



Lafayette 4-H Hotline

Monthly Lesson Focus: Building Relationships

Good relationships are very important. We all possess a natural need to connect with others, and/or to belong to a social group. This sense of connection is usually established based on the people around us- family, friends, schoolmates, etc. But what if your relationships are not as nourishing as you would like?

After participating in this lesson, students will be able to **demonstrate appropriate greeting behaviors**, including eye contact, a confident handshake, and polite self-introduction, and will engage in **collaborative dialogue to identify shared personal traits and experiences** that foster connection, empathy, and a sense of belonging within their peer group.

This lesson mirrors ELA: Speaking and Listening standards to engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions; use language appropriate to task and situation in complete sentences; and adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Record Book Workshops

Lafayette Parish 4-H Agents will host record book workshops on Saturday, December 6th.

The first session is for 6th-12th grade members that will be completing the 4-H Portfolio, which includes the leadership and citizenship portions of the project along with their 4-H story. It will be held on **December 6th from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at J Wallace James Elementary School.**

The second session will be held for members in 4th and 5th grades working on Discovering the World of 4-H and Exploring the World of 4-H projects from **1:00-3:00 p.m. at J Wallace James Elementary School.**

If you would like assistance with your project books, you should make an effort to attend the workshop sessions. Participants should bring their project book with them- a camera isn't a bad idea either! To register for the workshops, log into 4-H Online and search events for the 2025 Lafayette 4-H Portfolio or Project Workshop. Registration will close on **December 1st.**

Both workshops are free; we would like to get a headcount for supplies.

December 2025

Lafayette Office

1010 Lafayette St., Ste. 325

Lafayette, LA 70501

Phone: (337) 291-7090

Fax: (337) 291-7099

www.lsuagcenter.com



Points of interest:

- Record Book Requirements
- Cookie Decorating
- Record Book Workshops
- Sewing Workshops
- Golden Clover Award
- Emerald Achievement Award & Honor Cord
- Junior Leader Club
- Clover Corner



Christmas Cookie Decorating Contest

The annual Lafayette Parish 4-H Christmas Cookie Decorating Contest will take place during club meetings this month! The categories remain the same as they were in the past. They are as follows:

- Most 4-H Spirit
- Prettiest Christmas Cookie
- Most Unusual Christmas Cookie

Club leaders will need to share the details of when and where members should bring their cookies for judging. We will present certificates to winners during your December club meeting.



Record Book Requirements

We will continue the procedures that were implemented in the last few years for members' record books. These guidelines are as follows:

4th/5th Graders

- Must submit the project books (no "Portfolio/Member's Record Book" is required)
- **4th & 5th Grade Discovering/Exploring 4-H Books**: Complete the entire project book, including the story. Include pictures of themselves doing various activities throughout the year. Adding pictures will boost their SCORE!

6th –12th Graders

- MUST submit a **4-H Portfolio** including (up to) 3 years of work and attach their project book.
- Activity guides are a replacement for project books. Each activity guide that is turned in must be included in Section 2 4-H Project Overview in the Portfolio. All completed **activity guides and project books must also be submitted to the parish for judging.**
- Use the new updated Format for Portfolios

posted on the website. It is a digital form, which you will need to print out to turn in.

Record Book Covers

- All record book information for 4-H'ers and leaders will be posted on the Lafayette 4-H website. This information includes the 6th-12th "4-H Portfolio" guidelines for completing record books and record book cover sheets. The record book cover sheets are to be attached to a completed record book before they are turned into the office. All 6th– 12th grade books must be in a three-hole punch folder. 4-H folders are available for \$3.00 per folder (this is optional).

Sewing Workshop

We are currently planning to host two sewing workshops for members interested in sharpening their skills working with textiles.

Sewing for Beginners will take place on **Saturday, January 3, 2026** for 4th-6th grade members, at ALLBRANDS Sewing (3541 Ambassador Caffery Pkwy. Lafayette, LA 70503). Two sessions will be held with a seat limit of 6 participants each.

Morning session will be 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Afternoon session will be 1:00 PM -3:00 PM

Registration is required for the workshop and lunch will be provided for participants. See details on the registration form for more information.



Golden Clover Award

We are offering the 4-H Foundation Golden Clover Award (formerly Award of Excellence) for Junior 4-H Members. Awards will be presented at our 4-H Honors Program to outstanding Junior 4-H Members. To qualify, a 4-H'er must meet these requirements:

1. Under 14 years of age on January 1st, 2026.
2. Have at least two (2) years of 4-H club work, including award year
3. Score at least 250 points on application and scorecard

4. In either the 7th or 8th grade
 5. Can only win award once
- Scorecards were mailed to 4-H Members in late-November. They are to be returned to the 4-H office no later than **Monday, December 15th**.



Emerald Achievement Award & Honor Cord

4-H Emerald Achievement Awards (formerly Key Club Awards) in Louisiana are given to outstanding high school 4-H'ers. To qualify, 4-H'ers must be 15 years of age as of January 1st, 2026, must have three (3) years of club work, and have completed one year of Junior Leader work.

The "4-H Honor Cord" letter with the link to the online applications to be awarded to graduating seniors were mailed out. Seniors must have been in 4-H for three years of their high school career, participated in at least one state event and a member in good standing. This award can only be won once in a 4-H'er's career.

Both applications were mailed to 4-H members in mid-November and are due in the 4-H office by **Monday, December 15th**.

Junior Leader Club

It's not too late to join Lafayette 4-H's Junior Leader club, a club made up of 8th-12th grade 4-H members from across Lafayette Parish. Do you know a teen that would like to be involved in the community in a leadership role, but just not sure how to go about it?

The next Junior Leader meeting of the school year will be Thursday, December 18th at 5:30 p.m. All 4-H'ers in grades 8th to 12th are invited to attend. Have potential members contact Mrs. Nicole at ngerard@agcenter.lsu.edu if they are interested in attending the Junior Leader meeting.

Clover Corner

Hi 4-H Members!

I'm back again as promised and am checking on your 4-H work. How is that book coming along? I made lots of suggestions in the November Hotline and if you finished all of the work, you're doing great!

December is a good month to work on some of the pages toward the front of the book. Last month, I suggested that you get a head-start. If you haven't started, now is the time. This month, in both the Discovering the World of 4-H Book (pages 10-19) and in the Exploring the World of 4-H book (pages 13-22), you will start on the importance of being a role model citizen in the "Citizenship" section on pages 10-19. In this section, you will learn about character education, communication, and demonstrations, as well as theater arts. Citizenship focuses on 4-H members becoming well-informed citizens who are engaged in their communities. This is done through civic education, public speaking, and community service. There are activities in this section that relate to the "Six Pillars of Character," identifying true friends, evaluating your character, tips on giving a speech and a demonstration, as well as artistic expression. Use the holidays to catch up on activities. In January, finish the Science, Engineering and Technology Section as we target our outdoor skills project areas of ATV, gun, and boating safety. I encourage you to be adventurous in learning how to care for livestock animals and pet projects. You can get started on these if you want to. Our program in December will tie directly into completing your book with tips on achieving your goal of a completed book. Remember to keep your record book neat and clean and decorate it if you wish. Pictures are always a good idea. Have a safe and happy holiday season and see YOU next month!

Yours Truly,

Clover



Food and Fitness Day Camp

The Louisiana State Food and Fitness Board invites you to 2026 Food & Fitness Day Camp!
Now at TWO locations!

Location 1: Dewitt Livestock Facility- Alexandria, LA
Monday, January 12, 2026

Location 2: Baton Rouge, LA at the 4-H Mini Barn-
LSU Campus
Tuesday, January 13, 2026

When: 10 AM – 3 PM

Who: 4-6th graders

Cost: \$35 (includes lunch)

Register: November 24, 2025 – January 5, 2026
through 4-H Online

Payment can be made by credit card through 4-H
Online or mail a check made payable to the Louisiana
4-H Foundation to - Attn: Brittney Fisher, 169 Knapp
Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dates to Remember

December 2025

- 1 First Day of Club Meetings
- 1 Validation Kits and Possession Deadline for all
Market, Commercial, and Breeding Swine
- 4 Parish Broiler Pick-Up, TBA
- 6 Record Book Workshop, J W James Elem.
- 9 Premier Exhibitor Workshop, 4-H Office
- 15 Golden Clover Awards Due, 4-H Office
- 15 Emerald Achievement Awards Due, 4-H Office
- 15 Honor Cord Applications Due, 4-H Office
- 18 Junior Leader Meeting
- 22 Premier Exhibitor Exams
- 23 Hoof Trimming Clinic

January 2026

- 2 Exhibition Poultry Blood Testing, Blackham Coliseum
- 3 Sewing Workshop for Beginners, AllBrands Sewing
- 6 First Day of Club Meetings
- 8 LSU Broiler Pick-Up, TBA
- 15 Junior Leader Meeting
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 4-H Office Closed
- 22-24 Lafayette Parish Livestock Show and Sale

27-31 Acadiana District Livestock Show



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Sincerely,

Nicole Gerard

Nicole Gerard

Assistant Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Lafayette Parish

CHARLES HEBERT

Charles Hebert

County Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Lafayette Parish

Charlene Martin

Charlene Martin

4-H Program Assistant
Lafayette Parish

Camden Oglesby

Camden Oglesby

Assistant Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Lafayette Parish

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