

4-H Offering Two New Programs Soon

4-H has two new, exciting upcoming programs for youth! Well, they aren't *entirely* new. Our **Presentations program** is coming back this spring after a hiatus in 2023. But, a potential **Shooting Sports Club**, which *is* a new program for us (but very popular throughout North Carolina 4-H), is on the horizon.

In 4-H Presentations, kids ages 5-18 prepare a presentation of their choosing and develop public speaking skills. When doing a presentation, participants choose a topic from a number of categories (we have 36!), develop a presentation on that topic while practicing public speaking with 4-H, and ultimately present in front of a live audience and judges at what 4-H calls "County Activity Day". Then, participants are encouraged to give their presentation at "District Activity Day" (our district-level presentations event) in June. 4-H District Activity Day is held in different areas of the West district in NC each year. This year it is happening at WCU! We hope that all presenters will go on to District, especially because it is happening in our county this year! If presenters place at District, they can then compete in State Presentations, in Raleigh, in July.

All participants of 4-H Presentations can benefit from this program in some way, by building skills in communication/public speaking, organization, researching, and thought expression, as well as by strengthening their poise and confidence. What does your child enjoy? This is their chance to show-and-tell, share their knowledge, and express themselves! Just **some** of the categories are arts and communication, livestock, wildlife, health/fitness, entrepreneurship, science and technology, and even meat grilling and egg cookery! The options are endless.

If you want to learn more, please attend the Presentations **interest meeting on April 8** from 5-6 pm at the Extension office. Presentation practices will be on Mondays from April 15-May 6, 5-6 pm. County Activity Day is on May 11 and District Activity Day is on June 14.

Our other upcoming club is our Shooting Sports Club. 4-H Shooting Sports clubs are becoming commonplace throughout NC. The 4-H Shooting Sports Program is an opportunity for kids to gain skills in the disciplines of archery, pistol, rifle, shotgun, muzzleloading, and hunting, which are taught by certified instructors. These clubs benefit youth in many ways, including 1) promoting character and personal growth through safe, educational, and socially acceptable involvement in target shooting programs, 2) teaching safe, responsible use of firearms and archery equipment, including sound decision-making and self-discipline, and 3) promoting the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.

We are looking for Shooting Sports Club participants! This club is for youth ages 8-18, and welcomes seasoned target shooters as well as those who have no previous experience with firearms or archery. The club will meet twice a month from May-September. If you are interested in joining, please fill out the form at this link: forms.gle/GwPPvrHCK2VxNwRT9.

If you have questions, call 586-4009. We hope you will join us in one or both of these soon-to-be programs!