



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences



COASTAL CAROLINA FAIR
OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 8, 2026
LADSON, SC



**Tri-County 4-H Youth Development
Contests & Rules**

Sponsored by:
Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service
&
The Exchange Club of Charleston

Tri-County 4-H Staff

"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."

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South Carolina 4-H Youth Development
www.clemson.edu/extension/4h



@South Carolina 4-H Youth Development



@southcarolina4h

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Preface

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. The South Carolina 4-H Youth Development Program uses a learn-by-doing approach, the involvement of caring adults, and the knowledge and resources of Clemson University and the land grant university system to empower youth to become healthy, productive, and contributing members of society.

The Exchange Club of Charleston has supported the 4-H Youth Development's involvement in the Coastal Carolina Fair for over thirty years. Their ongoing support allows local 4-H clubs and individual members to be involved in the Coastal Carolina Fair each year.

The Exchange Club of Charleston provides physical facilities needed for youth displays, contests, and presentations. 4-H members have been involved with the Coastal Carolina Fair in a variety of activities to include food contests, presentations, animal contests, and various 4-H displays.

In 1985, we moved the date of our local 4-H Fair to coincide with the Coastal Carolina Fair and began exhibiting along with all other activities for the first time. This proved to be very successful, and everyone affiliated with the fair was well pleased. We continue this partnership to this day.

Thanks to the support of Clemson Extension and the Exchange Club of Charleston, 4-H members from Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, and surrounding areas are able to participate in this wonderful event and to share their 4-H story with the community.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences



Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sex, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

4-H at the Coastal Carolina Fair



The Exchange Club of Charleston and Clemson Extension Service are pleased to be able to extend to 4-H members the privilege of displaying their 4-H projects during the Coastal Carolina Fair.

Prior to opening day of the fair, all exhibits which meet the criteria in this guide will be awarded first, second, or third place ribbons.*

Rosettes will be awarded to top Junior and Senior projects.

A screening committee will determine whether submissions are complete and appropriate to be judged or displayed. Decisions made by the committee are final.

The Screening Committee will consist of a staff member and volunteer(s).

This is a unique experience for all 4-H program participants in Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester and surrounding counties, and we hope that each of you will take advantage of the opportunity to have your project work displayed and judged during the Fair.

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service and the Exchange Club of Charleston are not responsible for any items that are lost, stolen, or damaged during the Fair.



Fair exhibits and contests relate to South Carolina 4-H project areas. 4-H project books and curriculum can be found online via the National 4-H website (www.4-h.org) or on the 4-H Mall (www.shop4-h.org). You can also find valuable resources and ideas through South Carolina 4-H Clemson Extension (www.clemson.edu/extension/4h) or any of the numerous other land-grant universities hosting 4-H and Cooperative Extension programs.

4-H FAIR PARTICIPATION

Any 4-H member active in 4-H during the last or current year with an active membership in 4HOnline.com is eligible to submit exhibits and register for contests and events.

*See Cloverbud Participation (pg. 6)

Explanation of Awards



EXHIBIT AWARDS

Judging will be done by an expert within the professional field of the project area and all work will be judged on the choice of design, utility, relevance to category, originality, and/or workmanship. All Junior and Senior project exhibits have the opportunity for placement into one of three ranks (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) within each project category and will be awarded ribbons accordingly.

The top exhibits are chosen within each category from the first place winners only; these exhibits receive a rosette.

Cloverbud Participation

4-H Cloverbuds are part of an introductory, exploratory program without competition that prepares them for the full 4-H membership experience as 4-H Juniors, starting at age 9. As such, participants ages 5-8 are not permitted to be in competitive activities in South Carolina 4-H. This policy is research-based and consistent with Cloverbud policy around the country and in accordance with the "positive youth development" philosophy of National 4-H Headquarters. To that end, for purposes of the Coastal Carolina 4-H Fair activities, Cloverbud exhibits will not be judged against other exhibits.

Participation ribbons will be awarded instead of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place ribbons. Exhibits (projects) made by Cloverbud members will be displayed with all other exhibits. In keeping with the 4-H Cloverbud philosophy, opportunities to experience 4-H will be made available to children while visiting the Coastal Carolina Fair.

General Fair Information

4-H EXHIBITS

Exhibits must be delivered to the Coastal Carolina Fairgrounds Exchange Hall Building on Saturday, October 24th from 9am- 5pm. Exhibits must be picked up on Monday, November 9th from 1pm- 5pm. Exhibits will not be released before the noted time.

4-H CONTESTS & REGISTRATION FORMS - DUE OCTOBER 5, 2026

Registration for all contests and presentations must be submitted no later than 11:59pm Monday, October 5th via Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>. If you require accommodation of any kind please email tawananar@clemson.edu or linap@clemson.edu no later than 10 days prior to the deadline for registration or event date for individual contests. Please be aware of participation minimums listed for each contest.

4-H AGE DIVISIONS

- Cloverbuds (5-8) - at least 5 years old and no more than 8 years old on January 1.
- Juniors (9-13) - at least 9 years old and no more than 13 years old on January 1.
- Seniors (14-19) - at least 14 years old and no more than 19 years old on January 1.

Examples for Clarification:

- If a child is age 5 on Jan. 1, they can join 4-H for the entire 4-H year as a Cloverbud member.
- If a child is 4 on Jan. 1 and turns 5 on January 2 or later, they must wait until the next 4-H year to join.
- If a member is 8 years or under as of Jan. 1, they are a Cloverbud member for the year even if they turn 9 on Jan. 2 of the same year.
- If a member is 9 years or older on Jan. 1, they are a Junior club member for the year.
- If a teen is 18 on Jan 1., they can join as a Senior club member for the entire 4-H year.
- If a teen is 19 on Jan. 1, they have “aged out” and can serve as a 4-H volunteer.

FAIR TICKETS

4-H receives a limited number of Coastal Carolina Fair tickets each year. Only volunteers and participants assisting in fair activities, exhibits, and contests will receive tickets through their 4-H agent or club leaders.

Schedule of 4-H Events

4-H Youth Development at the Coastal Carolina Fair.

Brought to you by Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service &
Exchange Club of Charleston.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

11:59 PM

All Contest Registration Forms Due

MONDAY, OCT. 19- FRIDAY OCT. 23

10 AM - 4 PM

**School Gardens Live Plant Display Drop off
Teach Center @ Citadel Mall, Charleston, SC**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

9 AM - 5 PM

Check-in Exhibits, Exchange Hall

MONDAY/TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26-27

CLOSED

Display Setup & Judging

THURSDAY, OCT. 29-SUNDAY NOV. 8

Coastal Carolina Fair Hours:

M-Th 3PM- 9PM Fri. 3 PM- 10 PM

Sat. 10 AM-10 PM Sun. Noon- 9 PM

Visit the 4-H information and activity table in Exchange Hall.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Cake Decorating Contest, Exchange Hall

12PM - 3PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Fair Ends

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Exhibit Pick-up, Exchange Hall

1 PM - 5 PM

4-H Information & Activity Table at the Coastal Carolina Fair



All 4-H clubs and members are invited to share a favorite activity with visitors at the fair!

Any 4-H club or member can sign up for a 1-3 hour shift hosting a 4-H activity or demonstration. Use this time to promote your club, 4-H, and youth development.

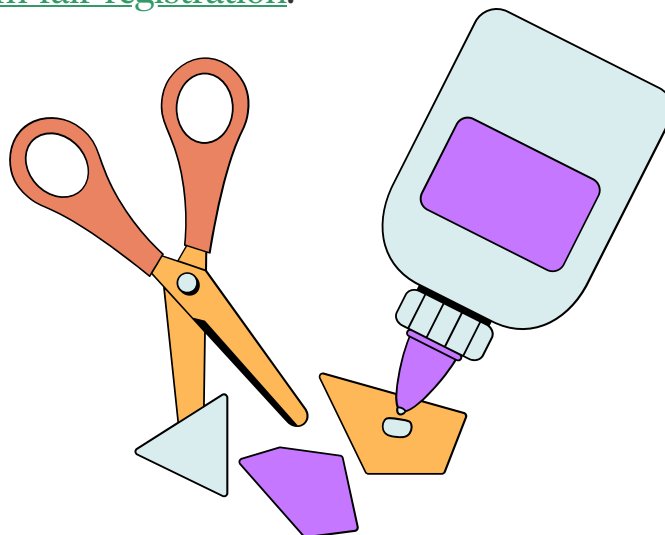
Activities must be free to the public, hands-on, and geared for youth ages 5-19 years.

Table cover and other materials are available for use upon request at registration link. Email tawanar@clemson.edu or linap@clemson.edu to arrange pickup and dropoff of table activity materials and table covers prior to fair assignment date.

No live animals.

No food products containing any of the nine leading causes of food allergies in the U.S. allowed; milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, soybeans, and sesame.

To sign up for an activity table time or materials complete the form at <https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>.



4-H Volunteer Opportunities

To volunteer for an event, please register at
<https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

9 AM - 5 PM

Accepting Project Exhibit Submissions - lunch included.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

9 AM - 5 PM

Set up & Preparation for Judging - lunch included.

No children allowed in exhibit area at this time.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

9 AM - 5 PM

Judging of all exhibits. No 4-H members or caregivers
allowed in building during judging.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

9 AM - 10 PM

Clean up and setup for the day based on fair operating hours.

Monitor displays, exhibits, & awards booth.

Host an activity table.

(Sign up for the entire day or for just a few hours.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

11 AM - 3:30 PM

Set up and Support Cupcake Decorating Contest, Exchange Hall

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

1 PM - 5 PM

Clean up & Return 4-H Exhibits

4-H CUPCAKE DECORATING CONTEST

Saturday, November 7
12pm-3pm
Exchange Hall

In this high-energy, live dessert decorating competition, youth will engage in a creative, hands-on experience that fosters artistic expression, builds confidence, and promotes life skills such as planning, time management, and public presentation. Youth will compete in timed rounds to transform plain cupcakes into themed masterpieces.

All 4-H youth who have participated in 4-H through official community 4-H clubs, as 4-H individual members, with an official school 4-H program, or as part of a 4-H camp or training are eligible to enter the Cupcake Decorating Contest. Contestants not officially entered by the registration deadline will not be permitted to participate for any reason. **Minimum of 2 youth must register for a contest division to proceed.**

All cupcakes must be decorated live on-site the day of the contest. Practice your skills at home many times to ensure confidence, ease in preparation, thoroughness in cleaning, and quality of presentation.

AT THE FAIR, EACH CONTESTANT:

- Will participate individually and independently. Contestants not officially entered by the registration deadline will not be permitted to participate for any reason. Sideline coaching is not permitted.
- Will be provided cupcakes. A minimum of 3 (maximum of 8) cupcakes are to be used per entry. All cupcake decorations used must be edible.
- Will have one (1) hour to decorate cupcakes.
- Will be given a workspace and the following supplies and ingredients:
 - Frosting and fondant
 - Food gels (red, yellow, blue, green)
 - Decorating tools: bags, tips, couplers, spatulas, smoother, and turntable
 - A white 14"x10" flat, rectangle cake board for final cupcake display
 - Some edible embellishments: sprinkles, edible glitter, pearls, flowers, etc.
 - A designated timer, paper towels, sanitizing wipes, and disposable gloves
 - A sink area and soap for handwashing and cleaning tools

- Will be able to bring ONLY the following additional supplies or ingredients:
 - Additional food gels/pastes in colors of choice
 - Additional frosting or icing of choice (i.e. buttercream, ganache, cream cheese, etc.)
 - Additional decorating tools beyond those provided
 - A flat cake board of any size or shape for final cupcake display
- Will use a minimum of FOUR techniques from the Decorating Skills Chart. An additional point will be awarded for each skill beyond “Beginner” and an additional two points for each skills beyond “Intermediate.” *Remember to use your time wisely and only use skills you can confidently execute.*
- Will decorate their cupcakes to match one of the themes below (randomly selected on the day of the event). Cupcakes may be displayed individually or together to make a shape to go with the theme:
 - A “Not so Spooky” 4-H Halloween
 - 4-H “Under the Sea”
 - “Around the World” with 4-H
- Dress neatly and wear an apron. It is recommended that you wear green and white. Hair must be covered with a hairnet.
- Points will be deducted if contestants fail to wash hands in the provided sinks prior to working with the cupcakes and tools. Tools will already be washed and sanitized for contestant use as part of set up prior to contest start.
- No wired, cardboard, or other tiered cupcake stand may be used. Cupcakes must be displayed on a flat surface. You may attach your cupcakes to the board with icing, rolled up tape, or any other method.

Divisions: Junior, Senior

AWARDS:

1st Place Winners	\$20.00 Gift
2nd Place Winners	\$15.00 Gift
3rd Place Winners	\$10.00 Gift

All other participants will receive a certificate and ribbon.

Register by Monday, October 5 at <https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>.

4-H PROJECT EXHIBITS

Guidelines in each section for each category must be met; otherwise, the entry may be disqualified. All exhibits should be clean, age appropriate, and presentable. All handmade exhibits must have been made since the 2025 Coastal Carolina Fair. Contests and exhibits (outside of the School & Community Gardening Contest) are open only to South Carolina 4-H members ages 5-19; Cloverbuds may submit entries for recognition, but they will not be judged.

Terminology:

- **DECORATE:** to enhance a purchased or pre-constructed item. You can only claim the work you put into the exhibit.
- **HANDMADE EXHIBIT:** includes any item(s) created/assembled entirely by the 4-H member. This is a general term used to describe both kit and original works.
- **MAKE:** to create/construct an exhibit in full from raw materials.
- **ORIGINAL WORK:** Any item designed and created entirely by the youth, no kits. Anyone passing a kit entry off as original work will have that entry disqualified.
- **POSTER:** includes any two-dimensional education exhibit. No poster entry shall be smaller than 8.5x11" or larger than 24x28."

All exhibits must be brought to the Exchange Hall Building at the Exchange Park (Ladson Fairgrounds) on Saturday, October 24, from 9am to 5pm. The decision of the judges is final. Ribbons and/or rosettes will be placed with exhibits. Awards received will be displayed with exhibits.

Exhibits should be no larger than 24" length x 24" width x 36" height and should weigh no more than 30 lb. 4-H and the Coastal Carolina Fair staff and volunteers are not responsible for any damages or losses to 4-H exhibits. Please ensure your items are securely attached and labeled before submission.

Exhibit entry tags will be provided when entries are submitted.

Register for all exhibits by Monday, October 5 at <https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>.

A tag should accompany any fair entries.

4-H EXHIBIT ENTRY TAG

Parents/4-H members are responsible for filling in an Entry Tag for each item.
Items without completed tags may not be judged.

- Add Participants Grade and Age to top right of tag
- 4-H Divisions: Age as of January 1st of current year
Cloverbud (Ages 5-8) • Junior (Ages 9-13) • Senior (Ages 14-19)
- Project Area; indicate if a kit was used

ENTRY TAG		AGE- <u> </u> yrs; Grade- <u> </u> th
No. _____	(YOUTH NAME) _____	
Class _____	(4-H Age Division: CB, JR, SR) _____	
Entry _____	(Project Area from Fair Book) _____	
Project _____	(Brief description of item) _____	
_____ (Club/School/Family Name) _____		
_____ (County) _____		

No	12345	

CLAIM CHECK (tear off and keep)		
No 12345		

4-H A. I. Graphic Design Contest



Drop off Saturday, October 24

9am-5pm

Exchange Hall

The 4-H A. I. Graphic Design Contest gives 4-H members the opportunity to develop their digital communication skills by creating visual content for the purpose of informing and captivating external audiences. The challenge to participants is to produce AI-assisted images, models, or displays that transcend the typical “A.I. look.” Instead, entries should demonstrate innovation, creativity, and meaningful human-centered expression—all guided by “a culture of care that prioritizes empathy and well-being.” Participants should learn to use A.I. as a creative partner (an extension of their own unique and artistic vision) rather than as the driving force behind their entry. Contest is open only to South Carolina 4-H members ages 5-19; Cloverbuds may submit entry for recognition, but it will not be judged.

2026 A.I. Graphic Design Contest Theme: “Feeding the Future Through Innovation”

Division	Challenge to Address	Details
Cloverbuds	Climate Change	Issues like soil erosion, water scarcity (drought), and decreased biodiversity (fewer types of living things like plants, animals, habitats, and insects) are all effects of climate change. Learn more about how climate change affects crops and food. Design/create a toy, game, or poster that can help teach others what you learned.
Juniors	Labor Shortage	The farming population is rapidly aging, with many approaching retirement without solid plans for succession (who will take over after them). The industry also faces persistent labor shortages and a need to recruit new talent. Learn why people are leaving or not exploring agriculture careers. Create a design, model, or poster that illustrates ways to attract new farmers, agriculture scientists/educators, and land stewards.
Seniors	New Technology	Farmers and agriculture professionals are experiencing a push to adopt new (usually expensive) technology and automation to maintain competitiveness while balancing the risks of dependency on these new tools. Research challenges affecting farmers today that new tech is trying to solve. Create a design, model, or poster that illustrates affordable ways farmers can incorporate that new technology into their practice or create and design an affordable version of it yourself.

RULES:

Minimum pre-registration of two entries required for any division contest to proceed.

- 1) This is an individual event. Entries must be completed by exhibitor, and only one entry will be accepted per youth participant.
- 2) No names of 4-H members or clubs should be visible on design.
- 3) The design can be digital, hand-drawn, or printed. It can be 2D, 3D, or 4D. All mediums can be used except for animals (living or dead) or food.
- 4) The entries will be judged on innovation/originality, creativity, completeness of solution to the presented challenge, and A.I. integration.
- 5) Copywritten materials such as professional photos, books, publications or items on the internet should not be used as original work.
- 6) Entries MUST use A.I. in at least one step of their process but are not required to use it extensively. Most of their project should be self-generated.
- 7) A written statement (at least one, 5-sentence, paragraph in length) MUST accompany each entry detailing their entire process, from brainstorming to execution to the final design. The statement should detail exactly how A. I. was used to support this project (i.e. idea generation, modeling, 3D printing, etc.)

1st place- \$20

2nd place- \$15

3rd place- \$10

Adapted from Iowa State University AI Art & Design Competition

Register by Monday, October 5 at

<https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>.

4-H Pumpkin Decorating Contest



Drop off Saturday, October 24
9am-5pm
Exchange Hall

Come join in the fun and win prizes at the pumpkin decorating contest at the Coastal Carolina Fair in the Exchange Hall Building! Pumpkin submissions will be displayed In the 4-H Exhibit for the duration of the fair.

RULES & PRIZES

- Only one pumpkin entry per person, the size of the pumpkin is up to the decorator.
- Each contestant is responsible for decorating their pumpkin. (Felt, glue, tape, hats, etc.)
- Creativity encouraged!
- No carving or drilling will be allowed. Pumpkin must remain intact
- Please provide a display sign with the pumpkin name/theme, 4-H'er name, 4-H county, and age division to be placed with your contest entry.
- Contest is open only to South Carolina 4-H members ages 5-19; Cloverbuds may submit entry for recognition, but it will not be judged.

AWARDS (Cloverbud, Junior, and Senior Divisions)

Each pumpkin will be assessed and assigned a score based on creativity, completeness, and craftsmanship. The top three scoring pumpkins in the Junior and Senior Divisions will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place respectively. Each entry will receive a ribbon for participating.

1st place- \$20

2nd place- \$15

3rd place- \$10

All work is to be done by the 4-H'er.



Minimum registration of two entries required for any division contest to proceed.
Register by Monday, October 5 at <https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>.

4-H Container Garden Contest

Drop off Saturday, October 24
9am-5pm
Exchange Hall

2026 Divisions: Cloverbud, Junior, Senior

Objectives/Rules:

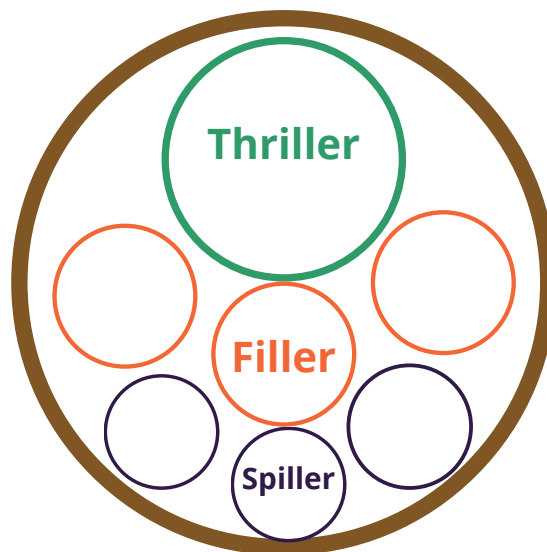
- Create a well-planned container garden, edible or flowering plants welcome.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of companion planting.
- Practice proper care for the container garden (watering and fertilizing).
- Neatly planted; include ID labels for each plant.
- Properly pruned; remove any dead leaves/flowers.
- There are many types of suitable containers for container gardening. Clay, wood, plastic, and metal are some options available. Containers need to be at least 12" deep to leave room for root growth.
- The container must have drainage holes to allow proper drainage with a saucer to catch water.
- Contest is open only to South Carolina 4-H members ages 5-19; Cloverbuds may submit entry for recognition, but it will not be judged.

Suggested plants

1. Tomato
2. Chamomile
3. Spinach
4. Zinnias
5. Egg plant
6. Peas
7. Marigolds
8. Blueberries
9. Peppers
10. Okra
11. Sage
12. Strawberries
13. Figs
14. Calendulas
15. Dill

Container Planning

READ THE PLANT LABEL!



Contestants are encouraged to research plants with similar needs, which could be annuals, perennials, fruits, herbs, or more!

It could also be fun to make a themed container, i.e. fairy garden, rainbow garden, favorite cultural seasonings, pollinator garden, etc.



Thriller- Tallest plants that may need supports such as a cage or trellis.

Filler- Flowers or companion plants that are "mounding/"

Spiller- "Trailing" plants, herbs, or flowers that cascade over the edge of the planter.

Register by Monday, October 5 at <https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>.

1st place- \$20

2nd place- \$15

3rd place- \$10

Minimum registration of two entries required for any division contest to proceed.

4-H Christmas Tree Decorating Contest



Drop off Saturday, October 24
9am-5pm
Exchange Hall

Decorate a tree highlighting a 4-H Project area: Natural Resources, Agriculture & Animals, Healthy Living, Civic Engagement (Leadership/Personal Development), or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Four trees must be registered for the contest to proceed.

Rules:

1. No photos/names of club members are visible.
2. Submit an 8"x11" (portrait orientation) sign to display with your tree. Include theme, 4-H club name or individual name, and county. (Display signs will be placed on the tree after judging.)
3. Submit a list of who participated in designing and decorating the tree and detail their role or items they were responsible for (i.e., ornaments, tree skirts, garlands, tree toppers, etc.)
4. All ornaments and tree skirts must be made by 4-H'ers during the current 4-H year (since September 1, 2026).
4. Trees must be set up and decorated by 4-H youth members only. Adults are not allowed to help.
5. Loose materials such as sand, rocks, clay, straw, beans, etc., must be contained, and trees must be able to be easily relocated.

Submission Requirements:

- Artificial Tree (4-6ft.)
- Decorated Tree Skirt
- Lights (limited to one plug outlet)
- 6' extension cord
- Handmade Tree Decorations

1st place- \$20 2nd place- \$15 3rd place- \$10
Register by Monday, October 5 at <https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>.



4-H School & Community Garden Contest

Submitting Posters & Display Entries:

- Drop off to TEACH Center (Citadel Mall) in Charleston, SC by Friday, October 24 or email to tawandar@clermson.edu - SUBJ: Garden Contest Entry
- Submit in person on October 25 (9AM-5 PM) at Exchange Hall

SHOW OFF YOUR YOUTH EDUCATION GARDEN AT THE COASTAL CAROLINA FAIR!

All South Carolina school-age (K-12) serving organizations are invited to enter their school or community gardens in the Clemson Extension 4-H Youth Development School & Community Garden Contest at the 2026 Coastal Carolina Fair! **This contest is sponsored with our gratitude by the Clemson Extension School & Community Gardening program.**

GENERAL CONTEST DETAILS

- Any public or private school, homeschool group or association, or K-12-serving organization may enter (1) entry per grade level (see submission categories).
- Gardens must be on organization's property, have been in place at least three months by submission deadline date, and clearly demonstrate student involvement.
- Gardens may be vegetable, herb, flower, pollinator, hydroponic, or aeroponic style gardens.
- Entries must be accompanied by a 4-H group enrollment form. Organization personnel are responsible for photo consent/model release form for minors where applicable.
- Participants in this category will not receive free fair tickets unless volunteering to care for live plant displays in the high school category.

Register by Monday, October 5 at <https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>.

SUBMISSION DETAILS BY GRADE LEVEL:

Elementary (Grades K-5):

Entries must be student designed in one of the following styles:

- poster with photographs of garden with captions
- electronic slide show with photos and captions showcasing the school or community garden and how students are involved in every aspect of the project.

Photographs MUST feature:

- garden layout including creative details
- maintenance
- proper handling of tools/equipment
- overall health and productivity of plants
- student involvement in STEM-based activities
- a title slide that clearly states school or organization name.

First Prize - Aerogarden + Seeds

2nd Prize - Indoor Composting Bin + Live worms OR Compost Collection Kit

3rd Prize - Collection of Seed packets + Garden Harvest Basket

Minimum registration of two entries required for any division contest to proceed.

Middle (Grades 6-8):

Entries must be student designed in one of the following styles:

- tabletop or diorama style display
- a video or animated slide show with digital captions showcasing the school garden in a creative way

Diorama, tabletop display, video, and slide show entries MUST feature:

- garden layout and creative details
- maintenance, including proper handling of tools/equipment
- overall health of the garden and productivity of plants
- a highlight of how the garden connects students to STEM in the classroom
- a title slide or video opening that clearly states school or organization name

First Prize - Aerogarden + Seeds

2nd Prize - Indoor Composting Bin + Live worms OR Compost Collection Kit

3rd Prize - Collection of Seed packets + Garden Harvest Basket

High (Grades 9-12):

Entries must be student designed in one of the following styles:

- tabletop or diorama style display
- a video or animated slide show with digital captions showcasing the school garden in a creative way

Diorama, tabletop display, video, and slide show entries MUST feature:

- garden layout and creative details
- maintenance, including proper handling of tools/equipment
- overall health of the garden and productivity of plants
- a highlight of how the garden connects students to STEM in the classroom
- a title slide or video opening that clearly states school or organization name

First Prize - Aerogarden + Seeds

2nd Prize - Indoor Composting Bin + Live worms OR Compost Collection Kit

3rd Prize - Collection of Seed packets + Garden Harvest Basket

School Gardening Judging Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Poor (1)	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Excellent (4)
Creativity (25%) Interesting or unique plants Use of recycled materials Signage or garden décor School spirit				
Proper Handling of Tools/Equipment (25%) Use of irrigation system Demonstrated use of hand tools Raised bed design/structure				
Garden Health (25%) Crops look grown and healthy Generally free of weeds Crop yield Pest management techniques Soil quality*				
Use of STEM Curriculum (25%) Scientific experiments Journaling, Recordkeeping, Photography Utilization of plants grown in garden				
Special Category: Pollinator Gardens (20%)** Variety of flower types/colors Use of native plants Presence of pollinators				

*For aeroponic gardens: use of proper nutrients

**For pollinator gardens, all categories worth 20%



This form is to be used to register all youth participating in a group which is not a 4-H club. The following information about my class/group is submitted in support of my request for 4-H educational materials/programming. I will inform the youth that they are participating in a Clemson Cooperative Extension 4-H program. Please complete and return the form to your County Extension Office.

Please check one:	☐ School Enrichment	☐ Afterschool program	☐ Special Interest/Short Term Program
	☐ Camping Program	☐ Instructional TV/Video	☒ Other (Specify) <u>2026 Coastal Carolina Fair</u>

Name of Program: 2026 School & Community Gardening Contest **Start-End Dates:** Oct. 29- Nov. 8, 2026

Leader/Presenter: (Lead Educator/Admin/Volunteer)

Location: (Name of Organization/School + Address)
(address, city & zip code)

Location Contact: _____ **County:** _____

Contact Info: _____

Project or Curriculum Used: _____ **Number of Hours:** _____
(developing this contest entry)

Total Participants (not vols)	How many youth in this group are current 4-H members? (Duplicates)			Number of Adult Volunteers:
	Males _____	Females _____	Prefer not to say _____	Number of Youth Volunteers:

Number of Participants from military Families _____

OFFICE NOTE: Please be sure to remove current 4-H participants (duplicates) from each of the following:

Grades	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Post HS	Spec	Not in School	Where do participants live?	Farm	Rural<10K	Town10-50K	Suburb of City	City 50K+

Fill in the appropriate numbers. *Ethnicity is separate from race.* You should indicate an ethnicity category and racial category that apply to each participant (a participant of more than one race would be recorded in "other (combination or not listed).") Your total participants should equal the total numbers in your ethnicity section.

Please estimate the ethnic and racial distribution of the participants:

Race	Participants						Adult Volunteers						Youth Volunteers					
	Hispanic/Latino			Not Hispanic/Latino			Hispanic/Latino			Not Hispanic/Latino			Hispanic/Latino			Not Hispanic/Latino		
	Male	Female	NA	Male	Female	NA	Male	Female	NA	Male	Female	NA	Male	Female	NA	Male	Female	NA
American Indian/ Alaskan Native																		
Asian																		
Black/African American																		
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander																		
Other (combination or not listed)																		
White																		
Unidentified																		
Total																		

Classification of Volunteers	Adult Volunteers			Youth Volunteers		
	Male	Female	NA	Male	Female	NA
Direct						
Indirect						
Sub-Total						
Total						

Volunteers Trained Through 4-H (New Only)	Youth Volunteers	Adult Volunteers	Other Adults
A.) Leadership topics relating to organizing, managing, and teaching youth in a non-formal education setting			
B.) Parenting knowledge and skills relating to development and learning needs of children			
C.) Other- any training topic beyond the two listed			

4-H In Action Poster Contest



Drop off Saturday, October 24

9am-5pm

Exchange Hall

4-H IN ACTION POSTER CONTEST

Highlighting 4-H Participation in Regional/State Projects

The 4-H categories are:

Natural Resources

Healthy Living

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)

Agriculture & Animals

Civic Engagement

There will be three divisions: Cloverbuds, Juniors, and Seniors. Contest is open only to South Carolina 4-H members ages 5-19; Cloverbuds may submit entry for recognition, but it will not be judged.

CONTEST RULES

- Each poster must have an entry form
- Poster must be put entirely created by 4-H contestant
- Poster must be standard poster size, single-sided, photos and other items must be securely mounted
- All photos used on the poster must be of the 4-H participant engaged in the project area of choice
- Each poster must include a descriptive paragraph about contestant's 4-H story in the project area of choice
- All photos MUST have a caption
- Guardians of participating 4-H members must have a signed 4-H photo release form on file in 4HOnline for entries to be accepted
- County 4-H Agents can be contacted for any additional assistance needed to create entry

POSTER JUDGING: 100 points possible

- Title (10 pts) – Is the poster title catchy, and does it represent the 4-H project or story?
- Topic (10pts) – Does the poster represent an approved 4-H category? Is the topic clear?
- Paragraph Information (30pts) – Does the paragraph tell the contestant's 4-H story? Does it tell the reader about 4-H? Does it inspire others? Is the paragraph well written?
- Creativity (10pts) – Does the poster show some creative thought or original idea? Is the content of the poster presented in a way we haven't seen before? Is the poster eye catching?
- Composition/Arrangement/Neatness (10pts) – Is the poster well put together? Are the pictures in focus and well mounted? Do photos have captions? Is the 4-H paragraph legible? Is the poster the correct size?
- 4-H Relevancy/Impact (30pts) – Does the poster show what it means to be in 4-H? The key to winning this category is the word "action." In other words, we want the poster to show/tell what you did in 4-H, and why it matters. Does the poster highlight the contestant's 4-H story and inspire others?

Register by Monday, October 5 at <https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>.

Minimum registration of three entries required for any division contest to proceed.



Create a mosaic or art work using any type of untreated seeds! Add other plant and natural materials for interest and variety!

CONTEST RULES

Contest is open only to South Carolina 4-H members ages 5-19; Cloverbuds may submit entry for recognition, but it will not be judged.

- Untreated seeds must be the main item used in the design.
- The design must include a minimum of 6 different types of seeds.
- Finished artwork must stand alone or be affixed to a rigid backing that will stand.
- The finished size of the artwork, including backing, must be 12" X 12".
- A display card with the materials used and the title of the artwork should accompany the entry.
- The name, address, county, 4-H age/group, and email address of the 4-H member should be legibly printed or attached on the back of the poster.
- A 4-H member may only submit one entry.

ARTWORK JUDGING

Poster criteria include: 100 points possible

- Title (15 pts) - Is there a catchy title, and does it clearly represent the artwork?
- Variety of Seeds (15pts) – Are there a minimum of 6 different, untreated seed types?
- Neatness (20pts) – Is the work well put together? Are the seeds stable and well mounted? Is the information on the back legible? Is the poster the correct size?
- Creativity (20pts) - Does the artwork show some creative or unique thought? Is the content of the poster presented in a way we haven't seen before? Is the artwork eye catching?
- Use of Color (10pts) – Were all the seeds the same color? If yes, was there a creative, original use of white space to make the overall poster more interesting to look at?
- Originality (20pts)- Does the art piece tell a story in a fun, out-of-the-box way? Does it grab and hold the viewer's attention?



4-H LEGO Mini Fair Diorama Contest



Drop off Saturday, October 24
9am-5pm
Exchange Hall

Build a LEGO diorama that represents a mini version of a county fair scene. Include rides, booths, people, animals, and fair-themed details!

CONTEST RULES

Contest is open only to South Carolina 4-H members ages 5-19; Cloverbuds may submit entry for recognition, but it will not be judged.

Building Requirements:

- At Least 1 Fair Ride
- At Least 1 Booth or stand
- At Least 3 Minifigures
- Animal or Ag Feature
- Scenery & Details
- Fits Base Size

Examples:

Ferris wheel, carousel, slide, swing ride

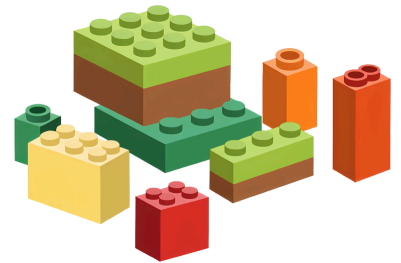
Food vendor, game booth, ticket stand

Visitors, workers, performers

Petting zoo, livestock pen, show ring

Pathways, signs, decorations, trees, fences

Must be built on a baseplate no larger than 10"x10"



Judging Criteria: 100 points possible

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| • Creativity & Originality | (15 pts) Unique ideas, clever use of parts |
| • Fair Theme Accuracy | (15 pts) Clearly resembles a county fair setting |
| • Build Quality | (15 pts) Strong structure, clean connections, organized |
| • Visual Appeal | (15 pts) Colorful, detailed, attention-grabbing |
| • Inclusion of Key Features | (15 pts) Ride, booth, people, optional animals/ag included |
| • Storytelling | (15 pts) Tells a story or scene (e.g., someone winning a prize, animal judging) |
| • Teamwork (if a team entry) | (10 pts) Cooperation and shared contribution |

Bonus Features:

- Includes the 4-H Clover (+5 pts)
- Working/Moving Ride (Crank or Motor) (+5 pts)
- Hidden "Easter Egg" or Scavenger Item (+3 pts)
- Use of Recycled or Unique LEGO pieces (+2 pts)

Awards:

The top three scoring entries will be awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons and premiums. Additional participants will receive a ribbon for participating

1st place- \$20 2nd place- \$15 3rd place- \$10

Register by Monday, October 5 at <https://bit.ly/2026-4h-fair-registration>.

Minimum registration of two entries required for any division contest to proceed.