



INDEPENDENCE

4 - H

October 2026

October Club Meeting

October 14, 2026

6:30 pm - Business Meeting

Sebastopol Center for the Arts

October 2026

24: Achievement Night @ 6pm (YAL Center)

November 2026

2: 6:30pm ChickenQue Committee Meeting
at Youth Ag Leadership Building

3: 6:30pm County Leadership Meeting
(4-H Office)

11: Veteran's Day (closed)

11: 6pm Virtual Training for NEW Volunteers

19: 6pm Virtual Training for RETURNING
Volunteers

15: YAL Foundation Project Grants Due

26-27: Thanksgiving (closed)

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President's Message

Georgia Holland

Hello Independence 4Hers!

It was so good to see you all at our first general meeting last September, and I'm looking forward to our upcoming meeting on October 14th. As we are easing into fall and the spooky season (even though the weather feels otherwise), we have some fun surprises planned, such as our annual Motion Potion full of tasty treats that you don't want to miss.

Its always exciting to welcome new people into the club and I loved meeting our new members last month. I am excited to further welcome our new families and show them what Independence 4H is all about!

Some of our fall projects will be beginning soon, so if you didn't get to sign up at the last meeting, make sure you choose some of our amazing projects to participate in.

From Cheesemaking to the LEGO project, we offer something for everyone.

Please continue to read the rest of the newsletter as we have many things you want to know about and keep on your radar, such as Achievement Night.

See you all on the 14th, I can't wait!





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. Thank you project leaders for all your time and guidance in supporting our 4-H youth this year. Thank you club families for your patience as everyone is working to get their project dates and details finalized. A very special thank you this month to Claire Pederson and Hannah Van De Mark who created a window display at Copperfields Books in Sebastopol, in honor of National 4-H week, October 4-10. The magnificent window display showcased to the community all that 4-H does to prepare our youth to be "Beyond Ready" for what awaits them out in the great beyond.

Fall celebrations continue the evening of October 24, 6:00pm at the Youth Ag Leadership Center in Rohnert Park at Achievement Night in the 100 Clover Woods - Sonoma County 4-H Achievement Night. Everyone is welcome to attend in support of your club and fellow 4-H'ers for their achievements during the 2025-2026 program year. Dress up in your 4-H uniform or any Winnie the Pooh themed costume and come join in the fun.

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

Holiday Pop-Up Fundraiser

Nicholas Bard

This year, we are planning an Independence 4-H Holiday Pop-Up shop after the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be selling gift items, holiday swag, 4-H crafts, baked goods, hot drinks and popcorn, made by our members.

We are looking for volunteers to help plan, price items, decorate the space, publicize the event and help with selling of items as needed.

As you are cleaning out your closets before the onslaught of holidays, keep in mind if you have any or new or lightly used items that would make great gifts to donate to this fundraiser.

Things we are looking to sell:

- Holiday ornaments and swag and craft items made by our 4-H club members
- Jars of cocoa/mulling spices/jams/jellies made by our 4-H club members
- Baked goods/candies made by our 4-H club members

Also, we are currently looking for a location to hold our holiday pop-up, so if you know of an affordable space available, please talk to Lindsay. Stay tuned for updates!



National 4-H Week

National 4-H Week was celebrated this year on October 4- 10, 2026. This year's theme, "Beyond Ready, focused on academic, career, and life readiness for youth. The celebration unites over 6 million youth nationwide.

Club members Claire Pederson and Hannah Van De Mark took the lead and created a window display to honor National 4-H Week. Copperfield's Books in Sebastopol generously welcomed our club to use their storefront window for our display. As you can see, Claire and Hannah did a phenomenal job highlighting being "Beyond Ready" as our club youth rocket into the universe of life. From the stellar rocket ship to the project stars, and green clovers, our Independence 4-H display was out of this world. Thank you both for taking on this project, putting your creativity and hard work into it, and proudly representing Independence 4-H in our community. And remember, please stop in to Copperfield's Books and thank them for supporting our 4-H club!





Community Service

JoJo Holland

Our community service project this month is donating cat and dog food to the Sonoma County Humane Society, so please bring pet food to our meeting, and I will bring it to the shelter soon after.

Next month, our community service project is a park clean-up at
A Place To Play Park in Santa Rosa.

If you plan on participating, please sign up at this link:

<https://srcity.volunteerhub.com/vv2/event/eb73716c-bde8-4590-aa37-405d51e7ce0b?showRegistration=true>

Fall Bake Sale - A Sweet Success - Thank You!

A heartfelt thank-you to all our club members who participated in our fall bake sale this past Sunday, October 11. From baking delicious treats to helping with setup, sales, and cleanup, your time, and positive energy made the event a wonderful success. It was a pleasure to see everyone come together and support our club.

A very special thank you to our fabulous fall bake sale organizer Jojo Holland. Jojo took on this event with enthusiasm and handled every part of its organization. From coordinating with Fircrest Market and creating the sign-up sheet, to helping set up, connecting with customers, and supporting fellow 4-H members. Jojo's dedication and hard work helped make the bake sale a smooth and successful event. It takes tremendous time, effort, and care to create such sweet success! We look forward to many more opportunities to gather, work together, and make great things happen as a club.



Fall Bake Sale FUN

Thank you to our baking families for turning out batch after batch of cinnamon sugar doughnut muffins, gluten-free crinkle cookies, rice krispy treats, brownies, coconut oatmeal cookies, s'mores bars, chocolate chip cookies, banana bread mini loaves and slices, chocolate peanut butter bars, monster cookies and ginger molasses cookies. We shared sweetness with our community, not to mention selling festive succulent pumpkins made by our floral project members. We even had our star minion and banana selling what else, banana bread. Thank you Felecia Pederson for creating the festive and fun Independence 4-H stickers, thanking our community for their support.





Fall Bake Sale FUN





4-H Floral Project

Thank you to the Independence 4-H Floral Project members and their families who were able to come out to create festive pumpkin succulents to sell at our fall bake sale. Eloise, Rachel, Felecia, Tracie, Georgia, Jojo, Adelyn, Alice, Anna, Esther, and Jessica you all do beautiful work. We crafted twenty four designs, thanks to your help!



Achievement Night in the 100 Clover Woods

Come celebrate the achievements of our 4-H members at this **Winnie the Pooh** themed event!

Where: YAL Center

When: **Saturday, October 24th**

6:00pm doors open --- **6:30pm** start

Who: All Sonoma County 4-H members and families are invited

Come dressed in your 4-H gear or outfits/costumes that match the theme!





MICKELSON

PUMPKIN PATCH

Paint Night

with Lisa Pedrani



HALLOWEEN PAINT NIGHT

Wednesday, October 28th • 6 p.m.

\$30 each

Supporting Penngrove 4-H Club

RSVP to 707-291-5743

Venmo or cash only at the event.

The background is a dark night sky with a string of glowing yellow lights arched across the top. In the top right corner is a large, bright yellow full moon with three white bats flying in front of it. The title 'TRUNK or TREAT' is written in large, white, stylized letters, with the word 'or' in a small orange box. Below the title, 'HOSTED BY THE JR. AMBASSADORS' is written in white, slightly slanted capital letters. In the center is a dark blue car decorated for Halloween. The trunk is open and filled with four orange pumpkins. A yellow banner with the word 'BOO!' in black letters is draped across the front of the car. The bumper is decorated with a string of small orange and white skull-shaped ornaments. To the left of the car, there is a white silhouette of an owl perched on a branch and two jack-o'-lanterns, one of which is a candy basket. To the right, there is a white skeleton figure with its arms raised and a red cape, and another jack-o'-lantern candy basket.

TRUNK or TREAT

HOSTED BY THE JR. AMBASSADORS

Dress code:
Costume and
Candy Basket

NOV 3, 2026
5:30-6:00 PM

133 Aviation Blvd,
#109, Santa Rosa,
CA 95403

This event will be hosted by the Sonoma County Jr. Ambassadors and will take place right before the November VMO meeting on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. While the official VMO meeting starts at 6:30 PM, our Trunk-or-Treat social event will run from 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM. We ask each club to arrive early to set up and decorate their trunks. Judging will take place promptly at 6:00 PM, so please make sure your trunk is completely ready by then! The best-decorated trunk will win a custom "Best Decorated Club Trunk" plaque. Candy will be provided for all participating trunks. It is going to be a fun social event, and we hope to see you there!



Independence 4-H 2026-2027 Officers

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-----GEORGIA HOLLAND
VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMMING----CLAIRE PEDERSON
TREASURER-----BEN DEFFENBAUGH
RECORDING SECRETARY-----CAMILLE MADDOCKS
ATTENDANCE SECRETARY-----NICHOLAS BARD
CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY-----ALICE PEDERSON
COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER-----JOJO HOLLAND
HEALTHY LIVING OFFICER-----HANNAH VAN DE MARK

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 all of are 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.

