



INDEPENDENCE

4 - H

October 2025 Meeting

October Club Meeting October 8, 2025 ~ 6:30 pm Sebastopol Center for the Arts

October 2025

Club Enrollment Continues

5-11: National 4-H Week

6: 4-H Spirit Day

- Wear green or your favorite 4-H attire

14: 7pm Virtual Training for RETURNING Volunteers

15: State Record Books Due by 11pm

18 Independence 4-H Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser

25: 6:00pm Achievement Night (YAL Center)

Happy Halloween

November 2025

12: 6:30pm NEW Volunteer Training - Online Webinar

15: YAL Foundation Project Grants Due

Happy Thanksgiving

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President's Message

Abbey Casey

Hi everyone, and happy October! I hope that the beginning of fall has been treating you well and that you have been enjoying the change in the seasons. This month's meeting is coming up on Wednesday, October 8th, and we have some exciting activities planned. Not only will we be making our annual Motion Potion with an array of tasty snacks, but we will also be doing an energy-filled healthy living activity and a game in teams. Secondly, we will be welcoming some new families into the club this month and introducing them at the meeting. I always love seeing new faces come in and join the little community that is our club. It reminds me of where I started out here and how far I have come.

As it is our second meeting, we will also be seeing some projects start up soon. Along with our typical project offers, such as Arts and Crafts and the Dog Project, we will also be bringing some new options to the table. One of the more exciting ones, in my opinion, is the reinstatement of Archery, a project that I was in for years and am excited to have back for my last one.

Finally, we have some upcoming events that are either highlighted in the newsletter or will be talked about at our upcoming meeting. That being said, I highly encourage you all to sign up for volunteering at the Pumpkin Patch Bake Sale and come to Achievement Night, both of which are happening in the next month. Thank you all for supporting another year of Independence 4-H, and I am excited to see you all at the meeting!





Community Club Leader's Letter

Lindsay Maddocks

Hello Fabulous 4-H Families,

Fall has arrived! As the leaves begin to turn and the days get shorter, time is filled with new routines, school activities, and sports. 4-H is a buzz with enrollment and project signups. A huge thank you to Maria Casey for handling enrollment and project organization this year!

Thank you project leaders for all your time and guidance in supporting our 4-H youth. Everyone is working to get their project details finalized, at which time emails will be going out to project members reflecting project dates/times.

Please save the date of October 18 to celebrate the arrival of autumn at our annual Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser at Petaluma Pumpkin Patch. A long-standing tradition, our club families bake goodies to sell at our bake-sale booth. Please make sure to help by signing up for baking and booth time sales at our October meeting.

Fall celebration continues the evening of October 25, 6:00pm at the Youth Ag Leadership Center in Rohnert Park at "Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Celebrate Our 4-H Stars", Sonoma County 4-H Achievement Night. Everyone is welcome to attend in support of your fellow 4-Hers for their achievements during the 2024-2025 program year.

In the year ahead, there will be many opportunities for fun, connection, and community. From fundraising, to community service, to activities and meetings, many hands make light work, and we look forward to making the best better together!

Achievement Night

Sierra Hobbins

Achievement Night this year will be on October 25th at the Youth Ag and Leadership Center in Rohnert Park. Doors open at 6:00 PM and the ceremony starts at 6:30 PM. This event is where members can be celebrated for all their achievements whether it is attending presentation day, finishing a record book, or much more. The theme this year is "Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Celebrate Our 4-H Stars," and I know that this year's All-Stars will make the YAL center look amazing. I have attended Achievement Night many times and I always have a blast seeing clubs from all around the county being dressed in their incredible outfits and being celebrated for all their accomplishments. At Achievement Night this year there will also be a community service opportunity put on by this year's county ambassadors. They are asking that members bring toiletries to donate to "Our Villages Closet" which serves foster youth. I hope to see all of you there in your best wizard of oz inspired outfits!



Community Service of September Recap

Aidan Hobbins

A big thank you to everyone who came out on the 20th from 10AM-12PM to participate in the September community service activity! We joined the annual “Creek to Coast Cleanup Day” with the Russian River Watershed in Santa Rosa. We picked up so much trash along the creek and pathway, helping make the area safer and cleaner for everyone. It was a great day filled with lots of teamwork and giving back to the community. I truly appreciate everyone who showed up!



AG Day

Nicholas Bard

On September 26th, I attended the Petaluma Youth AG Day. I represented 4-H Beekeeping. I cross club with Liberty 4-H for the project. I spent the morning teaching kids about bees and bee facts. My mentor, EttaMarie Peterson, brought an observation hive which I used to help kids find the queen bee. She also brought a compound eye lens for the kids to look through in order to understand how a bee views the world. The experience was a lot of fun. If you get the chance to share your project with the public, I encourage you to do it. People love hearing what we are doing!





Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser

Ash Hobbins

Our Petaluma Pumpkin Patch bake sale is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, this years event will be on the 18th of October. I've been going to help out with the bake sale for so many years and its always such a fun time to be out there in the fall weather with other club members and friends. We will have a sign up sheet to bring baked goods, and a sign up sheet for shifts. Shifts rotate throughout the day and are 2 hours long. If you are available, please sign up for a shift!

Officer Spot Light

Georgia Holland

Hi everyone! We will be starting a section in the monthly newsletter highlighting a board position to encourage younger members to take on a role next year. Here is mine! My name is Georgia Holland and I am the Vice President of Programming. With this role, I arrange activities, speakers and events for the program, at the club meeting. I am also in charge of Teams, that kids will be separated into at this meeting and I will plan a fun thing to do in Teams each month. If you want to take on more responsibility, I encourage you to run for a position next year!

Fair Fun

Jeffrey

My name is Jeffrey, and I am 9 years old. I have participated in the Petaluma and Sonoma County Fairs for 4 years. I showed my chicken, Snickers, for the first time at 5 years old. Last year, I started showing my Guinea Pig, Peanut, for the first time at the Sonoma County Fair. This year at Petaluma Fair, Peanut and I got a first place ribbon. My friends and I were on a Poultry Judging team, and we won our age group and each received a banner for Highest Placing Junior Team Poultry Judging. It's fun to show with my friends each year.





Record Books!

By: Camille Maddocks

Hello everyone!

Who would want to spend hours working on a time consuming, and at times overwhelming 4-H record book? Even though it's all those things, a 4-H record book is one of the best things you will do. A 4-H record book is a collection of written information used to document your year in 4-H. The books are completed by youth in stages. Once you complete one book, you move to the next book; you can take as long as you need to move through these stages. The first stage is a Primary Record Book which is a simple beginning format for 4-H kids ages 5-8 years old. For ages 9 and older one completes a Spark Achievement Book. Then it is on to Emerald Star Book, and lastly The Impact Star Book. Each stage challenges youth to learn by doing and to find their passion/spark. I think you should do a 4-H record book because a record book teaches skills like goal setting, time management, project management, and provides a way to reflect on your projects, community service, and your club activities. In your 4-H record book you include details such as the projects you participated in, your achievements, your learning experiences, and personal growth. If your educational path includes college, the 4-H record book can be attached to your college application, and reflect all your hard work in community service and volunteerism. In the end, while a 4-H record book can be time consuming and overwhelming, its completion will make you proud of all you have done, and you will feel a sense of accomplishment, along with receiving achievements and pins for your hat.

October Fun

Top-Rated Candy

Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Snickers

M&M's

Kit Kat

Twix

Milky Way Sour Patch Kids

3 Musketeers

Butterfinger

Haribo Gold bears



Petaluma Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze

Listed as one of the top 3 pumpkin patches in the US, this popular roadside pumpkin patch attracts families from near and far.

Enjoy finding the perfect pumpkin in the patch or get lost in the corn maze. For many years they have generously supported our club as the site for our fall bake sale.

Santa Rosa Pumpkin Patch

This popular patch features a large 5-acre corn maze, plus other attractions like hayrides, a corn kernel pit, a petting zoo, and inflatable attractions.

Muelrath Ranches

A family-owned farm that hosts a popular pumpkin patch and seasonal activities, including corn mazes.

October Fun Facts

1. Nearly one-quarter of Americans say Halloween is their favorite holiday.
2. A pumpkin is actually a fruit, not a vegetable.





Independence 4-H 2025-2026 Officers

Prize Bin:

Alice Pederson

Enrollment Questions & Information

Contact

independence4hclub@gmail.com



Open Positions for this year!

Sergeant-at-Arms

Host/Hostess

Reporter

Store Manager

Teen and Junior Leaders



Executive Board

President ----- Abbey Casey

Vice President of Programming Georgia Holland

Treasurer ----- Sierra Hobbins

Secretary ----- Ash Hobbins

Attendance Secretary ----- Camille Maddocks

Corresponding Secretary Nicholas Bard

Community Service Officer ----- Aidan Hobbins

Healthy Living Officer Taylor Magee

Message from the Editor

Esther Hicks

Just a reminder that if you have newsletter suggestions, questions, or submissions feel free to email me at esthermhicks@gmail.com, or talk to me in person at one of the monthly general meetings. Have fun at our October general meeting and don't forget to read the newsletters!!



What is the 4-H Pledge?

As a good 4-H member
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.

