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# Virginia 4-H Foundation

## NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 2014

## State 4-H Cabinet

by Tonya Price, 4-H youth development specialist

The Virginia State 4-H Cabinet and Ambassador Team is the elite 4-H teen leadership opportunity in the Virginia 4-H program. Not only does this group play a large role in planning and conducting the Virginia State 4-H Congress, but it also has the responsibility of enhancing public understanding of 4-H. Ambassadors are called upon to mentor 4-H teen programs in their districts and serve in advocacy roles with elected officials, as well as to make appearances at major 4-H events. The cabinet provides an important mechanism whereby 4-H youth have a voice at the state level through elected ambassadors and state officers who are themselves 4-Hers.



*The 2014-15 Virginia State 4-H Cabinet and Ambassador Team.*

The Virginia State 4-H Cabinet is a youth/adult partnership. The youth members of the cabinet (officers, ambassadors, mentors, liaisons, and the past-president), serve as the voice for 4-H youth across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Adult members of the cabinet (adult 4-H volunteer leaders, Extension agents, and the faculty advisor to the cabinet) provide additional Extension experience, help the youth members to see the larger context of Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia 4-H program, and help the youth members further develop leadership skills.

### The State 4-H Cabinet is comprised of:

- Sixteen district-level ambassadors (four per Extension district).
- Four state-level officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and reporter/historian).
- One past-president (immediate past-president of the Virginia State 4-H Cabinet).
- Mentors (three individuals who previously served as ambassadors or officers on the state 4-H cabinet).
- 4-H All Stars liaison.
- Adult advisors (4-H volunteer leaders).
- 4-H Extension agent advisors, and state 4-H specialist advisor to the cabinet.

## Virginia Cooperative Extension Day at the State Fair of Virginia – September 28

Join Virginia Cooperative Extension as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act, which officially established the National Cooperative Extension System. The State Fair of Virginia is partnering with Extension to celebrate this milestone. Extension Day at the fair will take place on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014 at the fair in Doswell, Virginia. Virginia 4-H will have a special area highlighting 4-H programs. During your visit to the state fair, make sure you stop by and see the special Virginia Cooperative Extension exhibits located across the fairgrounds.



Virginia 4-H Foundation, Hutcheson Hall (0419), 250 Drillfield Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061

The Virginia 4-H Foundation is a division of the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., which has been granted 501(c)(3) nonprofit status by the Internal Revenue Service.

## Chair's Update

Dear Friends,

As I look back on my youth, I am reminded of how fortunate I was to have strong, caring adults as role models and wonderful youth programs to support my childhood development.



For this reason, and for the opportunities and memories 4-H provided my own children and now their children — I am proud to chair the Virginia 4-H Foundation.

The Virginia 4-H program impacts almost 200,000 future leaders across the commonwealth and has been identified as one of the most successful programs in the United States. I was privileged to attend the incredibly inspiring State 4-H Congress on the Virginia Tech campus this summer. I invite you to join me next year to see for yourself the scholarship and leadership in action. I feel certain you will understand my commitment to ensure Virginia 4-H remains strong and continues to grow such that we can provide every child the opportunity to learn by doing.

John Quincy Adams said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

I couldn't agree more, which is why I volunteer to help the 4-H Foundation secure private resources to continue to shape our future leaders. Over the next two years, I hope to have an opportunity to personally thank those who are giving of themselves and their time to help our young people become competent, caring, and contributing citizens. I will actively seek out conversations with 4-H alumni and others who want to know more about how they can invest in the future of our youth.

If you would like to know more about the Virginia 4-H Foundation, a 501(c)(3), I would be delighted to hear from you. Working together, we can make a difference, leave a lasting impact, and inspire others to dream more, learn more, and do more.

Sincerely,

Mary Miller, Ph.D.  
Chair, Virginia 4-H Foundation



## Support 4-H with a Simple, Flexible Future Gift

by Judith Davis, Virginia Tech Office of Gift Planning

You can strengthen the future of 4-H — without affecting your lifetime finances — by creating an estate gift that will come to 4-H after your lifetime. You not only retain lifetime control of your assets, you also have lifetime flexibility to adjust your gift. And you have the pleasure of knowing your legacy will one day support the 4-H mission.

**Charitable bequests** are created by having your attorney add a few words to your will, stating your wishes. You can donate a specific dollar amount or an asset, such as stock or real estate, or you can create a percentage bequest.

The Virginia 4-H Foundation is a division of the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc. The wording for charitable bequests supporting 4-H should name the charity as shown in this example: "I leave \_\_\_ percent (\_\_\_%) of my estate to the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., Blacksburg, Virginia, for the support of 4-H Foundation programs."

Visit <http://bit.ly/vtgpbd> for descriptions of more bequests, along with sample language to assist your attorney.

**Beneficiary designations** are even simpler than bequests. Typically, you sign a single form provided by the firm that manages the asset you wish to donate. On it, you state who you want to receive that asset after your lifetime. For example, you can donate the balance remaining in your individual retirement account (IRA) or other retirement plan. To change or add a beneficiary, you simply sign a new form.

See <http://bit.ly/vtgpbd> for a list of assets often donated through beneficiary designations. As with bequests for Virginia 4-H, you should name the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., in support of 4-H Foundation programs as the designated beneficiary.

While a beneficiary designation requires no lawyer, you are encouraged to consult your attorney or other advisor to make sure your gift fits your overall estate plan.

**Your resource** for information about these and other ways to support Virginia 4-H is the development office for the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Contact Ben Grove by phone 540-231-7640 or email [begrove@vt.edu](mailto:begrove@vt.edu).



Congress delegates learned about the chemistry behind making the best bubbles.

## 2014 Congress Facts



376 youth delegates and 113 adult delegates.



Four districts, 69 units, and two delegates from Maryland.



152 youth who competed in state level competitions.



18 youth applied and interviewed for National 4-H Congress.

## Learning to Lead

by Abigail Daniels

Being the president of the Virginia State 4-H Cabinet is an extremely exciting experience that I look forward to beginning. Hopefully, this year I can fulfill my duties as president. The humbling feeling of being a youth leader for such an extraordinary organization is overwhelming, but with the help of those around me, I know I'm ready for the tasks ahead of me. Since my first day of 4-H in the fourth grade, I've had a deep love and connection to not only our school club, but also to the friendships and activities that began that day. Throughout the next couple of years, I grew in my social and public speaking skills. I credit my public speaking skills to my yearly participation in the presentation competitions in 4-H and my social skills to all the new people I was meeting through camps, competitions, and traveling to different areas to meet these new 4-H'ers. I also have grown in my leadership skills by serving locally in my 4-H club and on a larger scale as southwest district ambassador and secretary on cabinet.



Abigail Daniels

My most useful skill that I've taken from 4-H has had to be the resiliency to learn to grow from my experiences where I didn't do my best, and to make them better the next time. That past statement sounds familiar, right? My desire to make the best better continues with each new 4-H opportunity I take on. I'm beyond ready to begin this next year's journey. Virginia 4-H continues to impact my life in so many different ways, and I am continually thankful for my involvement in the program.



More than 700 delegates and special guests attended the centennial luncheon celebration.



Youth participated in 29 faculty led workshops and eight university department tours.

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