



# Mason County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

## **New 4-H Year Begins in October**

Each year October marks a renewal of the 4-H program. It is also a time to celebrate the young people who have learned new skills and serve the community and the adult volunteers who provide mentorship to them every step of the way. To kick off the new 4-H year, Mason County 4-H found itself in the center of several exciting events. On October 8, the Mason County Commissioners signed a proclamation declaring October 6 – 12, 2019 to be National 4-H Week throughout Mason County. The proclamation recognizes 4-H for its support in helping youth to become confident, independent, resilient and compassionate leaders and empowering them with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

Next up was the Clover Campaign. The local Tractor Supply stores continued their long-standing partnership with 4-H for the 2019 Fall Paper Clover Campaign October 9 – 20. Funds raised make it possible for more youth in the community to experience 4-H's youth-led, hands-on programming by offering customers the option to purchase a paper clover at checkout. Throughout the campaign 4-H members and volunteers could be seen helping customers with their purchases, sharing their knowledge of goats, archery, dogs, and horses and providing a computer coding demonstration.

This busy month culminated with the Fall Fair & Ice Cream Social held on October 24. The event welcomed the community to come learn, explore and celebrate with 4-H. Approximately 200 attendees enjoyed delicious ice cream while visiting with 4-H clubs and getting hands-on with robotics and cake decorating activities. The Fall Fair is a unique opportunity for 4-H members, volunteers and staff to connect with folks in the community that are eager to learn more about what 4-H has to offer. Displays throughout the space highlighted many 4-H programs including camping programs, community outreach, equine, dogs, goats, leadership, shooting sports, robotics, record books and photography. The event included a recognition program which celebrated the achievements, milestones, and experiences of the past year. Youth were the stars of the evening as they accepted awards for excellence in community service, leadership, public speaking, and more. The recognition program, which was led by senior 4-H members, also honored outstanding volunteers for their years of service to the 4-H program. Marilyn Brennan, who received the Ruby Award for thirty years of volunteering said "30 years...eeeeek...where did the time go? Add on the ten years I was a 4-H member and it is a significant chunk of my life." 4-H volunteers are the heart of the 4-H program, they work tirelessly alongside youth members encouraging them to follow their passion and teaching

them to be confident leaders. The Leader Recognition Award is given to a volunteer based on each five years of service. We also honored our 2019 4-H Leader of the Year, Jamie Dobson. Jamie served as 4-H Council President, a 4-H club leader, fair volunteer, and could always be counted on to lend a hand. Through 4-H, Jamie saw youth members find their voice and become confident leaders. Sadly, we lost Jamie in a car accident on September 2, we will continue to honor the legacy she left with us.

To sum it up, now is a great time to reach out and get involved! 4-H has something for everyone...become a member, become a volunteer, participate in our community events, come to summer camp, or share your passion through a short term program. We would love to help you get started on your 4-H journey!

**For more information regarding the Mason County WSU Extension office call 360-427-9670 Ext. 680, or visit our website at <https://extension.wsu.edu/mason/>**

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