

AS OF JANUARY 2027 Issue of Highlights, we will no longer be mailing them instead they will be online and emailed to everyone. If you wish to still receive a paper copy you must Opt-in at sc4h.org/highlightsmailing

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF SARATOGA COUNTY



4-H Highlights

September 2026



Join Us for the 4-H 4K Walkathon Saturday, September 26th, 2026

Each year, our 4-H community comes together to support one of Saratoga County 4-H's most cherished traditions, the annual 4-H Walkathon benefiting the 4-H Training Center. For more than 50 years, 4-H members, families, alumni, volunteers, and friends have helped build, maintain, and strengthen this incredible community resource.

Last year's Walkathon was our biggest yet, bringing together more than 150 members of the 4-H family for an evening of fun, fellowship, and support. As we look ahead to September 26, 2026, we're excited to make this year's event even more successful!

The Walkathon is one of the most important ways we keep Saratoga County 4-H strong for future generations. Here's how you can help:

Raise Funds

Encourage youth members to share their 4-H story and collect pledges from family, friends, and community supporters. Every contribution helps strengthen local 4-H programs and the 4-H Training Center.

Become a Sponsor

Support the Walkathon through a club or business sponsorship. Sponsorship opportunities are available on the official Walkathon T-shirt, providing visibility while supporting Saratoga County 4-H.

Spread the Word

Help us reach alumni, friends, neighbors, and supporters throughout the community. Share information about the Walkathon and invite others to join us.

Join Us on September 26!

The best way to support the Walkathon is to be there! Bring your family, reconnect with the 4-H community, and celebrate all that makes Saratoga County 4-H special.

We look forward to seeing you at the Saratoga County 4-H Walkathon on September 26, 2026!



September 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Shooting Sports Course	9 Walkathon Mtg 6pm T/C	10	11	12 Teen Council
13	14 Leader's Association Meeting 6:30	15 Shooting Sports Course	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Shooting Sports Course	23	24 Leader's Banquet	25	26 4-H 4K Walkathon
27	28 Shooting Sports Com.	29 Shooting Sports Course				



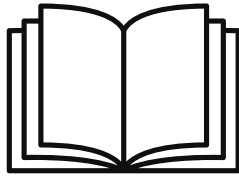
Achievement Night 2026: October 24th



Achievement Night is a very special night in 4-H. It is an opportunity to celebrate the completion of the 4-H year and acknowledge everyone's accomplishments. The program is a unique combination of recognition, thanks, and fun. It is definitely an event for everyone – members, leaders, family, friends, and relatives.

The 2026 Achievement Night will be Saturday, October 24th at 6:00 pm at the 4-H Training Center. It will be an evening of great proportion as everyone celebrates and participates in the event.

Mark your calendar, make your reservation with the 4-H Office (by October 22nd) and be at the 4-H Training Center October 24th to celebrate in true 4-H style.



Project and Activity Record Books **Due September 28th- Available Online!**

Another county fair is in the books! A great way to chronicle the 2025-2026 year is to complete a Project Record book. For 4-H'ers, ages 8-18, the record book is a light green booklet; for Cloverbuds, it is a white booklet. Both can be picked up in the 4-H Office or now found online. All 4-H'ers and Cloverbuds who turn in a completed record book will receive a certificate at Achievement Night. Also, turning in a Project Record book is one of the requirements to be eligible for the county medals/rosettes awarded on Achievement Night. You can now find them online at: <https://ccesaratoga.org/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms-1>



County Medals

Each year 40 or more businesses and corporations make available county medals of honor in over 30 program areas which may be awarded to 4-H members, ages 12 and over, who have shown excellence in their project areas.

Letters are included in this mailing. We are asking 4-H leaders and parents to help the county 4-H staff identify those 4-H members who have demonstrated outstanding performance/achievement in one or more project areas. Please notify the 4-H Office by October 1st with any nominations you might have. Extra nomination forms are available at the 4-H Office.



SARATOGA COUNTY 4-H

2026

4-H Leaders Banquet

September 24th

6:00 Mixer

6:30 Dinner

New Location

Schwerd Building



Use the QR code or
call or email Kim at
(518)885-8995 or
kmw82@cornell.edu
to Register

Come and let us celebrate you!!!

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
SARATOGA COUNTY

SARATOGA COUNTY 4-H 4-K WALKATHON

\$30 for
Commemorative T-Shirt



Raise Money!
Earn Prizes!

All Proceeds Benefit the 4-H Training Center!
Tie-Dye T-Shirts, Hotdogs, Games, Fun for All Ages!
Alumni Reunion!
Come see all that the 4-H Training Center has to
offer our community!

Saturday, September 26th
3:30 Registration, 4:30 Start

4-H Training Center
556 Middleline Rd, Ballston Spa

Register and
Donate Here



walk.sc4h.org



ROBOVINES YOUTH ROBOTICS NON-COMPETITIVE

All Levels Require Adult Participation



Spark Nights

Spark your child's interest in STEM and robotics with Spark Nights! Spark nights are a monthly STEM activity night where youth engage in new, fun activities, from bottle rockets to catapults! Come to one or come to all, sign-ups are per night! 6:30-7:30. Cost will vary per night.



Lego Robotics Explore Ages 5-7

Our entry-level group, FIRST Lego League Explore, uses lego bricks to program and design a solution to a different problem presented each year. Meets 1 Wednesday a month. 6:30 - 7:30. Cost \$75



Lego Robotics Challenge Ages 8-12

Our age oldest group, First Lego League Challenge, uses legos to build and program a robot that moves on its own and completes missions autonomously. Meets 2 Wednesdays every month. 6:30 - 8:00. Cost \$150



**Want to learn more? Visit robovines.org
or contact us at team@robovines.org!**

Programs held at 556 Middleline Road, Ballston Spa





Saratoga County 4-H

FALL CLASSIC HORSE SHOW

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14TH, 2026

OPEN TO YOUTH AND ADULTS 4H AND NON 4-H MEMBERS ALL
WELCOME! PRE ENTRIES CLOSE MONDAY NOVEMBER 2ND

SHOW JUDGE: CONNER BRYANT

At the 4H Training Center

556 Middleline Rd, Ballston Spa, NY 12020



Saratoga County 4-H

WHAT

On behalf of all the 4-H staff and
parents for an amazing year.

Every year 4-H digs in, adapts and
fantastic year at Fair. All your hard work
Office! We have so many of you to thank
to ensure that 2026 would be one
particular

Thank



nty Fair 2026

1 YEAR!!

Thank our youth, volunteers and
2026 Saratoga County Fair!

Always pulls through to have another
and work means so much to the 4-H
Thank for taking that additional step
of the best years yet for our youth
pants.

Thank you!





Who: All 4-H Teens

What: Teen Council Trip to Adirondack Extreme!

When: Saturday, September 12th

Time: 10am-2pm

Where: Adirondack Extreme

All 4-H teens are invited to join us for the September 4-H Teen Council Meeting on Saturday, September 12th at Adirondack Extreme Adventure Park in Bolton Landing! This special event is a chance to celebrate all the success that Teen Council has had this year while enjoying an exciting day with your fellow 4-H friends.

Cost: \$20 per youth

Teen Council is covering the remainder of the admission cost, making this a great opportunity for all 4-H teens to participate.

Registration Deadline: Friday, September 4th

To reserve your spot, email Leland Bunting at glb76@cornell.edu.

Please note: Reservations are non-refundable.

Don't miss this fun opportunity to connect with other teens, celebrate a fantastic year of accomplishments, and enjoy an adventure in the trees with your 4-H friends! We hope to see you there.

2026 Master Showmanship Contest

In 2026, Saratoga County 4-H held its Third Annual Master Showmanship Contest, expanding the competition to include alpaca, poultry, and rabbit. Competitors who had earned top honors in their respective species put their skills to the test by showing unfamiliar animals and answering species specific questions from industry professionals.

Congratulations to Eva Anderson, who once again earned the title of 2026 Master Showman with the highest overall score and a customized championship belt buckle! Erin Hansen earned Reserve Champion, while Jade Bradley made history as our first ever Master Sportsman. Receiving the peer selected sportsmanship award. We are incredibly proud of all of our competitors and their hard work, knowledge, and sportsmanship!



This years competitors:

Beef: John Hall

Alpaca: Margaret Scrivo

Sheep: Eva Anderson

Goat: Hunter Weed

Dairy: Erin Hansen

Poultry: Jade Bradley

Horse: Sidney Carson

Rabbit: Makenzie Roberts

Congratulations Eva, Erin, and Jade!

4-H For Leaders

The 4-H Leader's Association is a very special component of the 4-H Program. Open to all adult leaders, the group provides opportunities for training, program and idea sharing and support from fellow leaders. It is also the avenue for volunteers to have a voice in the 4-H program. Every club should have at least one representative at the meeting. Now is the time to join!

This meeting of the Leader's Association, will include a "year in review", and the Associations role moving forward. Agenda items include evaluations of fundraisers, program planning for the 2026-2027 year, and our officer selection.

Mark your calendar, come be a voice for your club, and expand your knowledge of 4-H in Saratoga County.

Meeting Date: September 14th, 6:30 pm William M Schwerd Building.

4-H Leader's Chicken BBQ

It was a beautiful night and the 2026 Leaders BBQ at the County Fair and at the 4-H Training Center was SOLD OUT in record time!! A very special thank you goes to Jean Weatherby and every volunteer who assisted with the event.

It takes many volunteers, both adult and youth, to make the event happen. Whether you made phone calls, shopped, worked over the hot coals, scrubbed potatoes, made dressing, baked pies, stuck around to clean up the BBQ pits, ran back and forth from the TC to the fairgrounds or served the meal, you were an integral part of the event and its success.

This successful event enables the Leader's Association to continue to award scholarships, support member participation in trips, contribute to the education of leaders, and provide resources for the 4-H program.



6 Week Course

4-H Shooting Sports



Tuesday Evenings
Sept. 8th-Oct. 13th



Shotgun
Rifle
Muzzleloading
Air Pistol
Archery
Hunting &
Outdoor Skills

https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/SC4HShootingSportsFall2026_241

4-H Horticulture Training

We had another great year for 4-H Horticulture! Our youth as always demonstrated their skills and knowledge obtained throughout the year. Looking to get involved?

Now is a great time to join!



Upcoming Dates:

September 9th: CCE Office

October 8th: CCE Office

November: No meeting



December 8th: Wreath Making-Main classroom at the 4-H Training Center

RSVP by December 1st

For more information, please contact Jessica Luse at jmh542@cornell.edu



Enrollment

2026-2027

Club Enrollment Meetings

Please note that for the 2026-2027 4-H year, member and volunteer re-enrollment will be completed online. Printed re-enrollment packets remain available upon request.

Club Organizational Leaders are required to attend one of the scheduled enrollment meetings or arrange an appointment to pick up their club packet. Packets will not be mailed or distributed without attending a meeting to review the 2026-2027 enrollment process. Most meetings last less than one hour. All 4-H leaders are welcome to attend.

Enrollment Meetings

Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension Office

Monday, September 14, 10:00 a.m.

Monday, September 14th, 5:30p.m. **(at Training Center)**

Thursday, September 17, 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 17, 6:00 p.m.

Please pre-register for one of the meetings by contacting the 4-H Office at 518-885-8995 or emailing Leland at glb76@cornell.edu.

Individual Member Re-enrollment

- Complete online re-enrollment or request a paper packet
- Return signed Code of Conduct, Acknowledgment of Risk, and Photo Release forms
- Submit the \$5 enrollment fee

Individual Volunteer Re-enrollment

- Complete online re-enrollment or request a paper packet
- Return signed Code of Conduct, Volunteer Agreement, and Background/MVR Check paperwork (if required)
- Submit the \$5 enrollment fee

New Members or Volunteers

- Complete and return a New Member Packet or Volunteer Application
- Submit the \$5 enrollment fee

Fred Sanders Award Recipient: John Hall



John Hall is our 2026 Fred Sanders Award Recipient. John achieved the highest points by participating in the Dairy Bowl, Public Presentation Day, and the Saratoga County Fair. Along with showing dairy cows, John also showed beef cows at the fair representing beef as our youngest participant in the Master Showman Competition. John is a great representation of Saratoga County 4H and the Dairy Industry!

Congratulations John!

4-H Horse News

Straight From The Horses Mouth

Important Dates

4-H Open Show**NOV. 14th**

To my 4-H Kids & Parents & Volunteers,

This is probably one of the hardest goodbyes I have had to make in my life. Each of you (4-H Youth) are incredible individuals who never cease to amaze me with your talents, dedication, knowledge, and heart. I am speaking to all my 4-H kids, not just the horse program, seriously you guys all amaze me. While walking through the static building each year, I am left speechless with what each of you create or have accomplished in just 1 years time. Whether it was your presentation topics/demonstrations, moderating at Dairy/Horse Bowl, telling “*Heed the Warning*” stories at tractor safety, watching you and your animal show and grow over the years, taking trips like Career-X, the ABC’ Cobleskill trip , or the fact that I have been a witness to some of your 4-H careers from 8-18. We have all learned and laughed together!

While I will no longer be your 4-H educator or the county extension agent, I am still on the board for the Saratoga County Ag Society (Fair), and I am still on the county Farm Bureau Board. I am very much committed to this community’s agricultural and 4-H. You guys are a critical part of that because you are our future. I seek to one day work beside you in the pursuit of betterment for agriculture in our community. Seriously, take my seat on these boards and my job, we need you!

I will leave you with these last few words of encouragement and advise, SAY YES! Say yes to opportunities, and challenges. The things you will get to experience and see are what help shape you into whatever you decide to do or be in this world. Yes, it will be hard! Yes, you may be out of your comfort zone, and Yes, you are going to lose sleep (staying up all night running fluid bags on a 5month old foal every 30 mins. to then drive to your 8am college Micro Biology summer class) But let me tell you the people you will meet the things you will learn! I passed that class, and that foal had a successful racing career.

Now, speaking directly to my horse kids but this may resonate with others. You have probably heard me say with horses and riding, you have to work through the hard to get to the good! Working through that hard to get to the good and how we do so is what defines the “*horseriders*” from the *horsemen*. I want you all to know how proud I am of each of you individually and as a whole program. Whether it was with your horses or as an individual the way you have all grown and owned who you are, and found your voice or passion! Our local horse community is a better place because you are a part of it and I hope you continue to be a part of my horse community as you grow up. While I will miss you all, you will see me, and I’m pretty sure you will hear me behind a microphone around some arena in this county (microphone not necessary lol).

Forever Bleeding the Green & White,
Nicolina Foti

4-H Highlights Moving Digital in 2027

To reduce costs and waste, Saratoga County 4-H will transition 4-H Highlights to a digital format beginning with the January 2027 issue. Future editions will be available online through the CCE Saratoga website.

Community members who would like to continue receiving a printed copy by mail may opt in at sc4h.org/highlightsmailing or contact the 4-H Office for assistance. Thank you for helping us make our program more sustainable while continuing to stay connected to Saratoga County 4-H news, programs, and events.

Upcoming DEC Hunter Education Courses

DEC Bowhunter Education

Saturday, September 12th

8am-4pm

Kayaderosseras Fish and Game Club



DEC Hunter Education

Sunday, September 13th

8am-4pm

Kayaderosseras Fish and Game Club

Find out more and register at:

<https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/hunting/hunter-education/courses-certifications>

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Ann Haden	Ballston Spa
Pete Dandreno	Gansevoort
Heidi Meidenbauer	Greenfield

Teens	
Bella Hanson	Milton
Reyna Racaza	Milton

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

September

12th - Meet the Breeds
14th - 4-H Leaders Association
24th - Leaders Banquet - Schwerd Building-Training Center
26th - 4-H Walkathon
28th - Shooting Sports Committee BBQ

October

24th - Achievement Night
29th - Shooting Sports Committee Meeting and Thank You BBQ