of their own cooperative. Tours took 4-H'ers to an electric power association in Mayhew, a grain terminal in Greenville, an agricultural research center in Stoneville, and a cotton gin in Greenwood.





2018 NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS: BE TRUE, BE YOU

On the morning after Thanksgiving, 12 4-H members and five MSU Extension professionals traveled to Atlanta to represent Mississippi 4-H as delegates to the 98th National 4-H Congress. These 15- to 18-year-olds were selected based on their award-winning 4-H records and résumés that pertained to their 4-H project work. The 5-day conference focused on leadership and life skills that delegates could continue to enhance upon returning to their home communities and throughout their adult lives. This capstone event of 4-H provided a program filled with seminars, tours, cultural events, dances, and a service-learning opportunity for more than 1,200 delegates from across the country and territories.





MISSISSIPPI 4-H SOUTHWEST REGION VICE PRESIDENT

SAVANA ASHLEY

Roy T. Bennett said, “To shine your brightest light is to be who you truly are.” When I represent 4-H, I feel like I am the sun on a clear day!

I have been given the most wonderful opportunity to share my love for people and learning with others. I am so honored to be the southwest region vice president and a statewide ambassador for 4-H.

I never dreamed where that journey I embarked on 11 years ago would lead. I enjoyed being a Cloverbud and participating in State Fair exhibits. Coming from a rodeo family in Wilkinson County, however, everyone expected to me to barrel race in 4-H. I had a different plan: I chose to show swine. From that point on, I have been actively involved in one of the greatest organizations I know.

4-H has created a solid foundation for me in every aspect of my life. I have a great task that I take very seriously: I get to share my passion for helping others with other young people in my state. 4-H has and continues to challenge me to be the best I can be! I overcome obstacles with problem-solving skills that I have learned from raising an animal from birth to the show ring. I confidently communicate with all kinds of people from all over the world. As a 4-H ambassador and regional vice president, I learn from every person I meet because being a good listener is an essential tool to becoming a good leader. Hearing the needs of the community or my peers is very important. I am a confident speaker and learner.

I found a place to belong in 4-H, and other young people can, too. I want to share the tools I’ve developed through 4-H, including confidence, communication, love, and helping other young people, no matter where they live. I want to impress upon children that 4-H has a place for everyone! Regardless of one’s background, whether raised in a rural farm community or in a big city, 4-H has a program that will meet your needs.

Fortunately, I have been very successful in my endeavors. I have won the showmanship award at Dixie National Junior Round Up, participated in the Sale of Champions, received showmanship awards at the Mississippi State Fair, and won reserve grand champion. These accolades are very special, and I will cherish the memories I made as I achieved these goals.

However, the people I have met and the time spent with family far outweigh any awards. I have such a great awareness for community and respect thanks to 4-H; these tools will remain with me throughout my lifetime.





@Mississippi4H

Mississippi 4-H

mississippi4h
ms4hpresident

mississippi4h

M2260 (03-19)

Copyright 2019 by Mississippi State University. All rights reserved. This publication may be copied and distributed without alteration for nonprofit educational purposes provided that credit is given to the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Produced by Agricultural Communications.

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination in university employment, programs, or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status protected by applicable law is prohibited. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Compliance and Integrity, 56 Morgan Avenue, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (662) 325-5839.

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914.
GARY B. JACKSON, Director
