

Rutherford County EXTENSION NEWS



April, 2026 | Issue



Junior 4-H Camp is open to any youth in Rutherford County that are currently in the 4th, 5th or 6th grade. Camp will be June 8th–12th at William P. Ridley 4-H Center in Columbia.

This five-day resident camp offers excellent youth programming. Activities include ziplining, swimming, shooting sports, group sports and recreation, nature hikes, woodworking, crafts, music and more!

Cost: \$400 (includes all meals, lodging, transportation and T-shirt) **Registration opens April 1st at 8am**

To Register & Pay: tiny.utk.edu/RC4-HJR.Camp

If you need to pay with a check, please call the office at 615-898-7710.

rutherford.tennessee.edu/4-h-camp/

*Scholarship may be available. To fill out an application go to this link:

<https://rutherford.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/200/2026/03/2026-scholarship-application.pdf>

Below you will find a list of other specialty camps we have available at this time.

- Jr High Camp (6th–8th grade) May 25th–29th
- Pioneer Camp (7th–9th) June 30th–July 3rd
- Electric Camp (6th–8th) June 23rd–26th
- Culinary Camp (6th–8th) July 7th–9th
- Behind the Scenes Camp (9th–12th) June 23rd–26th
- Target Smart Camp (5th–9th) May 25th–29th
- Jr High Academic Conference (6th–8th) June 9th–12th

For more information regarding these camps visit our website by clicking this link:

<https://rutherford.tennessee.edu/4-h-camp/>

STAFF SPOTLIGHT!



FCS Agent, Misty Layne-Watkins

The Tennessee Extension Leadership Academy (TELA) is a leadership development initiative designed to strengthen leadership capacity among Extension professionals. In March, our very own Misty Layne Watkins proudly presented her Leadership Journey plan at TELA, highlighting meaningful strategies for staff recognition and team building. We're excited to see her leadership in action and proud to have her representing our team!



*Our Office
WILL BE CLOSED
Friday, April 3rd*

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! ADULTS AND TEENS!

- When : June 8-12, 2026
- Where: Ridley 4-H Camp -Columbia, TN
- Cost: FREE for you if you volunteer!
- Adult volunteers must be 19 years and older
- Teen Leaders (currently in 10th-12th grades)

link below for the online application

Adult Volunteer: tiny.utk.edu/VM7zr

Teen Leader: tiny.utk.edu/Ruge2

Annual
ADVENTURES IN AGRICULTURE
Explore agriculture's impact on your life!

Mark your Calendars!!!

Saturday, April 11th
 10am to 2pm
 Lane Agri-Park Complex,
 315 John R. Rice Blvd. Murfreesboro
FREE Admission



Join us for Games, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Fun and more.



RUTHERFORD COUNTY 4-H'ERS ATTEND 4-H CONGRESS

On March 7th through 11th two Rutherford County 4-H members attended Tennessee 4-H Congress in Nashville, where high school youth learn about government, leadership, and citizenship through hands-on legislative experiences at the State Capitol.

During the event, Matthew and Bryant met State Senator Dawn White, Commissioner of Agriculture Andy Holt, and Ryan King, Deputy Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. It was a fantastic leadership experience for our 4-H'ers!



UPCOMING SEWING CLASSES

All classes will be held at the Lane Agri Park – Auditorium
 315 John R. Rice Blvd., Murfreesboro

Monday, April 27 - Adult Hemming Class

Are uneven or bulky hems giving you trouble? Take the confusion out of hemming with this hands-on workshop. Discover the techniques to create polished, professional-looking hems every time.

Choose Your Session:

- 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Fee: \$12

Class Size: Limited – Register early!

Pay and register here: tiny.utk.edu/5Ry3I

Monday, May 11th - Spring Pillow class

Join us for a fun and creative spring pillow sewing class! Perfect for Adults and High school students.

Choose Your Session:

- Afternoon: 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM
- Evening: 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Fee: \$20

Pay & Register by clicking on the appropriate link below

- Adult - tiny.utk.edu/5Ry3I
- High school student - tiny.utk.edu/k5jLs

Bring your creativity and make a beautiful spring pillow to keep or gift!

For questions, contact **Janette Walker** at jwalk143@utk.edu or call 615-898-7710.



4-H PHOTO CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES!



Students are invited to participate in three exciting photo contests this spring:

- Rutherford County Photo Contest
 - **Deadline: Noon on April 22 to the 4-H Office**
- This contest also serves as the submission for:
 - State Fair Photo Contest (Theme: Trees)
 - Tennessee 4-H Photo Contest, which must highlight 4-H activities such as project work, camp, service, and more.

- Co-op Calendar Photo Contest
 - **Deadline: April 30 to Co-op**
 - Entries must be submitted directly by students through the Co-op website.
<https://www.ourcoop.com/calendar-photo-contest>

For questions, contact Janette Walker at jwalk143@utk.edu or call 615-898-7710.



Master Gardeners of Rutherford County

Spring & Early Summer Events 2026

Spring Equinox Workshop

Saturday, April 18 | 9:00am–12:30pm
Lane Agri Park - Auditorium (Main Building)
315 John R Rice Blvd, Murfreesboro
\$10 | Advance payment required
<https://tiny.utk.edu/MG.Equinox.Workshop>
Mini-sessions include soil blocking, growing dahlias, and converting turf to garden beds.
No children under 12 | All sales final

Annual Plant Swap

Saturday, April 25 | 9:00am–11:00am
Lane Agri Park – Community Center
Bring healthy, labeled plants rooted in soil.
Bring One, Take One | Bring Ten, Take Ten
No invasive plants: tnipc.org/invasive-plants

Talk & Tea: The Victorian Language of Flowers

Saturday, May 2 3:00 PM
Lane Agri Park - Auditorium (Main Building)
A perfect pre–Mother’s Day outing! Presented by Apple and Dove Flower Company and Farm. Enjoy a floral-themed tea and cookies.
Adults \$12 | Children 10 & under \$6
Festive hats encouraged!
After the talk, stroll the Extension gardens with a Master Gardener.
Reservations required – use payment link :
<https://square.link/u/zHtQK2le>

Questions? More information?
Email: mastergardeners.rc@gmail.com



**Estimated Last Frost
For our area
April 24th-May 6th**



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

Join Family & Consumer Science agents Shay Davis and Misty Layne-Watkins to learn how to prepare for emergencies of all kinds, from natural disasters to unexpected everyday crises. Participants will learn how to:

- Assess potential risks
- Create personalized emergency plans
- Build effective supply kits
- Respond appropriately when situations become unpredictable

Through interactive discussions and real-world scenarios, attendees will gain practical knowledge and confidence to help keep themselves and their families safe when it matters most.

Date: April 23, 2026

Time: 10:00am-11:30am

Location: Lane Agri-Park Community Center Classroom
315 John R. Rice Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Cost: 1 hour and ½ or so of your time

Register by going to this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/wPYT1ktya2>



4-H YOGA FOR KIDS

This class is beginner friendly for grades 4th through 12th. It will inspire kids to develop calmness, focus, and physical fitness. Classes will be on Tuesdays from 5pm to 6pm in the Community Center Building at the Lane Agri Park, 315 John R Rice Blvd. Murfreesboro, TN 37129.

Sign up for one or all!

\$5 Fee for each class/Mats are Provided

Class dates below:

- April 14th
- May 18th

[Register and pay by clicking here](#). Spots are limited
If you have questions please contact Aliyah Young at 615-898-7710 or email aiyoung@utk.edu



LUNCH & LEARN : WHAT'S IN THE GARDEN?

Friday, May 15th from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Lane Agri Park - Auditorium (Main Building)
Join us for an interactive tour of our vegetable demonstration garden! Learn what's growing this season, see what we've planted, and get your gardening questions answered by our Master Gardeners.
Call to register 615-898-7710 or just show up
No cost — all are welcome!

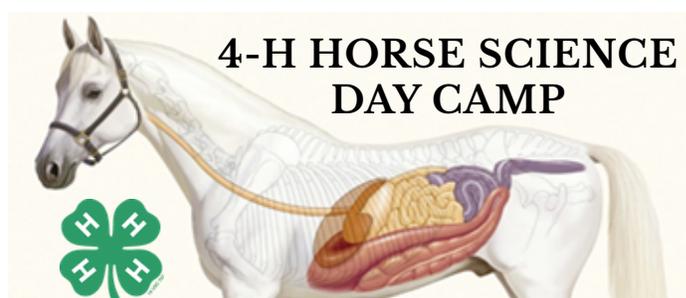


May Marathon Month: Run & Walk Challenge

Set your goal. Log your miles. Feel accomplished.
Accumulate miles throughout the month of May and challenge yourself at your own pace!

- Full Marathon: 26.2 miles (Less than 1 mile per day!)
- Half Marathon: 13.1 miles (A great option if you want a lighter goal)

Whether you walk, jog, or run, every mile counts!
Register by April 30th
Register here:
<https://forms.office.com/r/v4HdZTuAdv>
Questions? Contact Brittany Satinover
615-898-7710 | bsatino1@utk.edu



4-H HORSE SCIENCE DAY CAMP

CALLING ALL HORSE SCIENCE FANS!

June 17–18 | 10:00 AM–2:00 PM
Lane Agri-Park – Main Building/Auditorium,
315 John R. Rice Blvd, Murfreesboro, TN
This 2-day camp is open to 4th–12th graders interested in learning how horses work on the inside.
Campers will take an in-depth look at equine digestive anatomy and nutrition while learning how to care for horses from the inside out.
Activities include:

- Hands-on learning experiences
- Horse “snacks” taste test
- Friendly competition and interactive challenges

Cost: \$40 per camper
Registration opens: April 1st tiny.utk.edu/k5JLs
Space is limited — register early!
Questions? Contact Tammy Chandler
tchandler@utk.edu



SPROUTING NEW GARDENERS!

Lane Agri Park Barn | 315 John R. Rice Blvd

- June 9–12 (Grades 3–5)
- June 16–19 (Grades K–2)

8:00 AM – Noon
\$75 per camper
Hands-on gardening, crafts, games, snacks, and a pizza party on the last day!
Hosted by the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County
Go to this link to register —
<https://forms.gle/aEH5dHfqnMu8PSxX7>
Spots are limited!