



Prince William 4-H

Our Clubs, Our Community



November 6, 2024

Upcoming Events

- Nov 7 - Engage Locally!
- Nov 9 - Cloverbud Club
- Nov 12 - PW 4-H Association Meeting
- Nov 14 - PW 4-H Teen Club Project Linus
- Nov 16 - PW 4-H Hike for 4-H Outdoor Challenge
- Nov 18 - PW 4-H Officer Training
- Nov 29-Dec 3 - National 4-H Congress
- Nov 29-Dec 15 - 4-H & TSC Paper Clover Campaign
- Dec 1 - PW 4-H Embryology Registration Opens
- Dec 3 - PW 4-H Club & Project Leader Training

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Click to Visit



Engage Locally! TOMORROW!

Date: Thursday, November 7th
Time: 6:30-8:30 pm
Location: McCoart Atrium, Woodbridge
[Click here to register to attend or volunteer at a table.](#)

Elected officials and representatives from local and state government are interested in YOU! We need 4-H'ers to attend, ask questions, share their 4-H experiences, network and more. **All Prince William 4-H'ers should attend this important opportunity to experience the 4-H Pillar of Citizenship in action!**

Volunteers are asked to bring photos, awards, memorabilia, etc., to display for guests. We hope to have four 4-H'ers at each table. [Click here to register to attend or volunteer at a table.](#)

OVER A DOZEN LOCAL AND STATE OFFICIALS ARE COMING TO MEET YOU!



OPENING ADDRESS BY PWC EXECUTIVE CHRISTOPHER SHORTER!

Wreaths Across America

Ceremony and Wreath Laying: December 14th at 10 AM
Location: Quantico National Cemetery
[Click here to volunteer and attend the ceremony.](#)
MUST REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 20TH.

On December 14th, Prince William 4-H Association will be helping National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico, Arlington National Cemetery, to **REMEMBER** and **HONOR** our veterans by laying Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. You can help to REMEMBER the Fallen, HONOR those who Serve... TEACH our children the value of Freedom in three ways:

- **BY SPONSORING REMEMBRANCE WREATHS:** Sponsoring a veteran's wreath is a personal gift of gratitude and remembrance for someone who served this country so that we can be free. [Click here to learn more and sponsor a wreath.](#)
- **VOLUNTEERING ON WREATHS DAY:** [Click here to sign up](#) by Nov 20th.
- **INVITING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU!**

PW 4-H Association supports WAA each year. Clubs receive a \$5 donation for each wreath sponsorship. Additionally, club members are encouraged to add December 14th, Wreaths Across America Day, to their calendars and plan to attend the wreath-laying ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery. PW 4-H is one of the approved groups granted permission to attend the increasingly popular ceremony. However, we do need to provide an anticipated number of attendees.

If you wish to donate to the PW 4-H Association, you can click on the red "Sponsor Wreath" box to sponsor a wreath under the PW 4-H Association page. If you wish to support a club specifically, scroll down to the bottom and click on the red "View or Members" box to see the list of PW 4-H clubs. Specific grave placement requests can be made by selecting "Custom" under wreath selection.





Benton Middle School 4-H Club



On October 29th, Benton Middle School 4-H Club used their 4-H **HANDS to larger service** while participating in community service for Keep Prince William Beautiful. 4-H'ers completed the first step in painting and labeling storm drains around Benton Middle School. BMS 4-H Club is helping to grow the next **READY** generation of community leaders and activist!

KPWB's mission is to "to fight for a more beautiful Prince William through litter removal and prevention, community beautification, and environmental education." [Click here to learn more about KPWB.](#)



Did you know... that you can take your community service efforts to a new level by completing a **4-H Service Learning Project**? Not only will you do good for the community, but you will take pride in the journey and become an even better citizen and leader. A 4-H Service Learning Project is documented community service that begins by identifying a need, setting a goal, creating steps for the project, and assessing the process and how well you met your goal. [Click here to learn more!](#)





Ramona NJROTC Narrowly Defeats Trigger Time 4-H Shooting Education Club

By Rebecca Ahrens, Trigger Time 4-H Club Reporter

November 3, 2024. In an exciting match this week, Trigger Time 4-H Club scored their highest yet in this year's National Sporter Air Rifle League. Unfortunately, they faced another loss this season, losing by just over 5 points to Ramona NJROTC 1130.4 to 1125.3. Of the top four athletes, three set personal records for the season: Rebecca Ahrens (291.8), Tanner Ridings (280.8) and Ayden Strand (272.6). Lexi Strand also contributed to the team season high with her score of 280.1. Trigger Time is now ranked 16th in the league and 3rd under Junior Rifle Clubs. For week seven, the club has a bye-week and will compete in their sixth and final match of the season on November 11th.

In October, members of Trigger Time participated in a virtual BB gun match. Ayden Strand had the highest score in the match, leading the team which took first place.



[Weekly Recaps](#) | [League Standings](#) | [Box Score](#) | [Trigger Time 4-H Team Page](#)

About the National Air Rifle League

The league is a national team league for high school teams and junior rifle clubs. The league has two parts. An 8 week regular season going on now, followed by the post-season.

The Champions Division is reserved for the top teams in the country. The top eight teams from the Champions Division regular season will compete in a single elimination tournament for the league championships.

In each game the teams compete in what is known as a Three-Position Air Rifle match. The match is modeled after Olympic Rifle competitions but adapted to high school age athletes. Each athlete will shoot 10 shots in three different shooting positions, kneeling, prone, and standing. Scored in decimal, each shot is worth a maximum of 10.9 points. The sum of points scored in the 30 shots is the athlete's total. The team score is comprised of the best four athletes from each team.

The National Air Rifle League is sponsored by Scopos. Scopos is the makers of the Orion Scoring System, the Athena Electronic Scoring Target System, and Rezults, the worlds first mobile friendly result website for shooting. Scopos is located in Manassas, VA.

Virginia DWR Archery Open 2025



DATE: Saturday, January 11th, 8 AM - 8 PM

LOCATION: Richmond Raceway Exhibit Hall, 600 E Laburnum Ave., Richmond

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: 4-H members participating in archery

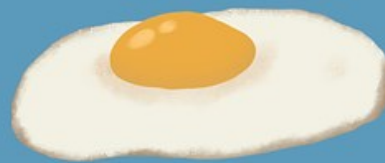
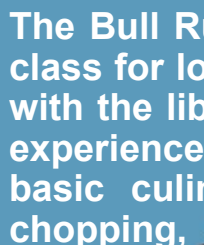
[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) invites the archery and conservation community to participate in the 2025 DWR Archery Open. This inaugural competition will take place Saturday, January 11, 2025 in Richmond, Virginia and will feature opportunities for youth and adult level competitors. Event proceeds will contribute to connecting people to conservation.

CONSERVATION EXHIBIT HALL: In addition to all tournament activities, Virginia DWR invites the public to visit the Conservation Exhibit Hall to connect with exhibitors from our conservation community!

If your organization is interested in exhibiting at the Archery Open, [click here to register.](#)

Teen Cuisine



The Bull Run Library in Manassas hosted a Teen Cuisine class for local middle schoolers. Through our partnership with the library, Prince William 4-H had four senior chefs, experienced in 4-H Food Challenge, volunteer to teach basic culinary skills, such as food & kitchen safety, chopping, whisking, and pan frying. We all had an amazing time and the participants loved cooking (and eating) and can't wait to cook again!



Maybe they'll join a team for the Prince William 4-H Food Challenge in March? Start practicing TODAY!

Fleece Fabric Donations Needed by November 14th

Fleece fabric donations are needed for our Prince William 4-H Teen Club community service project on **November 14th for** Project Linus. Fabric donations should be a minimum of 1 to 1.5 yards each for the 4-H'ers to make into no-sew blankets. As you'll see on [Page 8](#), Project Linus sent their supply of blankets to North Carolina to meet an emergency need for those impacted by Hurricane Helene. Winter is quickly approaching, and it's time to work together to restock their inventory to support local children ages 0-18. Please drop off fleece fabric at PW 4-H Headquarters in Manassas. [Prince William 4-H Teen Club members, click here to volunteer!](#)



PW 4-H Officer Training

Date: Monday, November 18th, 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: McCoart Building, 1 County Complex Court (Prince William Parkway), Woodbridge

Who Should Attend: All PW 4-H club officers and youth interested in a leadership position in 4-H. [Click here to register.](#)

This important, in-person, interactive meeting is for current youth officers, newly elected youth officers, and any 4-H'er interested in becoming an officer in the club, county, district, or state level. All Prince William 4-H Teen Club members are also encouraged to attend to discover opportunities to build your 4-H resume.



NEW! NOVA 4-H Nature Club

Who Should Participate: Prince William 4-H'ers ages 9-18

Website: <https://www.nova4hnature.com/>

Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/nova.4h.nature/

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/NoVA.4H.Nature.Page/>

Club Intake Form: <https://forms.gle/gwAp5sfC7aWagmMp9>

NOVA 4-H Nature Club is a new, multi-county youth leadership club focused on learning about nature, exploring local natural areas, and using that knowledge to preserve habitat, become change agents for environmental awareness and conservation, and take a leadership role in the community. Interested teens have the opportunity to participate in Envirothon & WHEP competitions. The leader, Joy Green, is a Master Naturalist with Prince William County who lives in Stafford County.

Here's the weekly plan for each month:

WEEK 1 - Topic Overview (virtual): During the first few weeks of each month, we will introduce the monthly topic and discuss logistics for our monthly outing.

WEEK 2 or 3 - Outing (in-person): We will visit sites in the NoVA area related to the monthly topic (for example, a bird walk for Ornithology month or visit a river for fish and river habitats for Ichthyology month). These may be led by a Master Naturalist, Park Ranger, or an expert in the field.

WEEK 4 - 4-H Business Meeting (hybrid): During each month, we will hold 4-H Club Member meetings to plan group service projects and fundraisers (if desired). Club members will prepare short presentations on topics and will discuss ways to represent this club in the NoVA area and beyond.

[Click here for information on monthly topics.](#)



NoVA
4-H
Nature

Discover Your Inner Trailblazer

Virginia 4-H Youth Animal Science November Newsletter

Check out the November YAS Newsletter for exciting results and upcoming opportunities for all 4-H'eres across Virginia with an interest in animal sciences!

[Click here for the Virginia 4-H Youth Animal Sciences November 2024 Newsletter.](#)

[Click here for the Virginia Tech School of Animal Sciences Youth Programs website.](#)

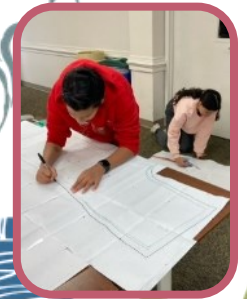




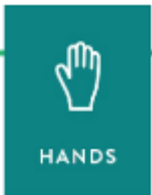
Prince William 4-H

Pajama Party

Prince William 4-H'ers gathered at Headquarters on November 4th & 5th for a special 4-H SPIN Project: learning to sew and making our own pajama bottoms. And seeing it was our days off from school, we decided to learn the new skill in our pajamas! The 4-H'ers were quick learners and we can't wait to see what they create next!







PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H



CLOVERBUD CLUB

Meets the 2nd Saturday of the Month from October to May from 10am-Noon



NOVEMBER 9TH

AT PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H, 8033 ASHTON AVE., MANASSAS



Our youngest 4-H'ers will be exploring sound waves and how, even though we cannot see them, we know they are there. From percussions to woodwinds, we will use our heads, hearts, hands and health to combine science and art into beautiful music in this hands-on activity.

Who Should Attend: Greater Prince William youth ages 5-8 that are interested in learning more about 4-H.*

Cloverbuds complete short-term, hands-on, adult-led, exploratory projects in the 4-H Pillars of civic engagement, STEM, healthy living and agriculture. All 4-H projects are research and curriculum based. We lay the foundation of knowledge to help develop our future community leaders.



Learn more about 4-H at www.pwcva.gov/4-H.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER. Registration is free, but required.

Come grow with us!

4-H GROWS HERE

* A parent or guardian must be present.



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Prince William 4-H Teen Club

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Prince William 4-H Teen Club is gathering to make no-sew blankets for Project Linus. No experience needed!

Project Linus provides handmade blankets to children 0-18 in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. Our local Project Linus chapter has sent their inventory to NC for citizens impacted by Hurricane Helene. We will be helping to build up inventory for local needs, especially with winter fast approaching.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

6 - 8 PM

PW 4-H - McCoy Conference Room

7987 Ashton Ave.

Manassas

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER



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ALL PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H'ERS ARE INVITED!

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE PRINCE WILLIA 4-H OUTDOOR CHALLENGE HIKE

DATE: Saturday, November 16th at 10 AM

LOCATION: Historic District, 11703 General Hood Ct, Manassas, VA 20109 (5th Regiment New York Parking Lot)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: All Prince William 4-H'ers, family, and friends!

ABOUT THE PRINCE WILLIAM 4-H HIKE: We will be walking the trails of Manassas Battlefield Park on the Chinn Ridge & Second Manassas Loop trail. This is a 1.8 mile loop. Make sure to wear comfortable shoes and layered clothing. Please bring a water bottle and a snack.

[Click here for trail info.](#)

[Click here to register for PW 4-H Hike.](#)

[Click here to register for National 4-H Outdoor Challenge \(prizes!\)](#)

Prince William 4-H will be participating in this new national effort: 4-H Outdoor Challenge. This is a great opportunity for a personal 4-H Healthy Living SPIN Project to add to your 4-H Portfolio! Set goals and get moving!

4-H OUTDOOR CHALLENGE

NOVEMBER 15-17

EXPLORE NATURE WITH 4-H!

Challenge yourself and others to spend the weekend outdoors! Pledge outdoor hours and follow along online for your chance to win prizes! Contact your local Extension office for registration details or follow the registration link below.

REGISTER ONLINE



<https://tinyurl.com/4-HOutdoorChallenge2024>



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION



DStrand@pwcgov.org



[4houtdoorchallenge](#)




University of Georgia is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact your County Extension office at least three weeks prior to the program date.



Extemporaneous Speech
Dramatic Reading
Music Recording
Presentations
Public Speech
Voiceover
Podcast

Whisper Booth

 Prince William 4-H in partnership with the Prince William Central Library Makerspace is offering teens a unique opportunity to learn a new skill - audio recording in a whisper booth!

A whisper booth is a sound isolation space that is soundproof and reduces ambient noise. It's the perfect space to record professional audio projects, speeches, auditions, and more. The space offers state-of-the-art equipment such as headphones, microphones, and a sound control board. Trained teens have the opportunity to reserve space in the whisper booth at any time to utilize the equipment, practice, and produce audio recordings. Guess what you don't do in a whisper booth? *WHISPER!*

Register TODAY for this exciting experience !

Thursday,
December 19th

3:15 - 4:15 pm

Central Park Library
Makerspace
8601 Mathis Avenue
Manassas

Event is open to Prince
William 4-H'ers ages 14-18.

Registration is limited to 10
teens.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.



Prince William 4-H

Embryology Project

“The Beginning of Life” 4-H Project is designed to help youth obtain a better understanding of life and embryonic development. 4-H educational materials guide students through each step of the hatching process from preparing the eggs for incubation to building a brooder for the newly hatched chicks. Educational material address Virginia SOLs for math, science, English, life science, and computer technology. Prince William 4-H provides fertilized eggs, guides participants through training, supports participants during the hatch, and then collects the chicks to be sent to a local farm.

Prince William 4-H Clubs, Prince William County Schools, Manassas City Schools, Manassas Park Schools, and Homeschool Groups are invited to participate in this exciting 4-H project!

REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 1ST!

Link coming soon.

RESOURCES:

- [Prince William 4-H Embryology Project Facebook Page](#)
- [Virginia 4-H Resources for School Curriculum Website](#)
- [VA 4-H The Beginning of Life Project Curriculum](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

DeeAnn Strand
4-H Youth Educator
dstrand@pwcva.gov
703-792-4762
www.pwcva.gov/4-H



IMPORTANT DATES

Embryology Registration
Dec 1st - Jan 31st

In-Person Leader Training
Feb 5 TBD
Feb 17 TBD

Incubator Pickup (if rented from 4-H)
PW 4-H, 8033 Ashton Ave, #105
Feb 13 1 - 4 PM
Feb 17 10 AM - 2 PM

Egg Pickup
PW 4-H, 8033 Ashton Ave, #105
Feb 24 4 - 6 PM
Feb 25 9 AM - 12 PM

2025 HATCH DAYS: MARCH 17TH - 21ST

Chick Drop Off
PW 4-H, 8033 Ashton Ave, #105
Mar 27 2 - 6 PM
Apr 1 12 - 3 PM



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Virginia 4-H Food Frenzy

Dates: January 17-19, 2025

Location: Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, Appomattox

Who Should Attend: PW 4-H'ers Ages 9-18 are eligible to register as a participant. Teens/Adults may apply to volunteer at this event.

Cost: Participants (ages 9-18): \$125; Teen and Adult Volunteers: \$25

How to Register: Interested participants, teen volunteers, and adult volunteers should contact MaryBeth Lerch at PW 4-H **by Thursday, January 2nd.**

[Click here for more information.](#)

Youth have the opportunity to learn and practice food safety and cooking skills. Campers will explore different cooking techniques and work with professionals in the food service industry. Whether you're new to the kitchen or looking into careers in the industry, this is the camp for you!



Kids' Tech University at Virginia Tech

Dates: January 25, February 22, March 22, and April 5

Location: Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Who Should Attend: youth ages 9-12 as of Sep. 30, 2024, with a parent

Registration Fee: \$120/child. Needs-based scholarships are available.

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)



KTU, brought to you by the Fralin Life Sciences Institute at Virginia Tech and Virginia 4-H, is your passport to a world of scientific wonder and exploration. Get ready to embark on an extraordinary STEM journey that'll spark your imagination and fuel your passion for science, tech, engineering, and math!

Prepare to be dazzled: Meet brilliant scientists and engineers who'll unveil the mysteries of STEM.

- Dive into interactive sessions that'll ignite your curiosity.
- Get hands-on with mind-blowing activities led by VT faculty, staff, and talented undergrads.
- Discover the magic of STEM as it relates to everyday life.

Polar Express Night at Jamestown 4-H

Date: Friday, December 20

Time: Drop-off is 5:00 PM and Pick-up is at 9:00 PM

\$35 per camper. Register at jamestown4hcenter.org

TRAIN TICKET

JAMESTOWN 4-H MOVIE NIGHT
THE POLAR EXPRESS



PRICE	TRAIN
\$35	4-H
AGES 6-12	
FROM:	
WILLIAMSBURG	
TO:	
THE NORTH POLE	
DATE:	
FRIDAY	
DECEMBER 20TH	

BOARDING PASS



ARRIVAL
05:00PM
PICK UP
9:00 PM

SEAT
FIRST
CLASS



BOARDING PASS FIRST CLASS

INCLUDED IN YOUR TICKET

MOVIE PASS

DINNER

COOKIE DECORATING

HOT CHOCOLATE

ORNAMENT MAKING

TRAIN	SEAT
4-H	FIRST
	CLASS



WINTER CAMP WEEKEND

VIRGINIA 4-H CENTERS



Winter in the Woods

at the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center

- Saturday - Sunday, December 7th-8th, 2024
- Overnight, Ages 7-13
- Registration through your county/city's 4-H Extension Office
- more information: holidaylake4h.com/christmas-camp



Archery Camp

at the Jamestown 4-H Educational Center

- Saturday - Sunday, December 7th-8th, 2024
- 8:30 AM-5PM both days
- Lunch and Snack Provided
- Registration: jamestown4hcenter.org
- \$125 per camper



Winter Cloverbuds Camp

at the NOVA 4-H Educational and Conference Center

- This year's theme is Fairytales Forest with dragons, fairies, wizards, and more!
- Friday - Sunday, December 6th-8th, 2024
- Campers ages 5-8 alongside a trusted adult
- Registration can be found at linktr.ee/nova4h



Christmas Camp

at the Southwest 4-H Educational Center

- Friday - Saturday, December 6th-7th, 2024
- Ages 9-13
- Registration can be found here at tinyurl.com/sw-christmas

First Weekend in December

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QUESTIONS: CONTACT JOEY PATTERSON, PROGRAM DIRECTOR AT JPATT024@VT.EDU

AIRFIELD 4-H CENTER SPECIAL INTEREST CLUBS

AGES 9-18 4:30PM - 6:30PM 4 WEEK CLUB

MONDAYS
IN
NOVEMBER

FISHING CLUB

INCLUDES FISHING TOURNAMENT

\$45 PER
PARTICIPANT

AGES 9-18 4:30PM - 6:30PM 4 WEEK CLUB

MONDAYS
IN
DECEMBER

WILD GAME AND FISH CAMPFIRE COOKING

ARRIVE HUNGRY!

\$50 PER
PARTICIPANT

AGES 11-18 4:30PM - 6:30PM 4 WEEK CLUB

MONDAYS
IN
JANUARY

ARCHERY CLINIC:

INCLUDES COMPOUND BOWS,
TRADITIONAL RECURVE BOWS, AND
ANIMAL TARGET TRIALS

\$50 PER
PARTICIPANT

AGES 9-18 4:30PM - 6:30PM 6 WEEK CLUB

EVERY
WEDNESDAY
IN APRIL AND
THE FIRST
WEDNESDAY
IN MAY

BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS

PART 2 OF THIS CLUB WILL TAKE PLACE IN
SEPTEMBER 2025 (THE HONEY HARVEST!)

\$45 PER
PARTICIPANT

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY AND DESIRE ANY ASSISTIVE DEVICES, SERVICES OR OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTIVITY, PLEASE CONTACT JOEY PATTERSON AT (757-899-4901) DURING BUSINESS HOURS OF 9 A.M. AND 5 P.M. TO DISCUSS ACCOMMODATIONS 5 DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

*TDD NUMBER IS (800) 828-1120.



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Educator Opportunity: ADVANCE



The program **An Experiential and Data-driven Approach to Agricultural Education (ADVANCE)** is a face-to-face professional workforce development opportunity that provides educators with the knowledge, experience, curriculum resources, supplies/equipment, and mentoring to support the implementation of drones and precision agriculture concepts in the classroom.

This is primarily a hands-on, field-based professional development program. After completing the ADVANCE program, participants will be FAA remote pilot certified, knowledgeable, and experienced in implementing a complete drone-based data collection workflow. In addition to receiving valuable knowledge and experience through the face-to-face workshop, educators will

receive a stipend, a mini-grant, free virtual training (in preparation for the remote pilot test), paid registration for the FAA's remote pilot certificate, & more!

Target Audience: Middle and high school teachers & 2-year college faculty teaching agriculture, forestry, environmental science, and related topics are encouraged to apply. Other educators will be considered (contingent on USDA funding provisions). Feel free to contact John McGee (jmcg@vt.edu) if you have questions or require clarification. Submissions from educators at the same school/district are encouraged (separate applications are needed, though).

When (face-to-face workshop at Virginia Tech): July 13-16, 2025 (The virtual learning sessions will begin in late winter 2025).

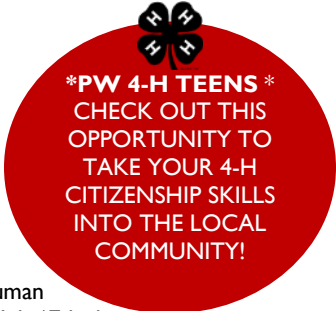
Topics: Precision Agriculture / Mapping with Drones / Data-Driven Decisions / Collecting sessions data with sensors / Remote Sensing / Workflows

Application Deadline: November 20, 2024. Applicants will be notified of acceptance shortly after the application deadline.

Additional information and online registration are available from: www.vtadvance.net



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY



NOVEMBER 4, 2024. The Prince William County Human Rights Commission recently stood up Cohort 9 of its Human Rights Student Leadership Council, marking a milestone with its largest group since the council's inception in 2015. With 67 high school students, the council aims to help sophomores, juniors and seniors from public high schools, private schools and home schools from across the county develop leadership skills and learn about county government through the lens of human rights.

During their time on the council, the students will learn about equity and inclusion, the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission, the Fair Housing Act and the rights and responsibilities of the workplace. They will take part in guided discussions to learn differing perspectives and discuss how they would guide the community as the next generation of leaders; and they will present their hopes for the community's future to the Human Rights Commission.

Prince William County Executive Chris Shorter gave the keynote address to the new council members and an audience of their parents and friends that overflowed the Board of County Supervisors Chambers at the McCoart Government Center.

"You are already making a difference in the lives of people around you. You are already the hopes and dreams of your parents and your school administrators right now," said Shorter. "Thank you all for your interest. Thank you all for the journey that you are about to go on. A year with us in this program, learning about human rights and civil rights, is going to be meaningful to you, but it's meaningful to us. It is meaningful to the future of this county."

Guest speaker Dr. Charmelle Ackins, Chief Equity Officer for Prince William County Public Schools, emphasized the cohort's theme, "Lead and Learn: Emerging Leaders in Human Rights." Ackins commended the students for their dedication and highlighted the importance of their role as emerging leaders.

"Emerging leaders stand at the nexus of two groups – realized leaders and potential leaders. Realized leaders know how to use their powerful voice for better change," Ackins said. "Potential leaders have still yet to be discovered, encouraged and supported. As emerging leaders, you are discovering a voice, recognizing your potential and stepping into your leadership." She called on the students to use their position to promote justice and dignity. "Know this. Every voice matters. Leadership is a choice. It belongs to anyone willing to stand up for the rights of others."

Prince William Human Rights Commission Chair Curtis Porter welcomed the students to what he described as an award-winning collaboration between the commission and Prince William County Public Schools. He underscored the commission's longstanding mission of eliminating discrimination and promoting equal opportunity in the county.

"The power of citizens and residents being engaged in county government is very important, and it was the citizens and residents of Prince William County in 1991 that filled this room and told the Board of County Supervisors, yes, we want a human rights commission with enforcement power in Prince William County," Porter said.

Prince William County Public Schools Liaison to the Commission, Carolyn Custard, praised the enduring partnership between the school system and the commission. "Our partnership and our collaborative effort will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of many of our students each year," she said.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT

Saturday, Nov. 9 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
7850 Doane Drive, Manassas, VA

pwcva.gov/hhw



Learn more about the Human Rights Student Leadership Council at pwcva.gov/department/human-rights/student-leadership-council.

Press release distributed by the PWC Communications Office.
www.pwcva.gov



TAKE THE "I RECYCLE" PLEDGE FOR AMERICA RECYCLES DAY!

On November 15, Prince William County will join communities across the nation in celebration of America Recycles Day, an annual awareness campaign dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling. County staff and Keep Prince William Beautiful volunteers will be onsite at Chinn Park Regional Library on November 13, and Central Library on November 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to talk with residents about recycling in Prince William County. You can also participate in the "I Recycle" pledge contest for a chance to win a prize! [Click here to learn more.](#)



DON'T BE TRASHY!

In a recent update to the Board of County Supervisors, the Department of Public Works reported on their progress in keeping county roadways clean, to include the hiring of additional litter crews. As part of these initiatives, the county also launched a public awareness campaign featuring "Trashy the Raccoon" to educate residents on litter's environmental impact. "Trashy" humorously challenges community members with the slogan, "I'm a raccoon. What's your excuse?" reminding everyone to help keep the community clean. Learn more about the county's litter control and beautification efforts. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY**

8033 Ashton Ave, #105,
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