

# CLUB MANAGER CONNECTION

DISTRICT 8 4-H CLUB MANAGER CONNECTION



## Spring Contest Prep

As we move into February, the excitement of spring stock show season is in full swing! While livestock projects take center stage, this is also a great time to focus on preparing members for Fashion and Public Speaking contests. These events help youth build confidence, develop essential life skills, and showcase their creativity.

This month, let's work together to ensure our members are prepared for success by:

- ✔ Encouraging Early Contest Prep – Help members understand the contest rules, judging criteria, and deadlines. Encourage them to start practicing their presentations and perfecting their fashion projects now.
- ✔ Hosting Practice Sessions – Organize a mock speech competition or fashion showcase where members can receive feedback before the big day. The more they practice, the more confident they'll be!
- ✔ Building Confidence Through Coaching – Provide constructive feedback on stage presence, voice projection, and poise. Encourage members to speak clearly and express themselves with enthusiasm.
- ✔ Recognizing Hard Work – Celebrate small wins along the way! Whether it's completing a speech draft or finishing a fashion project, every step matters. A little encouragement goes a long way.

With your leadership, our 4-H members will be well-prepared to take the stage with confidence and shine in their contests. Let's make this a great month of learning, growth, and success!

★ Best of luck to all your members competing this season! ★

*Megan R. Shaffer*

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**District 8 4-H**  
Making the best better



# February: Project Progress & Spring Preparations

As February rolls in, it's a crucial time for 4-H members to assess their project progress and start serious preparations for the county fair. Encouraging good habits now will help ensure success later. Below are key focus areas for club managers this month.

## 1. Project Check-Ins

Regular project check-ins help members stay on track and maintain accurate records. Here's how you can facilitate this:

- Encourage Weekly Progress Logs: Have members record what they do each week, including time spent on their project, materials used, and any challenges faced.
- Use Project Checklists: Provide a checklist that outlines key milestones to ensure members are completing necessary steps on time.
- Host Small Group Reviews: Organize small meetings where members discuss their progress, share successes, and problem-solve any difficulties.
- Emphasize Record-Keeping: Remind members that detailed records are crucial not only for fair entries but also for scholarship applications and award eligibility.

### Example:

A livestock project member might track weight gain in their animal, while a photography participant logs time spent practicing different techniques.

## 2. Spring County Fair & Contest Preparation

It's never too early to prepare for the county fair or spring contests! Help members get a head start by focusing on these areas:

- Review Exhibit Requirements: Go over fair guidelines so members understand entry deadlines, exhibit size limitations, and required documentation.
- Practice Showmanship: For animal projects, set up practice sessions where members learn proper handling techniques and presentation skills.
- Develop Interview Skills: Fashion Show & Speaking events will host Q&A sessions for students. Hold Q&A sessions where members practice answering judges' questions with confidence.

### Example:

A member entering a baking competition can start testing recipes and perfecting presentation, while a poultry exhibitor can practice handling their bird for showmanship.

## 3. Mock Judging Sessions

A great way to build confidence is through mock judging sessions. This allows members to receive constructive feedback and refine their presentations. These are great ways to help prep your students for those spring contests.

- Simulate the Judging Experience: Set up a judging panel with experienced volunteers who can evaluate projects based on official criteria.
- Provide Individual Feedback: Offer positive reinforcement along with specific areas for improvement.
- Make It Fun: Turn it into a club-wide event where members can learn from one another and celebrate progress.

### Example:

A clothing and textiles participant could present a sewn garment to a panel, receiving tips on stitching quality and fabric choice.

By focusing on these areas, 4-H club managers can help members feel prepared and confident heading into fair season. Let's set them up for success!



# Fashion Show Workshop

Join our panel of students to learn more about preparing for the interview portion of the Fashion Show contest!

Project Resources



**Kinlee Pack**  
Erath Co



**Graycie Montfort**  
Navarro Co



**Tatum Allison**  
Hood Co

## Fashion Show Workshop: Mastering the Interview

February 27, 2025 | 7:00 PM

Sign Up Today!



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EXTENSION



# Upcoming Events for Volunteers

Be sure to save the date on these upcoming volunteer trainings!

## VOLUNTEER BASIC TRAINING

DISTRICT 8 4-H



## CLUB MANAGER TRAINING

CHECK IT OUT ON  
OUR YOUTUBE  
PAGE!

~~February 20, 2025~~

Beyond the Basics: Taking Youth Engagement to the Next Level

September 25, 2025

Leveling Up Your Club Meetings: Essential Tips & Tricks

## OTHER VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

March 20th &  
November 13th

Serving as a Contest Judge: Learn the basics & receive a certification (online)

July 26th, 2025

Super Project Training: Foods, Fashion, Speaking, STEM (In-Person) Location TBD



FMI: Email Megan Shaffer @ [megan.shaffer@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:megan.shaffer@ag.tamu.edu)



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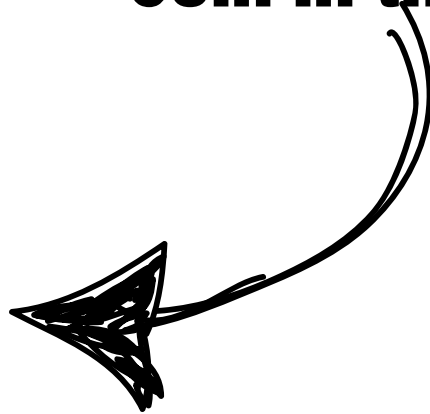
Upcoming Trainings

# MINUTE WITH MEGAN

We have a new video series just for you! Check out our short videos each month to gain a fun tip to help you better manage your club!



**Join in the fun!**



<https://youtu.be/2BJktwgsVBo>

**Be sure to check out these resources in our Club Manager Google Drive!**

**REMINDERS & LINKS TO REMEMBER**

